



What is The Scholars Programme?

The Scholars Programme is run by The Brilliant Club, an award-winning charity. The Scholars Programme recruits PhD and post-doctoral researchers, trains them as university access professionals and places them as tutors in schools. Here they deliver academically rigorous programmes to small groups of high potential pupils from low HE-participation backgrounds.

This offers your research staff and doctoral candidates a professional development opportunity and the potential to make a significant impact to widening participation through their research.

The charity works in partnership with universities and schools across the UK; to date nearly 2000 researchers have worked as PhD tutors.

What does it offer PhD researchers and post-doctoral researchers?

Our Researcher Development Programme **develops competencies which can be mapped onto the vitae framework.**

Our tutor outcomes framework outlines our 4 key competencies:

- i) Teaching and pedagogy** – Tutors are trained and supported to design a programme of study and assessment for pupils. They will support pupils to bridge the gap between school and university and develop reflective pedagogical skills.
- ii) Communication and Public Engagement** – Tutors deliver a series of academic tutorials based around their expertise, allowing structured opportunities to disseminate their research to a non-specialist audience. This work has been evaluated by UCAS to show a “strongly significant” impact on pupils’ likelihood of progression to highly-selective universities.
- iii) Professional and Career Development** – Tutors will develop their time management skills, confidence, and ability to form networks with other researchers. Throughout the programme there are a number of opportunities to develop transferable skills to support future careers both in and outside of academia.
- iv) Fair Access** – Tutors will build links with their local community through the school placement and will understand the barriers to HE. They will create learning environments to support the success of students from all backgrounds

Remuneration – Tutors get paid £500 per placement, plus an additional £100 for designing a new course, and travel expenses.

Impact reporting

The Brilliant Club has a Research and Impact department that supports the programme to publish impact reports for all its school and university partners; this data has been used for TEFs, REFs and Vitae RDFs and is available to supervisors and departments through the university’s partnership with The Brilliant Club.



How do researchers get involved?

Researchers should aim to apply by the end of May to work with us in 2020-21, and can complete an online application form [here](#). They should read our application guidance [here](#).

If they are successful at this stage, they will be invited to an Assessment Centre.

Further information for researchers can be found [here](#).

What is the commitment from researchers?

Researchers do not commit to a particular placement or working during any particular term when they apply; we send them a termly availability form and they can work at a time that fits in with their other commitments.

For each placement they are required to:

- Attend a launch trip (usually from 9.30am-3.30pm)
- Run a subsequent 6 tutorials in school (2 hours weekly)

As a guide, they should expect to work between 40 and 55 hours over the course of a placement – longer if it is your first placement delivering a self-designed course. Under no circumstances do we expect researchers to spend more than 60 hours working on any single placement.

What about researchers looking for a career change?

For those seeking a full-time career that offers the opportunity to transition out of academia, make a social impact and continue engaging with their subject, The Brilliant Clubs runs a second programme called Researchers in Schools. The programme runs over three years and, as well as offering the opportunity to train and qualify as a school teacher, there's a host of integrated activities and benefits designed to maximise researchers' knowledge and experience. Now recruiting for its seventh cohort, the RIS programme offers researchers a rewarding career path with lots of opportunities for progression. For more information on these unique features, the programme structure and various funding options, please visit: researchersinschools.org.

To discuss how we can help you publicise this programme to your researchers, please contact Nicholas.cater@researchersinschools.org