





LEAPS support students who are traditionally under-represented in higher education.



LEAPS is an impartial service, happy to take questions at any point.

Our role in school

All students will receive information and support in school to help with their future planning and any potential higher education applications.

LEAPS' role is to support this, through:

- delivering presentations about different aspects of higher education to all students in PSE classes
- being available to provide additional information, advice and guidance to students who fulfil particular eligibility criteria
- supporting students in preparing for the transition to higher education
- connecting students with different services where appropriate





Our aim is to ensure that all young people can make informed choices about their next steps.



LEAPS eligibility

In Group 1+/1 schools, we support all students who have the potential to achieve a minimum of 3 Highers by the time they finish school and are interested in applying to higher education.

To help us tailor our advice to individual students, LEAPS staff will discuss a young person's circumstances with them.



LEAPS eligibility

In Group 2 schools, we support students who have the potential to achieve a minimum of 3 Highers by the time they finish school and match one or more of the following criteria:

- student who is **first generation** in family to apply to higher education or whose parents do not already have a degree.
- student from a **low income background** (for instance where a student is entitled to EMA, free meals in school, or where the family is entitled to a benefit such as Universal Credit).
- student who has **spent time in care** or being looked after
- student who is **estranged** from both parents
- student who is a **young carer**
- student who lives in a **SIMD 20 postcode area**
- student who is **seeking asylum** or has **refugee status**



Postcode checker

Our Programme +

Our Eligibility Criteria -

LEAPS Eligibility Criteria Postcode Lookup

Our Schools

Home | LEAPS Home | Our Eligibility Criteria

Our Eligibility Criteria

Students matching the below criteria are entitled to LEAPS activities and support.

LEAPS Group 2 Schools

In [Group 2 schools](#), we support students who have the potential to achieve a minimum of 3 Highers by the time they finish school and match one or more of the following LEAPS eligibility criteria:

- **student who is first generation in family to apply to higher education or whose parents do not already have a degree.** This includes students whose parents may have briefly participated in higher education but did not achieve a degree. (Please note that a student whose parent/guardian/carer has achieved any degree – irrespective of mode of study, type of institution, location of study – would not be LEAPS eligible under this criterion.)
- **student from a low income background.** (For instance where a student is entitled to EMA, free meals in school, or where the family is entitled to a benefit such as Universal Credit).
- **student who is care experienced.** (By this we mean where a student has been, or is currently, in care. For instance, this may have been in a formal setting such as looked after at home, adoption or foster care, or it may have been in an informal setting such as kinship care and living with a relative who is not their mum or dad.)
- **student who is estranged.** (By this we mean a young person who currently has little or no contact with either of their parents and/or their legal guardian. They may not have been formally supported with this by the care system or a social worker etc., particularly if the estrangement happened after the age of 16 and they were unable to access social services due to their age.)
- **student who is a young carer.** (By this we mean a young person who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, frailty, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support.)
- **student who lives in one of Scotland's 20% most disadvantaged communities as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD20).** Please check your postcode [here](#).



LEAPS eligibility

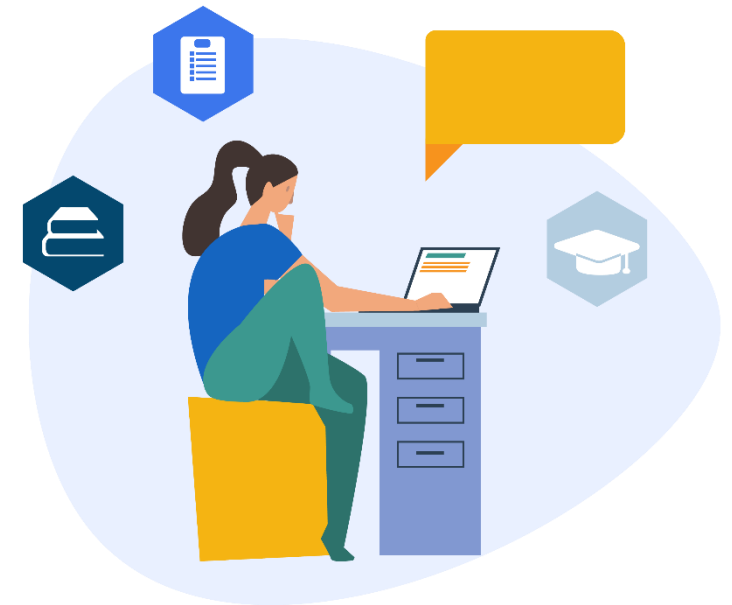
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If you believe that your young person meets this criteria, please ask them to make their Guidance teacher aware of this by the school deadline

Eligible students receive...

- Access to individualised course choice guidance and support during S5
- Opportunity to take the LEAPS Transitions Course in S6
- Pre-UCAS 1:1 appointment before applying to college/university, with individual support available thereafter
- Named contacts within the LEAPS team for any young people with experience of the care system, caring responsibilities or who are estranged



LEAPS Transitions Course

Get the academic edge for university



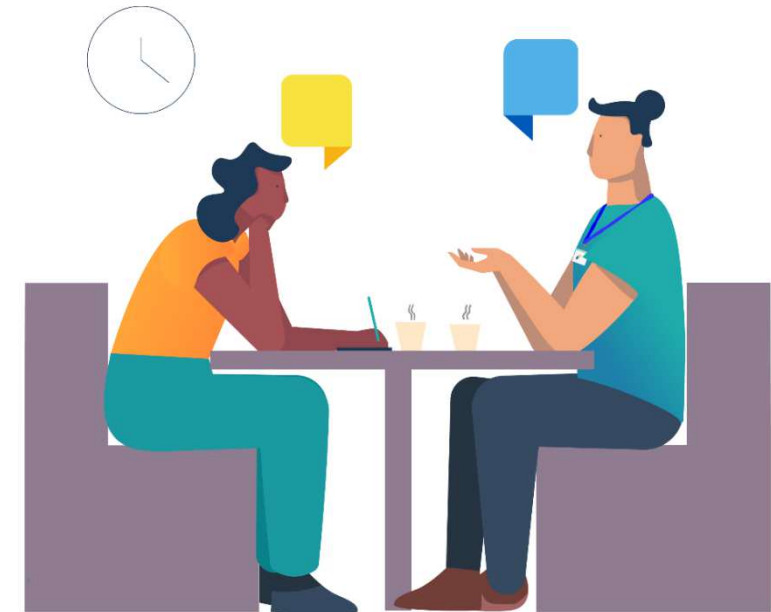
This course is an **S6 timetable option** for LEAPS-eligible students. Develop **key first-year university-level academic skills** to help you move from school to university!

Sessions take place **online** and on a **university campus** in Edinburgh.
www.leapsonline.org/transitions-course



Pre-UCAS 1:1 appointments

- Roughly 30 minute appointment in school before students apply to HE, usually S6
- Great opportunity to talk through courses of interest, grade requirements and the UCAS application
- Confirmation point for LEAPS eligibility
- Chance to query likelihood of an offer with institutions in advance of applying*
- All students receive a tailored action plan after their appointment



***Please note that course enquiry responses are intended to give an indication of a potential offer, but are not a guarantee.**

UCAS



- Online portal for researching and applying to university courses



UCAS APPLICATION

2026 Undergraduate application

Your Personal ID number

2053488268

🏠 / UCAS application

Confirmation & Clearing – When you have submitted your application and it has been processed, you will be able to add a choice.

Application **status**

Centre information

If you are applying through a school, college or centre, and have been given a buzzword, please enter it here (optional)

Add buzzword

0%

PROFILE

NOT STARTED

PERSONAL
STATEMENT

ADD REFEREE

REFERENCE

0%

Review and
submit >

- Online portal for researching and applying to university courses
- Includes a personal statement, teacher reference + school grades
- One single application for up to five courses
- Application deadlines for students:
 - 15 October – Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Medicine
 - 14 January – almost everything else!
- Universities have until May to review applications, invite students for interviews (where applicable) and make decisions



Admissions

A significant part of LEAPS' work advising students is supporting them with navigating the contextual admissions system in place in Scotland.

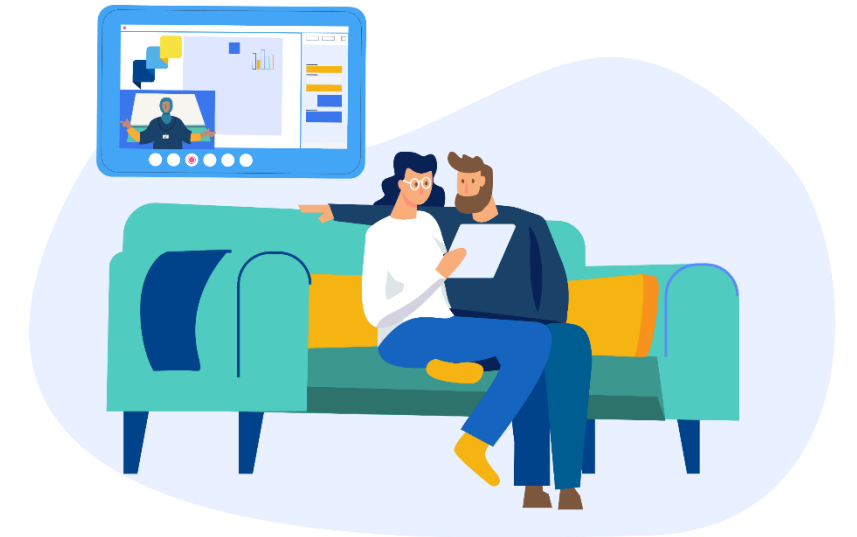
Key things to know:

- Universities will lower or change grades for students coming from a particular background or with a particular characteristic, in acknowledgement of barriers students may face in gaining their grades
- Not all universities have adopted the same characteristics for their adjusted offers, so checking with individual institutions is always advised
- Being LEAPS eligible does not guarantee universal adjusted or minimum offers for students

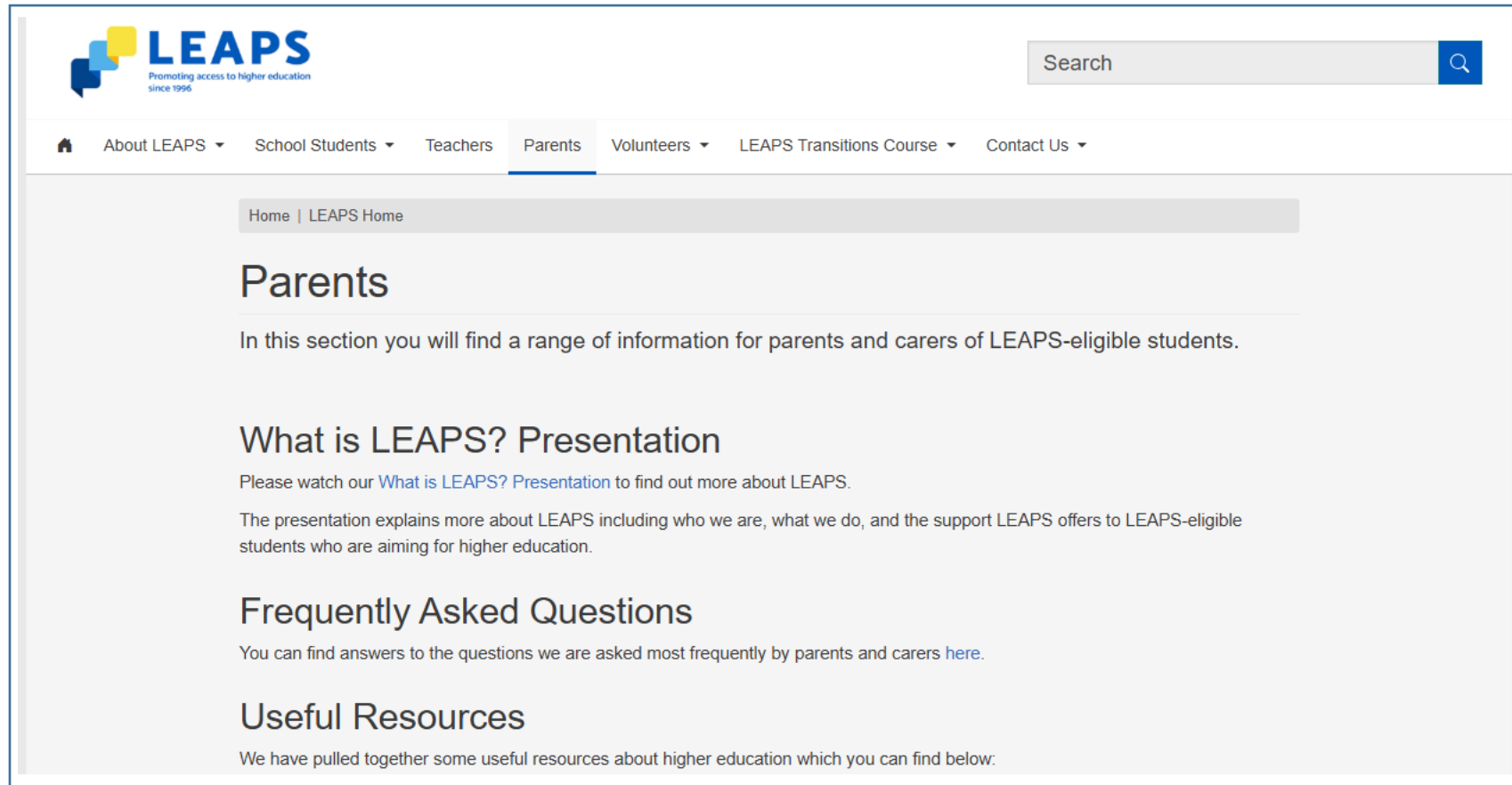


Supporting your young person

- Encourage them to take ownership of the research and application process
- Go along to open days together – chat through potential questions in advance
- Be available to talk through their options
- Help them to balance ambition and realism!
- Make the most of the UCAS parents' guide, LEAPS resources, etc.



Find out more...



www.leapsonline.org/parents



Thank you!

The LEAPS team is happy to help with higher education related queries from anyone within the school community.

Please feel free to reach out through your LEAPS link teacher or contact the team directly via:

W: www.leapsonline.org

E: leaps@ed.ac.uk

T: 0131 650 4676

