The Brilliant Club’s Researcher Development Programme offers PhD and Early Career Researchers a meaningful, paid, professional development opportunity. Our mission is to support less advantaged students to access the most competitive universities and succeed when they get there. We do this by training tutors to deliver The Scholars Programme in non-selective state schools.

A recent survey of researchers showed 85% of tutors reporting that “working as a tutor has boosted their employability skills” and 96% agreeing or strongly agreeing that their latest placement “provided them with a meaningful opportunity for public engagement.”

Opportunity for PhD and Early Career Researchers

Researcher development benefits
- Communicate your research to a non-specialist audience
- Gain valuable teaching and public engagement experience
- Develop your skills in curriculum design

Tutors working with us will:
- Get expert pedagogical training and real experience to develop your teaching and other transferable skills
- Earn from £550 per placement, an additional £121 for designing a new course and travel expenses [plus up to £80 London weighting]
- Join a nationwide community of like-minded researchers making a significant impact on university access

Training

You will be supported to deliver university-style tutorials to small groups of pupils. For pupils aged 13 and above, you’ll design and deliver programmes based on your own research. For pupils aged between 9 and 12, you’ll deliver a pre-designed programme which is pitched at the appropriate level for these learners.

To prepare for your placements, all tutors take part in a pedagogical training programme. We offer a blended approach, combining online training with regional in-person training to build community and allow you to meet your Brilliant Club colleagues.

Our training consists of:
- Core pedagogy sessions focusing on course design, tutorial planning, pupil engagement, and assessment
- Elective sessions which focus on topics such as the UK school system and teaching sensitive topics
- Child protection and safeguarding
- Social events

Designing a course

Tutors create a diverse range of exciting courses, based on their own unique research. Here are some course examples:

1. In-school tutorials
   - Deliver 1-hour weekly tutorials in school to 2 groups of 7 pupils [weeks 1-5]
   - Set and mark baseline assignment and homeworks
   - Use your course handbook and a virtual learning environment to support pupils

2. Assignment writing and feedback tutorials
   - Mark and moderate final assignments
   - Provide one-to-one feedback in tutorial 7

3. Program impact
   - Independent analysis by UCAS shows that 44% of Year 10 and Year 12 pupils who completed The Scholars Programme progressed to the most competitive universities, compared to only 28% of pupils with similar backgrounds. This is a statistically significant difference.
   - "Working with The Brilliant Club has forced me to look at my research from an outsider’s perspective and to ensure that it’s accessible for non-experts. I think this is particularly important in my area of research (climate change), and it’s taught me a lot about how to engage young people in this area of science. I’m certain this has improved my employability. I feel so much more confident talking about my research now."
   - Sarah Wilson Kemsley, University of East Anglia, Scholars Programme PhD tutor

How to apply and next steps

For further information about The Scholars Programme and to access the online application form, please visit our website.

Get in touch

If you have any queries regarding the organisation, the opportunity to work as a Brilliant Club Tutor or the application process please send us an email at apply@thebrilliantclub.org.

The Brilliant Club is a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 1147771) and Scotland (no. SC048774). The Brilliant Club is a registered company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (no. 7968717). The Brilliant Club, 7th Floor, Millbank Tower, 20th Millbank, SW1P 4QP.