

Debate Academy further information

All of our courses offer the following:

- A comprehensive and exciting range of workshops tailored to your level and delivered by our expert tutors who are accomplished debaters, coaches and adjudicators.
- Accessible debate materials, strategies and ideas to take away with you so you can build on the knowledge you gain throughout the programme.
- Cutting edge lectures from university students and tutors on key areas (Law, Economics, Rights, Feminism, International Relations) which students should know about in order to do well at schools debating competitions. These lectures also offer the opportunity to talk to, debate with, and question students from some of the best universities in the country.
- A guarantee that every student will take part in at least 5 debates over the course of the programme.
- A range of social activities where students can meet, hang out and have fun with other debaters from across the world.
- Accommodation for five nights, with all meals provided, at Uppingham School, Rutland. The site ensures that all teaching, meals and leisure activities are no more than a five-minute walk away.
- Bus transfers to and from Oakham station.
- A lot of fun! Whilst the programme is packed with engaging and thought-provoking sessions at all levels, you'll also have time to meet students from across the UK and the world and make a range of new friends. Don't take our word for it, read through the testimonials and make up your own mind!
- For students from the UK who wish to attend Debate Academy, a range of partial and full bursaries are available for those who would otherwise, due to financial circumstances, be unable to attend.

EXPERIENCE TRACKS

Which format stream should I choose?

- The mixed format stream will introduce students to two commonly used debating formats in the UK. The first of these is the ESU Mace format, which is the format in which the UK's national schools debating competition is held, as are a number of other preparatory competitions. It's also a popular format for schools to use internally, or for public debates. The second is British Parliamentary, which is the format in which most schools' competitions run by university debating societies are held.
- The world schools stream focuses on the format which is used at the World Schools Debating Championships, and a couple of preparatory competitions. This is a popular format option for students who are intending to trial for their national team, whether in the UK or abroad.

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- If you're undecided and would like more information, please feel free to contact the ESU.

Experience tracks

Debate Academy, in both the Mixed Formats stream and the World Schools stream, aims to ensure that students who participate are able to work with students who have approximately similar experience in debating. To this end we ordinarily divide students into four separate tracks in the Mixed Formats stream of Debate Academy, and three tracks in the World Schools stream.

The track that a student joins depends on their experience compared to other participants at Debate Academy in that year. As such, it only reflects the experience that students have to date, and in no way their intelligence or potential. We ask everyone to provide details of their prior debating experience, and to self-assess which track they'd like to join, although the final decision rests with the ESU. Students should also remember that they may be able to move tracks during the academy if they would benefit more from being in a different class.

Experience tracks for Mixed Formats Debate Academy:

Beginner - If you're in this group you probably will have had little or no experience of debating prior to Debate Academy. You may have never debated before but you'd like to learn how to do it. If you've had some experience it will probably have been whilst debating against other students within your school as part of a debate club. You may have entered one of the larger national competitions, but unfortunately weren't successful in getting beyond the first round. Fear not! We're here to help you master the basics and go on to hopefully compete in those inter-school competitions.

Lower Intermediate - If you're in this group you've probably mastered most of the basics of debating but are looking for some help in getting even better. You are likely to have had a fair amount of experience debating within your own school and perhaps have entered a number of external competitions to debate against other schools. We can help you consolidate those basic skills, deal with more complex debates and help build your expertise and confidence to compete with success in those inter-school debate competitions.

Upper Intermediate - If you're in this group you have probably been debating for several years and have had some success. You will probably have done well at some schools' competitions (in the Mace or British Parliamentary formats) and are likely to have made it to the regional final of the Mace; to the Finals Day in the Oxford or Cambridge competitions or ranked in the top third at other debating competitions.



We can help you to build your skills so that you can 'break' to the final stages of these competitions and begin to think seriously about trialling for your national teams.

Advanced - If you're in this group, you probably already think you know everything there is to know. You may have broken to the finals or semi-finals of a number of national competitions but you may be looking to find out how to win a final, or in exceptional cases, win more finals. If you're in this group you'll almost certainly be looking to trial for your national team - indeed you may even already be on your national team. We can help you to become even better at debating, to understand how debates are judged at the highest level and how to win the top rooms at competitions.

Experience tracks for World Schools' Debate Academy:

Beginner - If you're in this group you probably will have had little or no experience of debating in the World Schools format prior to Debate Academy. You have probably had some experience of debating within your school and may have competed at external competitions but without progressing far. You may be thinking about applying for your national team eventually, but this is not your immediate goal.

Intermediate - If you're in this group you probably have been debating for a couple of years and have mastered the basics. You probably have quite a bit of experience in British Parliamentary or Schools Mace formats but may not have much World Schools format experience. You'd like to get some experience of the format and are probably thinking of trying out for your national team this year.

Advanced - If you're in this group you probably have a fair amount of debating experience. You've probably competed for your school at national competitions and may have reached the semi-finals or finals of the competition. You may well already have some experience with the World Schools format, and hope to apply to be on the team for the next competition. We can help you gain more experience with the format, learn how to use your preparation time and become accomplished national debaters.



BURSARIES

In a number of circumstances, the ESU is able to offer partial or full bursaries to students in order to attend Debate Academy. Our bursary fund will permit us to allocate the equivalent of full bursaries for at least 25% of students at Debate Academy.

This fund is intended to support students in genuine need. We would always advise applicants who may need financial support to first speak with their school which may be in a position to help.

The policy for full and partial bursaries is set out below, and when you apply for Debate Academy you'll be asked to provide the information below. If at any point you are unsure what you need to provide, unable to fulfil the requirements or in need of any assistance, please contact Amanda Moorghen at amanda.moorghen@esu.org, or 02075291565, and we'll be more than happy to help.

Requirements

In order to qualify for a bursary, you need provide the following three things within three weeks of your initial registration.

1. A brief statement explaining (in no more than 250 words) why you want to come to Debate Academy.
2. A statement, either from yourself or a parent or guardian, explaining why you need a bursary, with appropriate supporting documentation where possible, e.g. proof of parental income, etc.
3. A signed copy of the terms and conditions which will be sent to your email address when you registered for Debate Academy.

What are the bursary amounts?

The ESU is willing to offer registration bursaries of 50%; 80% and 100% of the fee to attend Debate Academy.

The ESU is also willing to offer travel bursaries for the full cost of travel to Debate Academy.

If you have any further enquiries about the ESU's bursary policy, please contact Amanda Moorghen at amanda.moorghen@esu.org

