

School of Mathematics and Statistics

Module MAS302

Undergraduate Ambassadors Scheme

2013/2014

Short Introduction



Welcome to the Undergraduate Ambassadors Scheme module. This Handbook is intended to give you a full overview of the how the module will run and to help you prepare for the challenges ahead.

The middle part of the Handbook contains material that you will go through with staff from the University's Education Department at a Training Day in advance of commencing the module. This session will be held in November (details to follow). It is **compulsory** that you attend this full day of training before you can participate in the module. It is also very important that you read through as much of this Handbook as possible before the training session.

The module is operating as part of a national scheme called the Undergraduate Ambassadors Scheme (UAS) that is supported by the Department for Education. UAS works with universities all over the country to develop similar modules in other science, technology, engineering and mathematics departments, and has links with various other subject organisations and professional institutions.

Once you have completed the training day and passed the necessary checks (see below), you will be entitled to become a 'Science and Engineering Ambassador' (SEA), with a photo ID badge and certificate that are valid for three years. The 'SEA' is a scheme supported by SETNET and the Department for Trade and Industry, which enables young scientists and engineers to work in schools in a variety of activities. If you enjoy the experience of tutoring in schools during this module but decide not to go into teaching, you can carry on tutoring as a SEA Ambassador once you have graduated (see www.setnet.org.uk for more information).

2.1 What Is It and What Do You Get Out Of It?

The Undergraduate Ambassadors Scheme module will reward you with course credit for working as a 'student-tutor' with teachers in local schools and help you develop some valuable transferable skills. You may already know about 'student tutoring' schemes that work on a voluntary or paid basis, such as the Student Associates Scheme. Most of these run very successfully without giving course-credit for taking-part, and do provide immense satisfaction to the truly committed undergraduates who get involved. This module is slightly different in that you are rewarded with credits towards your degree for the work you do in the classroom.

Of equal importance are the ways in which you will benefit as a result of doing the module. You will learn important, marketable and transferable skills of benefit to you in employment and in life. A good degree is no longer enough in the competitive world of work and national experience has shown that involvement in courses like this is of great appeal to potential employers. The specific and transferable skills you will obtain, or improve on, include:

- ³⁵/₁₇ Organisational and interpersonal skills
- ³⁵/₁₇ Addressing the needs of individuals
- ³⁵/₁₇ Time management skills
- ³⁵/₁₇ Working in a challenging and unpredictable environment
- ³⁵/₁₇ Staff responsibilities and conduct
- ³⁵/₁₇ The ability to improvise
- ³⁵/₁₇ Giving (and taking) feedback
- ³⁵/₁₇ Handling difficult and potentially disruptive situations
- ³⁵/₁₇ Public speaking and communication skills
- ³⁵/₁₇ Team-working
- ³⁵/₁₇ Standard teaching methods

You will gain experience of working in a professional educational environment and will learn about the key issues affecting secondary education today. You will have the satisfaction of making a positive impact on the education of pupils across the secondary age group and acting as a role model for your subject. It is a chance to put something back into the community by sharing your knowledge and helping to motivate young people and raise their aspirations towards science. You will develop your confidence in answering questions about your own subject and in devising appropriate ways to communicate a difficult principle or concept. You

will develop your communication skills and gain a better understanding of your own level of expertise.

For those of you who are interested in teaching as a profession, this will be an opportunity to explore whether it is a path you want to pursue. You will learn to devise and develop science projects and teaching methods appropriate to engage the relevant age group.

And you should get a lot of enjoyment out of this course!!

2.2 How Does it Work?

The module will involve:

- ³⁵/₁₇ Attendance at a one-day Training Session giving you an introduction to the fundamentals of working with children and conduct in the school environment;
- ³⁵/₁₇ Undergoing a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check prior to entering the classroom;
- ³⁵/₁₇ Being paired with a specific teacher at your school who will work with you to identify your aims and objectives for the term;
- ³⁵/₁₇ Spending around 1/2 day a week in school for 10 weeks, developing your role within the classroom;
- ³⁵/₁₇ Completion of a Special Project;
- ³⁵/₁₇ Assessment of the module – further details are outlined in the main Handbook

Unless notified to the contrary, please observe the following key course dates. As much notice as possible will be given should any alteration prove necessary.

| Date | Time | Venue | Activity |
|---|---------------------------|---|---|
| Wednesday 2nd October | 12 noon | Hicks, Lecture Theatre 4 | Preliminary meeting; distribution of course material and interview topics |
| Monday 14 th October. | 12 noon | Hicks, I15 (Paul Mitchener's pigeonhole) | Deadline to hand in application form |
| Friday 18 th October, Monday 21 st October, Tuesday 22 nd October | Schedule to be decided | Hicks, G7 | Interviews |
| Wednesday 27 th November (to be confirmed) | All day | School of Education | Training Day |
| tba | All day | tba | Oral presentations |
| Monday 19 th May, 2014 | 12 noon | Hicks G12 | Deadline for hand in of written work |