THE YOUNG APPLICANTS IN SCHOOLS SCHEME
Teacher Guide
The pupils and staff at Doon Academy are grateful for the opportunities the YASS scheme provides.

For us, YASS ticks just about all of the boxes of a good widening access initiative: it fills a curricular gap; it provides opportunities to deepen and broaden learning; it provides routes into higher education; it encourages our young people to take responsibility for and be positive about their futures; and it limits the disadvantage faced by pupils from one of the most deprived parts of the country.

DOON ACADEMY
UCAS Adviser/Widening Access Coordinator
Welcome to the Young Applicants in Schools Scheme (YASS)

YASS is The Open University (OU) in Scotland’s national bridging programme for S6 pupils. It offers your pupils the opportunity of studying Open University level 1 courses (SCQF level 7) in school alongside their other studies. The programme is designed to help develop a range of skills and knowledge that will support the transition from school to university, college or the work place.

National reach

YASS is uniquely placed as a bridging activity that has full geographical reach. It is open to every secondary school in Scotland and participation is not limited by minimum numbers.

Impact

Since it was launched in 2007, all 32 education authorities in Scotland have had schools participating in YASS and over 7,500 students have studied a YASS course.

YASS is also fully endorsed and funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

External recognition

- You can include YASS attainment in your Scottish Government’s INSIGHT reporting
- Pupils can add their YASS studies to their UCAS forms under ‘Other Qualifications’ section.

Cost

There is no cost to the school or the pupil. YASS is fully funded by the SFC and is completely free for pupils in local authority schools. Pupils who attend independent schools can self-fund the course or be sponsored by their school.

Eligibility

YASS is open to every S6 pupil in full-time study in Scottish schools.

The programme works best for students who are not only academically able, but who are motivated and committed too, and able to cope well with independent learning. Before they consider the scheme, pupils need to be aware of the extra study requirements. For example, a 30-point course runs from October to June and can demand up to 14 hours of independent study each week.
When should I speak to my pupils about studying a YASS course?

The best time to start talking to pupils about taking a YASS course is in S5. This will allow enough time to look at the courses offered and think about how studying with YASS would fit around their other S6 studies. Participating schools often offer YASS as an option to their S5 pupils as part of the S6 course choice procedure.

Roles and responsibilities of the school

All learning materials, teaching and academic support is provided by the OU. The main responsibility of the school is to be the link between the pupil and the YASS team. To do this your school will need to provide the YASS team with a named contact in your school. This person will take on the responsibility of being the YASS co-ordinator.

The key responsibilities of the co-ordinator are to:

- **Arrange in-school information sessions**
- **Introduce pupils to the YASS programme**
- **Ensure all interested students use the YASS website and guide to research their course options before deciding which course to take**
- **Undertake one-to-one interviews with prospective YASS students to help them make informed choices about their courses**
- **Ensure pupils are aware of the commitment required to study a YASS course**
- **Take responsibility for the administration of registering pupils on their courses**
- **Provide appropriate in-school support for pupils throughout their course**
Getting your school involved

The first step is to contact the YASS team by phone or email and we will be more than happy to answer any questions you might have. Alternatively, you can complete the ‘School Interest Form’ on the YASS website at www.open.ac.uk/scotland/study/young-applicants-schools, and we will get in touch with you.

YASS in-school information sessions

Interested and participating schools can also request an in-school information session with the YASS team. These sessions can be arranged to suit you.

To arrange a session, contact the YASS team.

We can:

- Come into your school for an informal discussion
- Deliver a presentation to your S5 year group
- Attend senior phase course choice events

How to register your pupils

You can register your pupils on their YASS courses from 20 March 2019. Early registrations will allow:

- Pupils time to plan their S6 timetable
- Extra time to complete any pre-start preparatory work
- Pupils to start working though their course from June 2019
- Access to a range of induction materials and complete our ‘Being an OU student’ course

Registration should be processed via a registration form which is supplied to the co-ordinator by the YASS team.

Full details on how to register your pupils can be found on the YASS website. You can also contact the YASS team to discuss the registration process.
Further sources of information

The YASS website:  www.open.ac.uk/scotland/study/young-applicants-schools

The Open University in Scotland website:  www.open.ac.uk/scotland

The Open University Careers and Employability website:  www.open.ac.uk/careers

Contacting the YASS team

Email: Scotland-YASS@open.ac.uk

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