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What is a Summer School Ambassador?

Find out what previous ambassadors have said about the role and the skills and qualities we look for in successful candidates!

Applying to be a summer school ambassador was one of the best things I did last year. The role involved showing participants what my subject is all about and trying to encourage them to consider their own future in education. Despite this, I would definitely say the ability to have fun and adopt a humorous demeanour is always definitely required for the role.

My favourite part about being an ambassador was the connections that it allowed me to form. Through these connections, I saw participant confidence increase which I found extremely rewarding. I also formed great friendships with other ambassadors that I have maintained ever since. Finally, to reflect on my experiments, I am grateful I had the opportunity to be the mentor that I wish I had at that age.



**Dylan
(Medicine)**



**Steph
(Geography)**

The role itself consists of a wide range of things- from initiating icebreakers to helping the students to get to know you and each other, leading activities, prompting students in academic sessions, answering their questions about university, looking out for students wellbeing, working as a team with other ambassadors to make sure everything runs smoothly and everyone's having fun, and being role models to students.

You'll need a range of skills to be a successful candidate, including leadership, teamwork, really good social skills, positivity, initiative, problem solving, independence, and attention to detail. But you will definitely build upon the skills you already have and learn new things as a result of being an ambassador. It taught me some really valuable things. It felt rewarding being able to help students at their time on the summer school with advice on university life, course choice, location, and also things like helping them to build connections with each other- you could see how genuine the friendships they made with each other were, which was lovely! It was also really fun getting to know other ambassadors too.

I applied for the position because I attended a summer school myself and it was so helpful to understand my options and whether university life was something that appealed to me. It was the summer school that made me decide I wanted to go to university! So, I wanted to be able to help give that opportunity to other students.



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I applied for this position as I took part in summer school as an applicant myself in 2020 and was inspired by the enthusiastic ambassadors who helped us to gain a sense of belonging. Most importantly, they motivated us to recognise that everyone can pursue their dreams regardless of the background they came from. This role allowed me to make a change to the same community that has shaped me. I have learnt that even having a friendly and approachable face can be just what a young person needs to feel confident and present their best selves.

This role requires responsibility, passion, and determination to create a culture of connectedness and be part of an efficient team. As an ambassador, you will be actively demonstrating a wide range of skills such as positivity, time management, reliability and problem solving. From answering questions about university life to leading ice breakers and subject specific activities, you have a duty to act as a role model and be a listening ear to anyone that is struggling. During the two weeks, I particularly enjoyed helping to organise the awards ceremony as it was great to see participants growing more confident and forming new friendships throughout their time on summer school.

The best part about being an ambassador is having a positive influence on a young person's future whilst also networking with other ambassadors. Opportunities to help continue beyond summer school as I have been able to lead mock interviews and reply to students' concerns on the TAP ambassador platform. I am proud to have been part of a collective effort to make a positive impact on widening participation and the journey of our future students.



**Georgina
(Medicine)**



**Emma
(Physiotherapy)**

I absolutely loved being a summer school ambassador last June. You can really see how much of a difference you make to the participants during their week at UoN. Encouraging the participants to engage in the academic sessions and get involved with their tutor groups during evening activities makes a huge difference. I particularly enjoyed when we went on a scavenger style walk around Nottingham city center with our tutor groups because that was the first time, I could see everyone having fun and working together.

To be an ambassador you must be confident, a good role model and not be afraid to take the lead - we set up a badminton court in the evenings so participants could play together, and it became so popular by the end of the week, everyone was playing! Also, working with the other ambassadors made the experience even better because you make genuine friends, something which I didn't consider when applying for the role but is one of the best things about it.