The Brilliant Club is an award-winning charity that exists to increase the number of pupils from under-represented backgrounds progressing to highly-selective universities. We do this by mobilising the PhD community to share its academic expertise with state schools.

The Scholars Programme works in partnership with non-selective state schools across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In 2018-19 we will work with over 13,000 in over 750 schools. The programme is available for pupils in key stage 2, 3, 4 and 5.

The Scholars Programme gives an experience of university-style learning. Small groups of pupils are supported by a PhD-level tutor over the course of a term to complete a university-style module culminating in a final assignment. These in-school tutorials are complemented by two trips to highly-selective universities.

The programme is academically rigorous and we ask that teachers select pupils who will benefit most from the challenge of working a level above their current key stage. As a minimum we require 55% of pupils on the programme meet one of three measures:

- Eligible for Pupil Premium
- No parental history of Higher Education
- Lowest two quintiles of the IDACI (pupil postcode data)

Pupil selection

Academic courses

We recruit, train and support researchers to create a short course based on their own area of research. These courses are delivered to key stage 4 and 5 pupils. For younger pupils in key stage 2 and 3, we have developed a range of pre-designed courses for our researchers to deliver. All courses are supra-curricular. Final assignments are marked with a university-style mark scheme (1st, 2:1, 2:2).
Impact and reporting

At the end of each programme, we provide a tailored Impact Report to each school. Pupils’ attainment on the programme is tracked using our six university readiness competencies – a research-based framework for assessing skills that are likely to support progression to highly-selective universities.

### School contributions

Schools contribute £160 per pupil to run The Scholars Programme. This cost is subsidised through contributions from our university partners and external grants and donations. This covers all aspects of the programme, other than travel to university trips. Schools frequently use Pupil Premium funds to support running the programme.

### Outcomes for pupils

For the last three years, The Brilliant Club has worked with the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) to evaluate the impact of its programmes on progression to highly-selective universities.

The UCAS data shows that pupils who completed The Scholars Programme were significantly more likely to progress to a highly selective university.

56% of Scholars Programme graduates progress to a highly-selective university, compared to only 30% of pupils with similar backgrounds. The progression rate is nearly as high for pupils with Ever6FSM: 52% progressed to a highly-selective university.

To find out more about The Brilliant Club’s Research and Impact, click here.

### Course examples

#### Programme Attainment

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<th>Programme</th>
<th>Written Communication</th>
<th>Subject Knowledge</th>
<th>Critical Thinking</th>
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<td>Pupil Self-Report</td>
<td>Meta-Cognition</td>
<td>Motivation and Self-Efficacy</td>
<td>University Knowledge</td>
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#### Outcomes for pupils

- Significantly more likely to apply to a highly-selective university
- Significantly more likely to receive an offer from a university
- Significantly more likely to progress to a highly-selective university

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#### Sign up for 2019–20 placements

Sign up for 2019–20 across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is now open. We advise schools to sign up as soon as possible in order to secure places. To find out more and to get in touch with a member of the team, please fill out our enquiries form or email us at tspschools@thebrilliantclub.org.