project eduaccess

democratising access to higher education

Outreach Session
Graduate Studies in the UK

Why consider an education abroad?

1

University Repute

World renowned in respective fields

2

Scholarships

Several funding opportunities can help finance your studies AND give you access to excellent scholar/alumni networks

3

Career prospects

Jobs in academia, industry, public sector, government advisory, consulting

Access to career counselling and mentorship within Universities

Alumni networks

4

Student Communities

100s of diverse and inclusive student communities- explore your passions, lead, be a changemaker, make friends from across the world!

5

Student Welfare

Universities usually have a strong student welfare support system in place- to help you fit in, help you feel you belong

6

Libraries and Museums

Access to 100s of libraries, museums and archives to help with your research

Project EduAccess

Access to higher education is a privilege most people from marginalised communities are systematically denied through cost, information and dispositional barriers.

Project EduAccess is a modest attempt to improve inclusivity in HEIs by removing these barriers for marginalized communities in South Asia.

We hope to achieve this by providing expert mentorship, support and guidance to learners in South Asia.

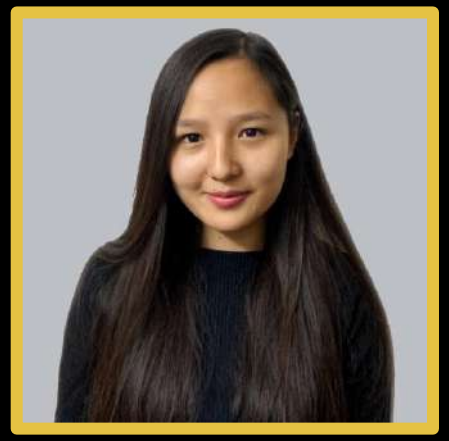
Mentorship Programme 2022-23

Our 2022-23 Mentorship Programme focuses on **improving access to HEIs (specifically postgraduate study) in the UK for marginalised communities in India**. We accept applications from students disadvantaged by social position, economic ability or geography, particularly:

- Indian Muslims
- Dalits/ Bahujans/ Adivasis
- Kashmiris
- Persons with Disabilities
- Women
- LGBTQ+
- Northeast Indians
- Economically Disadvantaged

We accept applications on a rolling basis.

Meet your panelists



Swareena Gurung

Bishwa Bangla Scholar 2018-19

MA South Asian Studies

SOAS, University of London

Sanjana Chettri

Chevening Scholar 2021-22

MSc Development Studies

SOAS, University of London

Dr. Rohini Rai

PhD Sociology, University of Manchester (2019)

Lecturer in Sociology, Brunel University London

Context

Students from Northeast India and Himalayan peripheries face a distinct set of access barriers to higher education.

In the age group of 22-35 years, only 8% of men and 4% of women from Northeast India have access to higher education (US-India Policy Institute NSSO Survey 2007-08).

Although the literacy rate of the region is relatively high, the number of students aspiring to take higher education is much lower compared to the rest of India (Maisuangdibou 2020).

Project EduAccess has designed a mentorship programme to support students from Northeast India and Eastern Himalayas for all aspects of university and scholarship applications to higher education institutions.

How to find a course you are interested in?

Step 1: Identify Universities you wish to apply to

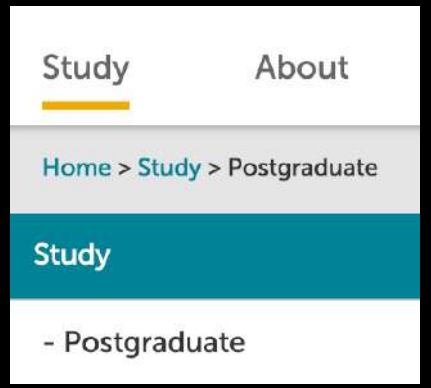
Step 2: Check their graduate study website or postgraduate admissions website

Step 3: Find out from list of courses which best suits your interest for higher studies

Step 4: Check if you are eligible to pursue the course of interest

Step 5: Check if they have funding options available

Throughout the process, talk to us or other mentors/seniors/advisors you may have!



General Eligibility Requirements

Academic

- Minimum of an upper second class honours in your respective discipline
- Completion of, or release from, any current training or education course
- You should also make sure that you meet the entry requirements for the specific course you are applying to

Financial

Proof of finance

Competence in English

English language tests – TOEFL/IELTS

Application guide 1- documents

What do you need to make a graduate application?

1

Statement of Purpose (SoP)

-Describe your reasons for applying, study and research interests, career plans, other relevant aspects of your background

2

Curriculum Vitae (CV)

-Summary of your educational qualifications, experience and skills

3

Writing Sample/Essays

-Writing samples demonstrating your research skills

-Scholarship essays

4

Academic Qualification documents

-Official degree transcripts

-TOEFL/IELTS scores (for English language competency)/GRE GMAT

5

Letters of Recommendation

-References from professors, mentors or supervisors

Application guide 2- the process

Document upload, submission

- Upload all documents- SoP, CV, scholarship essays, writing samples, official degree transcripts, TOEFL/IELTS results and submit

Actually filling up the form

- Fill in your details- personal, education, work experience
- Request for references

Starting your application

- Find the graduate course you are interested in (Which University? Which department?)
- Check deadlines

What about funding?

- Generally, most UK universities have some sort of funding available

- Sneak-peak into some major external scholarships in the UK:

- Chevening
- Rhodes
- Gates
- Clarendon
- Commonwealth
- Felix
- British Council Scholarships for Women in STEM
- ERC

Challenges in Applying to Unis Abroad

- Course and University Selection - Because of the expansive nature of the discipline, it is hard to identify specific courses abroad that might interest you.
  Explore interdisciplinary courses

- Uncertainty about job and career prospects- not being sure how to navigate post-study job opportunities abroad

- Lack of internship/research/work experience requirements before applying abroad
  Remember no experience is unworthy of being mentioned!

Why is mentorship helpful?

- Lack of resources and knowledge about your choice of discipline in India - makes it harder to get in touch with relevant people to talk to or be mentored by.
- For PhD students who don't have access to supervisors abroad they are interested working with
- Helps strengthen your writing and communication style
- Helps in access to information regarding scholarships, funding opportunities, specific to your discipline or your socio-economic backgrounds
- Helpful to know that there is someone from a similar background who can relate to your struggles, and keep you motivated throughout!

This brings us to Project EduAccess!

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Unique Features

1. Our mentorship programme is **completely free**.

2. It is designed to **support students who do not have their own network** of seniors/ friends/ relatives/ acquaintances **at universities abroad**.

3. We are home to **160+ volunteer mentors** and counting, **with experience in making successful applications to universities abroad**.

4. Many of our **mentors come from marginalized communities themselves**, and therefore, understand the unique challenges that students from marginalized backgrounds have to overcome to pursue higher education.

5. We endeavour to offer **support throughout the application process** (starting with identifying the right universities/ courses/ scholarships).

Structure of Mentorship Programme

One-on-one Mentorship

- Each mentee will be allotted two mentors:
  - A **personal mentor**, who may relate to the mentee's background and life experiences.
  - A **professional/ technical mentor**, whose profile aligns with the mentee's professional aspirations

Bespoke workshops and sessions

- These will range from online to in-person sessions on:

  - CV/ SoP writing
  - Drafting writing samples
  - Scholarship interviews
  - English language tests, among others

Mentee Eligibility

Applications for our Mentorship Programme 2022-23 are now open. You are eligible to apply if:

- you have completed, or are in the final year of, an undergraduate degree at a college/ university in India;

- you belong to one of the groups of learners listed before (previous slide) or are otherwise disadvantaged by social position, economic ability, and geography (among others); and

- you are planning to apply for a postgraduate degree (including PhD) in the United Kingdom to start in 2023.

Mentee Application Form

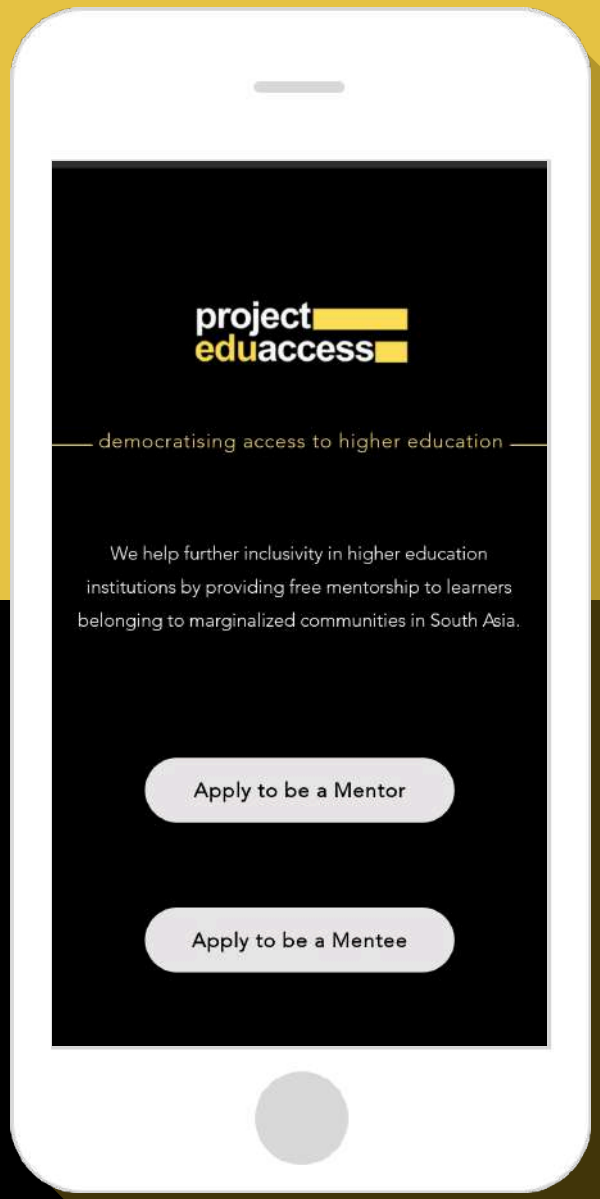
If you are eligible and would like to apply to be a mentee in 2022-23, please fill the application form to provide the following details:

- personal information
- educational background
- information about marginalized identity
- discipline/ course/ university of interest
- funding needs

Make sure you have the following ready before you start filling the application form:

- information about the **number of members in your household**, your household's **net annual income** for 2020-21 (approximate figure is sufficient), and the number of earners within your household; and

- **an updated CV**



Let us take you through our website

Website details: www.projecteduaccess.com

Other ways to get in touch

questions please?