Applying to the Accelerate Programme: A Guide for Teachers

All of the places on the Accelerate Programme are fully funded and offered to pupils based on our Widening Access criteria. These criteria are:

- Attendance at one of the University's target schools. For a list of target schools, please see [Strathclyde Target Schools List](#)
- If your home postcode is in Quintile 1 or 2 based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. You can check your postcode here: [SIMD Postcode Look Up](#)
- Young Carer
- Care-Experienced
- Free School Meals
- Asylum Seeker/Refugee

Pupils only need to meet **one** of the above criteria to be eligible to apply. If a pupil matches just one of these criteria, they will have a very good chance of being offered a place on the programme. Unfortunately, if they do not match any of these criteria, we will not be able to offer them a place on the programme.

Applying to the Programme
If your pupils match at least one of our widening access criteria, you can apply on their behalf to the programme. This is a **three-step process.**

Step 1: Application for Funded Place
First, we need to confirm that your pupils match at least one of our widening access criteria. Please complete the Accelerate Funded Place Applicant Details spreadsheet with details of pupils who express an interest in attending the programme. Please ensure that you include the pupil's home postcode.

Schools should make pupils aware their personal data will be shared with us. Please share the Accelerate Funded Places Privacy Notice with pupils whose details you are sending us.

Pupils should also complete the Accelerate Pupil Personal Statement form. The main purpose of this is to ensure that pupils are interested in potentially going on to study their Accelerate challenge subject at University and pupils should demonstrate this in their personal statement. For 2026, the Personal Statement is split into **three** sections.

Please Note:
- Please do not recommend Accelerate to pupils on the basis that this is a good chance to find out about more generally about University, if they do not have an interest in the challenge subject area. This is not the case – the programme is very much subject-focussed.

Please email the spreadsheet and the pupils' personal statements to accelerate-programme@strath.ac.uk

The deadline for receiving forms is Friday 20th March 2026. We will assess all applications after this deadline and will award places based on our criteria.

Step 2: Registration on the Programme
After 20th March, we will email you a list of your pupils who have been allocated a place on the programme. In this email, we will give you a link to the formal registration form for the programme. All successful pupils will be allocated a reference number that they will need to complete their formal registration. Please pass each child's reference number on to the parents/guardians of pupils and ask them to complete this online form **before 24th April 2026.**

Step 3: Confirmation of Registration
Once Parents/Guardians have completed the registration form at the link provided, an email confirming the pupil's place on the programme and providing more information will be sent to the parent/ guardian and the pupil. We will also make you aware of the pupils that have completed the process and therefore will be attending the programme and absent from school during the relevant week.

Please note, pupils will not be fully registered on the programme unless **_all of the three steps above_** have been completed and pupils and parents/guardians will not receive any information about the programme until this has happened.

*There are two methods through which pupils can apply for a funded place on the Accelerate programme, either through the school, following the process above, or individually through their Parent/Guardian. **If you are applying for a funded place on behalf of pupils, please ensure that they are not also making an individual application**. *

The diagram below hopefully makes the three-step application process for Accelerate clear:

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Teachers complete the Accelerate Funded Place Applicant Details spreadsheet and email it, with pupil personal statements, to accelerate-programme@strath.ac.uk by **20.03.26.**	After 20.03.26, we will send you a list of pupils who have received a funded place and a link to the formal programme registration form. The Parents/Guardians of successful pupils should complete this form before **24.04.26.**	A confirmation email is sent to the pupil and parent/guardian providing information about Accelerate. The process is now complete and the pupil has a place on the programme.