

# Young Strathclyde: Accelerate

## Politics Challenge

22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Accelerate is a one-week programme, held at the University of Strathclyde, for pupils who have just gone into S5 and S6. It aims to provide a targeted focus on the pupils' chosen area of academic interest, giving them a head start on the road to their chosen career.

There are ten areas that you can choose from in 2026, depending on your career aspirations:

- **Business**
- **Chemistry**
- **Chemical Engineering**
- **Computer Science**
- **Education**
- **Electronic & Electrical Engineering**
- **Languages & International Communication**
- **Law**
- **Politics**
- **Product Design**

Teams of academic experts have put together week-long Challenges in each of these areas that will allow pupils to find out all about their area of interest and the career opportunities open to them. Led by undergraduate and postgraduate student mentors from the relevant fields, pupils will undertake a variety of group challenges, as well as attending career workshops and getting a chance to see what student life is like.

### The Politics Challenge: Outline

The Politics Challenge has three main aims:

- To provide you with insight and information about the various academic courses and work opportunities that there are in the field of Politics.
- To allow you to discuss career and education options with a wide variety of professionals and academics while being treated as a real University student for the week.
- To allow you to take part in group challenges that will allow you to put into practice the Politics expertise that you will gain during the week.

University staff and professionals working in our Department of Government & Public Policy will be on hand throughout the week as a resource of advice and information and to support you through your group tasks.



Participants will:

- Hear from various guest speakers through a series of mini lectures on various political topics;
- Work towards a group presentation at the end of the week on a chosen political topic, and produce an individual essay on the topic.

By allowing you to see how Politics works in the real world and to take part in your own court case, we are sure that this challenge will make you feel much more enthusiastic about Politics and going on to study at University.

During the programme, our Politics careers and industry event will also allow you to see the future opportunities available to you and the whole week will offer you a taste of what it is really like to be a University student.

The Politics challenge has official accreditation on the SCQF Framework. This means that there will be some assessment on this challenge and, should you pass this, you will gain 10 credits at level 7. Level 7 is the same as Advanced Higher or first year University work.

What previous Accelerate Challenge participants have said about the programme:

***“I really enjoyed the Accelerate Politics programme. I feel I have learned a lot about uni experience and politics meeting qualified people and uni students to get all access to differing opinions.”***

***“I really enjoyed the accelerate programme. I think hearing uni style lectures was really great for knowing a bit more about unis. The group presentation was actually quite enjoyable, and was definitely a bit of a confidence boost, knowing I can produce something decent and deliver it.”***

***“I was interested in learning more about labours policies and engaging in thoughtful questions with lecturers.”***

***“I feel this experience will broaden my horizons when applying to uni which I am grateful for.”***



***“I had fun this week. I learned how to successfully work in a group and I am now much more confident in presenting. This week has also helped me confirm that I want to study politics at university as I found the lectures very interesting. All the mentors and workers were so nice.”***

**For further information, visit:**

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/accessequalityinclusionservice/wideningaccess/gettingready/accelerate/>

or contact us at [accelerate-programme@strath.ac.uk](mailto:accelerate-programme@strath.ac.uk)