The Brilliant Club’s Scholars Programme gives students from non-selective state schools and FE colleges the opportunity to work with a PhD researcher to experience university-style learning. It helps students to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to secure a place at a competitive university and succeed when they get there. We work with students from aged 8 to 18, supporting them to make an informed choice about their future.

We work with over 800 PhD tutors
We are supported by 40+ partner universities
We work with over 1,000 schools

The Scholars Programme offers:
- Challenging courses taught by a world-class PhD researcher
- Experience of university-style learning in a small group
- Graduation events in partnership with competitive universities

Why get involved?
- Students develop key university readiness skills, including critical thinking and metacognition
- Schools receive robust impact reports detailing how the programme makes use of Pupil Equity Funding
- The programme supports schools to meet the Education Scotland Quality Indicators

Examples of our courses
- Adolescent Life in Medieval England
- Can Statistics Show that Climate is Changing?
- How Do Machines Think?
- Can we Regrow the Brain?
- What is the Value of Art?

Programme Impact
Students who complete The Scholars Programme, including those eligible for Pupil Premium, are statistically significantly more likely to apply to a competitive university than students from similar backgrounds.

We also see that Scholars Programme graduates progress to a competitive university at a higher rate than similar students who did not take part in the programme.

For further information about the findings, please click here.

My child really enjoyed the programme and it was a fantastic opportunity for him and made me so proud to see how well he did and what he achieved.

Secondary school parent, Glasgow

Our partner schools

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Secondary school parent, Glasgow

For further information about the findings, please click here.
Pupil journey

Programme planning supported by a Scholars Programme Officer.

Pupils meet their tutor and learn about Higher Education.

PhD tutor delivers weekly tutorials.

T1

T5

T3

T4

T2

T6

T7

A university-hosted graduation event to celebrate pupils’ achievements.

It was really enjoyable to speak through ideas and learn about a topic which was completely new to me. 

TSF Alumnus, Cornwall

Sign up deadlines

Terms offered: Autumn (October – February) Spring (January – May) Summer (March – July) Sign up by: June October December

Cost

The school contribution is £189 per pupil, a total of £2,646 per placement, which consists of 14 pupils. This cost is subsidised through contributions from our university partners and external grants and donations.

Interested in running The Scholars Programme in your school? Get in touch!

Email: tspschools@thebrilliantclub.org

Enquire online: thebrilliantclub.org/the-scholars-programme/for-schools/the-programme/

Pupil selection

The Brilliant Club requires that at least 55% of pupils registered on the programme fulfil at least one of the following criteria:

- Eligible for Free School Meals
- No parental history of higher education
- Deprivation according to postcode: SIMD 1-4

I enjoyed the opportunity to speak freely about my ideas and learn about a topic which was completely new to me.

TSF Alumnus, Cornwall