

TEDI-London local community scholarship

Rationale

TEDI-London is a new higher education provider based in Canada Water, London. Canada Water is part of the district of Rotherhithe in the London Borough of Southwark. TEDI-London chose Canada Water as its home primarily for the upcoming opportunities that will arise for its students as the [Canada Water Masterplan](#), an ambitious urban redevelopment project led by British Land, unfolds from early 2021.

Bringing a new higher education provider to a local community boosts the local economy. According to [analysis by Hatch Regeneris for UCU last year](#), universities typically support up to one additional job in the immediate local economy for every person they directly employ. However, universities have often been accused of neglecting civic responsibilities and acting as 'ivory towers'.

The vision for TEDI-London is for an institution firmly embedded in the community, providing knowledge and education both **with** and **for** the individuals, companies, and networks within the local area. Students, through our partnership with British Land, will work on projects directly related to the Masterplan, with the objective to improve the lives of the people who live and work in Canada Water. In parallel, we want our neighbours to be our students, and for the local voice to be present in our cohorts. Diversity is key to our success.

We recognise that Southwark is one of the most deprived areas of London. Deprivation is more than just poverty – the Southwark Council Indices of Deprivation 2019 notes that:

- An individual can be considered to be living in poverty if they lack the financial resources to meet their needs.
- However, an individual can be regarded as deprived if they lack a broader range of resources, not just income.

London Boroughs with SE postcodes are amongst some of the most deprived in the country. Southwark, Lambeth, Lewisham and Greenwich (all with SE postcodes) are in the top 70 of the most deprived boroughs in the UK according to the [English indices of deprivation 2019](#) – the most recent figures available.

Consequently, we have a challenge: to be fully embedded in the local area, TEDI-London must be accessible to local residents, yet those local residents may often be prevented or deterred from accessing higher education because of a lack of financial and other resources.

Response

To combat low participation there is a suite of measures we are taking to encourage local communities to consider higher education, engineering and TEDI-London:

- Targeted schools' outreach – the student recruitment and admissions team have prioritised local schools for outreach and engagement and can offer 'priority' participation in events for local people. For example, last year's summer programme [Thinking Ahead - 'Light Up!'](#) was offered to local Southwark participants before being made available more widely.
- Working with local networks such as [Global Generation Paper Garden](#) & [Bizzie Bodies](#) to engage and enthuse local people about engineering. The 2020 Covid-19 pandemic has prevented the running of community events to support people into higher education and engineering but as soon as we are able, we will be developing this activity.
- New Campus – TEDI-London will make its home in a brand new, bespoke 'innovation hub' developed in a disused carpark at Canada Water. The campus will feature a large, flexible event space which will be used for a variety of events such as those discussed above, student exhibits, open days, and public information sessions.

Scholarship Proposal and eligibility

Additionally, TEDI-London will fund the equivalent of two full home fee scholarships for offer holders from the local area. The scholarships are split into two categories:

- [The Southwark Scholarship](#). Eligible candidates must be able to demonstrate they permanently reside in the London Borough of Southwark. Candidates fulfilling this criterion who have been made an offer to study at TEDI-London and are assessed as 'home' students for fee status will be eligible to apply for a scholarship grant to the maximum value of £8,600 per year. If there are more Southwark students than scholarships then

the recipient/s will be decided on the merit of their performance at our applicant assessment centres. It will be the recipient's choice whether to offset this money against tuition fees or to utilise this money for maintenance costs.

- The SE scholarship. Eligible candidates must be able to demonstrate they permanently reside in a property with a SE postcode. Candidates fulfilling this criterion who have been made an offer to study at TEDI-London and are assessed as 'home' students for fee status will be eligible to apply for a scholarship grant to the maximum value of £8,600 per year. If there are more SE students than scholarships then the recipient/s will be decided on the merit of their performance at our applicant assessment centres. It will be the recipient's choice whether to offset this money against tuition fees or to utilise this money for maintenance costs.

Scholarship recipients will also be offered financial support to the maximum value of £1,200 (£400 for each year of their degree) to attend engineering or career events, with this money being used to cover the cost of entry, transport, accommodation, or any other costs incurred. This ringfenced money as part of the scholarship aims to offset the disadvantage associated with coming from an area identified as having higher levels of deprivation.

Scholarship recipients will be assigned a coach in their second year, to meet with on an informal basis once per term. It is envisaged that this mentor will provide both coaching and careers advice to the scholarship recipient and that they will be either a member of TEDI-London academic staff, or a part of TEDI-London's industry network.

The scholarship amount, with a maximum value of £8,600, represents a significant part of either the TEDI-London tuition fee or a student's average living expenses of £1250 per month¹. The scholarship amount is intended to ameliorate any negative perceptions of the high costs associated with higher education, which may otherwise be a barrier to entry for prospective local students.

¹ <https://www.universalstudentliving.com/guide-cost-living-london-student/#:~:text=According%20to%20King's%20College%20London,taken%20into%20account%20and%20students>