

## **Above and Beyond - Seren Conference: Session Outlines**

### **Academic and Professionalism Masterclass Session Options**

#### **Natural Sciences**

This will be a taster lecture from an academic who will talk about their research in the natural sciences. This session will be suitable for anyone interested in chemistry, maths, biology or physics, and those interested in how the different scientific disciplines interact.

#### **Humanities**

In this session, you will be given a taster lecture from an academic who will talk about their research and how it brings together history, politics, and other humanities. Suitable for anyone interested in studying these – or related – subjects at university.

#### **Social Sciences**

This taster lecture will include an academic presenting their work which relates to studying the causes of phenomena in society. Suitable for anyone interested in economics, sociology, political sciences, law and related disciplines.

#### **Medical Sciences**

This taster lecture will focus on providing an insight into medical research. The content presented by the speaker will be suitable for anyone interested in a medical-related degree – from nursing, to pharmacy or dentistry.

#### **Literature, Language and Culture**

In this session, the academic will present some research into literature and culture that will give you a taster of university-style learning in this discipline. Suitable for all students considering modern and ancient languages, as well as literature, drama, or cultural studies.

#### **Engineering, Physics, Maths and Computing**

In this session, the academic will present their specific research interests, and also talk about how the different physical sciences work together in academia to create new knowledge

#### **Professionalism 1: Standing Out from the Crowd**

Thinking ahead to your university application process this session is all about the business of YOU. Consider your own personal brand, what does 'you' look and feel like? Tips and tactics to develop your own personal USP (unique selling point) and Elevator Pitch.

## **Professionalism 2: Plotting your Career Path**

What are the opportunities you need to grasp and the pitfalls you need to avoid in getting yourself career ready before, during and straight after university? In this session you will discuss and create a personal action plan to ensure you select the right opportunities for you, including volunteering, internships, student societies, work experience, academic modules, and summer placements.

### **Explore – University of Oxford academic experience**

What's your big question? Join the Explore team from the University of Oxford for an interactive workshop where you'll be tasked with creating and answering a Big Question. This will give you an opportunity to explore how different academic disciplines can tackle complex questions in different ways! You'll also have the opportunity to enter Explore's Seren Conference Big Question Competition for the chance to win prizes and book tokens. Suitable for all those who want to do something inter-disciplinary!

## **Information, Advice and Guidance Session Options**

### **Effective Study Skills**

In this session The Brilliant Club will take you through key techniques you can use to get the most out of the independent study you will need to compete during your degree, including note-taking and referencing.

### **Admissions Tests**

David Harrison from Cambridge Assessment will talk you through how the University of Cambridge and many others assess your aptitude for the subject through admissions tests and what you can do to prepare for them.

### **Adjusting to university life**

This will be a Q&A session that you can ask questions in, with student ambassadors who will discuss the jump from A-levels to university, the experience of moving away from home to study, and how they manage their finances and their studies.

### **Getting career ready at uni**

This will be a panel session where graduates from a range of different careers will discuss how you can make the most of university life to become very employable at the end of your degree. You will be able to ask questions as well to find out more about graduate career options.

### **Finance, bursaries and scholarships**

This session will include short presentations from the Welsh Government and university finance officers on how students can afford university and how to manage their money. You will then be encouraged to ask questions about what concerns you most.