

Widening Participation Unit

 Student Guidance Centre

Queen’s University

Belfast BT7 1NN

17 January 2017

Dear Colleague,

I am delighted to announce that we are now recruiting for the Queen’s Senior Academy 2016-17 programme.

The Senior Academy is designed to support students from widening participation backgrounds (as defined in the guidance notes), who are ‘most able but least likely’ to apply to university for an undergraduate degree. The programme offers a series of interventions that provide academic support from staff and students at Queen’s University to increase the aspirations and attainment of participants.

Applications are welcomed from students who meet the eligible criteria, as defined in the enclosed pack. Online applications open on Monday, 23 January 2017. The closing date for receipt of completed applications is **Friday, 10 February 2017.** An individual school or college can nominate up to **five students** to participate in the programme.

The document contains relevant details including what has been included in the Senior Academy package and what is available to download on the Senior Academy webpage:

* Senior Academy leaflet – please give leaflets to eligible students to provide information about the programme and the commitment we expect for successful participation.
* Senior Academy guidance notes – for further details about the programme, including a list of dates for the compulsory elements of the programme.
* Senior Academy posters to be displayed in 6th form centre, library or other relevant space.
* Application form - Please advise applicants to apply online by logging on to http://**www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/sgc/wpu/SeniorAcademy/**
* Teacher reference form – for information purposes. The form is available online and referees are encouraged to download the teacher reference template, completing one for each individual student and emailing it back to ryan.hughes@qub.ac.uk.
* The Senior Academy team will visit applicants in their school/college during the month of March to provide more information and answer any queries they may have.

All successful participants will be invited, and expected to attend, the launch of the Senior Academy programme on **Friday, 28 April 2017 at Queen’s University, Belfast.**

If you have any queries about the programme, please do not hesitate to contact me either by email, d.lynskey@qub.ac.uk or telephone 028 9097 1567.

We look forward to welcoming your students for another successful Academy programme.

Yours faithfully,

Deirdre Lynskey

Outreach Officer and Care Leaver Contact