



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!

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



George
History

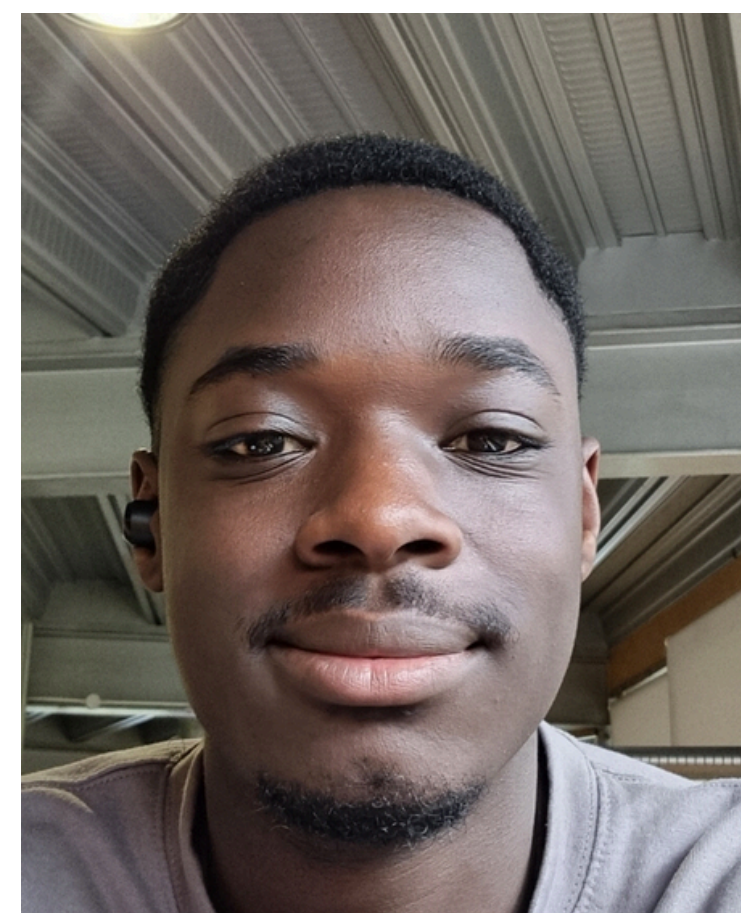
Working as a Summer School Ambassador has been the most rewarding job I have had while studying at university. The role was a lot of fun and allowed me to share my degree subject with students from all kinds of backgrounds. It tested my teamwork and communication skills, as well as providing experience in looking after the wellbeing of young people. I had to become comfortable with leadership and thinking on my feet when various challenges and changes occurred. Through this, we took every opportunity to make the experience as memorable and engaging as possible for the students.

I was lucky to do this as part of an amazing ambassador team which made the job unique and exciting every day that I was there. Everybody worked together to organise activities, and we all supported each other when needed. It felt great to have a positive impact on students' self-confidence and their perceptions of higher education. The job let us build meaningful rapport with the group and be professional but friendly mentors to them. A lot of students came with some of the same worries I had before I started at UoN, so it was extremely rewarding to help debunk university myths and encourage them to believe they were all capable of reaching university if they wanted to.

I initially applied to be an ambassador because my housemate, who'd had a fantastic experience in the role, urged me to give it a try. I was hesitant, not believing it could be everything I had heard. But after only a few days, I was surprised by how much it had exceeded my expectations.

The role has a profound impact—not just on the participants, but also on the ambassadors themselves. The students who come to the summer school were not only eager to learn academically, but also open to exploring a new environment that was so vastly different from anything they've known in school or at home. It was inspiring to see how confidently they adapted to this new world in such a short amount of time, building connections with people they'd just met and learning to navigate challenges together. The support we provided helped in creating a safe space for these students to grow, make friends, and gain insights into university life, which can be rather eye-opening for them.

To succeed as an ambassador, you need a blend of skills. Listening closely and being honest in your responses is crucial, as participants rely on you for opinions and support. Time management, leadership, and the ability to infuse energy when needed also help to keep everything running smoothly. Equally important is knowing when to take a step back and read the room, making sure everyone feels included and comfortable. Now looking back, I'm so glad I seized the opportunity.



Hywel
Mechanical Engineering



Sayeema
Pharmacy

Last summer, I had the opportunity to return to summer school, this time as an ambassador—a meaningful role, especially since I'd been a participant a few years prior. Being on the other side taught me so much. My responsibilities included welcoming prospective university students, guiding them around campus, and helping them adjust to their week away from home. I organized events, led society activities, and built genuine connections with students as they adapted to their new environment.

For anyone considering this role, my advice is to step outside your comfort zone and fully embrace the experience. Being an ambassador is a rewarding role; seeing the positive impact you have on students, watching them grow, make friends, and truly engage in classes, is inspiring. Many students looked up to us as mentors and seeing them thrive and come out of their shells felt fulfilling. Additionally, I connected with other ambassadors from different courses—people I likely wouldn't have met otherwise. These connections turned into lifelong friendships, making the experience even more valuable. Being an ambassador was one of the most enriching experiences I've had in my university experience, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to give back and grow in ways I hadn't expected.