



Incubator Programme Guidelines



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AccessEd's Approach



GROW

an international
researcher community

Grow a thriving
network of researcher
collaborators. Build
connections with
communities of PhDs.



CONNECT

entrepreneurs, universities
and researchers

Connect entrepreneurs,
university institutions and
researchers to form
partnerships in their
country of operation.



RECRUIT

entrepreneurs

Recruit promising
entrepreneurs based in
their target country to join
AccessEd's incubator
programme



INCUBATE

university access
programmes

Support the establishment
of new university access
programmes. Share
blueprints and resources to
be adapted in-country.



University Access

A Global Problem

In 23 OECD countries

a child's chances of participating in tertiary education are over four times as high if one of their parents has a tertiary education

2%

of students in rural China go on to enroll at university, compared with 54% of students from urban centres

12 in 100

of all students in South Africa access university. More students attend university from the richest 10% of the income distribution than from the poorest 80% of the income distribution

3%

of students from the bottom economic quartile in the USA enroll in the most competitive universities, compared to 72% from the top economic quartile

1 in 40

low-income pupils will progress to a highly-selective university in the UK, compared to one in three privately-educated pupils

More than 1.2 billion

pupils in 186 countries were impacted by school closures in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, which exacerbated education inequalities globally.

About Us

Background



AccessEd is a charity that was established by the co-founders of The Brilliant Club. AccessEd supports entrepreneurs and organisations to start-up and then scale university access programmes in their own communities. The AccessEd Incubator programme brings together the expertise and resources of university access programmes in the UK and globally to equip partners to effectively mobilise the research community in their area.

www.access-ed.ngo




AccessEd has established programmes with partners in Botswana, Ireland, Malaysia, South Africa and Hong Kong, with a pipeline of applications from prospective partners across Europe and Asia-Pacific. As these programmes scale, they become formal members of the AccessEd network, which exists as a community of like-minded practitioners and as a quality assurance mark. AccessEd aims to have a global-level impact by helping to develop member organisations in 10 new countries over the next five years.



We were born out of The Brilliant Club: an award-winning and independently-evaluated UK charity that is building a movement that mobilises the PhD community to increase fair access to highly-selective universities. In 2019-20, the Brilliant Club worked with 43 leading universities, 554 schools and 9,299 pupils in the UK.

www.thebrilliantclub.org



Solutions to many of the
world's most difficult
social problems don't
need to be invented,
they need only to be
found, funded, and
scaled

Judith Rodin,
The Rockefeller Foundation
2005 – 2017

Incubator Programme

Overview

Collaboration

We collaborate with entrepreneurs, researchers and university institutions to build effective solutions that address access to university.

Humility

We acknowledge and value the experience and expertise of educationalists locally. We are open minded, value differing views, and admit mistakes.

Respect

We celebrate diversity. We respect others and their opinions.

Empathy

We empathise with the thoughts, emotions and experiences of team members and partners. We provide genuine support to one another.

Excellence

We strive to always do our very best. We acknowledge that each stakeholder's contribution is critical to our success.

Year 1: Pilot + Impact

Year 2: Expansion

AccessEd works with entrepreneurs and organisations who demonstrate the passion and potential to develop programmes that mobilise researchers to deliver academic enrichment programmes in their local community. We seek to recruit partners that share our mission and our values of **collaboration**, **humility**, **respect**, **empathy** and **excellence**. We aim to support partners to find solutions that fit their context and education system, through our co-design and capacity building process.

Partners are selected through a three-stage assessment process that includes an expression of interest, a detailed written application proposal and an in-person assessment. We look to develop strong relationships with partners from the outset to support the successful development and launch of new programmes.

After selection, new partners are enrolled on our Incubator Programme. The Incubator Programme provides structured support equipping new partners to: design a pilot university access programme, show initial evidence of impact, and then scale up.

The Incubator Programme is a two-year programme. In **Year 1**, partners design and deliver a pilot programme and demonstrate initial impact. In **Year 2**, we work to build the capacity of partner ventures to deliver impact at scale, including demonstrating readiness for significant external investment and advice on funding applications.

The Incubator Programme is comprised of four modules. These modules are delivered through a series of workshops and shared resources. Incubator Programme partners also benefit from a bespoke mix of consultancy and mentoring to suit individual needs.

Progress of partners on the Incubator Programme is monitored through milestone checks. Partnerships are managed through regular check-ins, and governed by a Partnership Agreement and Terms and Conditions.

The Blueprint Delivery Model

Our primary university access programme blueprint for our programme comes from an award-winning, independently evaluated scheme by The Brilliant Club, a UK charity. **AccessEd** was established to share this model internationally. Our former pilots showed that as high as **97% of learners were more likely to go to university** having completed our Scholars programme.

The model is built around using the passion and expertise of PhD researchers to tutor students over the course of the programme.

Pupils study academic subjects based on their tutor's research, completing homework assignments and an extended final written assignment. We work with local partners to adapt this model for their country context. (Figure 1).

The Scholars programme works in partnership with students typically undergoing, subject to development with local partners:

- ✓ A launch event at a partner university campus, with a tour, chance to meet graduations and study skills sessions
- ✓ 8 weeks of university-style tutorials from their PhD Tutor
- ✓ A graduation at the university, with a chance to celebrate their achievement and reflect on their next steps
- ✓ Evaluation of impact on study skills, confidence, desire to go on to higher education

In addition to our primary programme blueprint, we share other university access programme blueprints with our Incubator Programme partner. These programme blueprints have been developed based on our work in the UK.

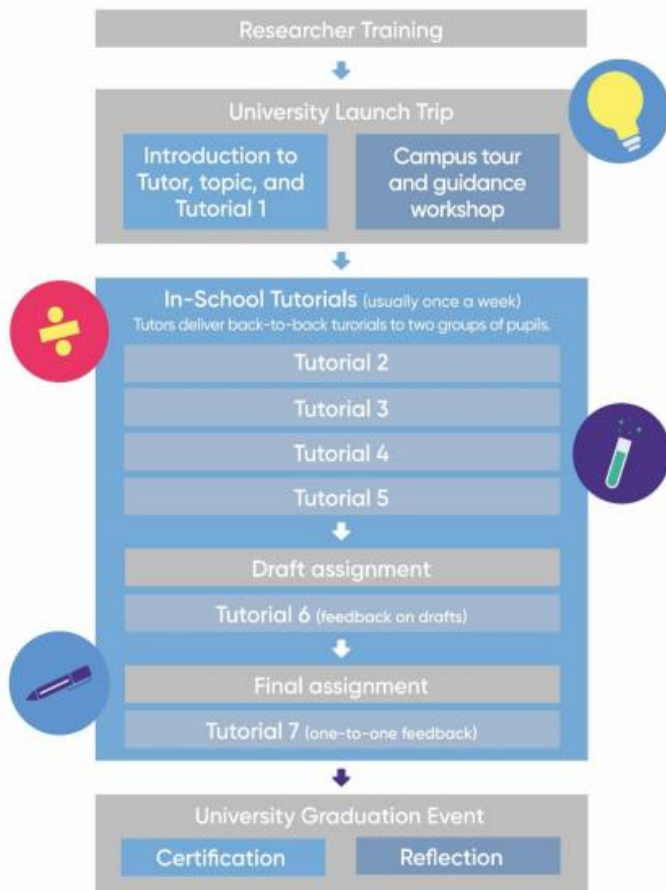


Figure 1: Delivery model

Why Postgraduate researchers?

Tutors benefit from rigorous assessment, training and pedagogy such as planning, questioning, and assessment, aspects of classroom management, and codes of professional conduct.

Incubator Programme

Structure

Year 1 Modules

The Incubator Programme gives partners access to a range of expertise and resources. In Year 1 this is structured around four modules, each of which is designed to meet a strategic aim.

The first module is completed at the beginning of Year 1, and the remaining three modules run in tandem during the course of the year. Together, they aim to develop the capacity of partners to design and deliver a pilot university access programme.

1

Programme Design

Aim - To design a theory change for the pilot, focusing on defining the programme mission, target population, outcomes and model.

2

Programme Delivery

Aim - To deliver a high-quality pilot programme that engages partners in schools and universities to effect systemic change.

3

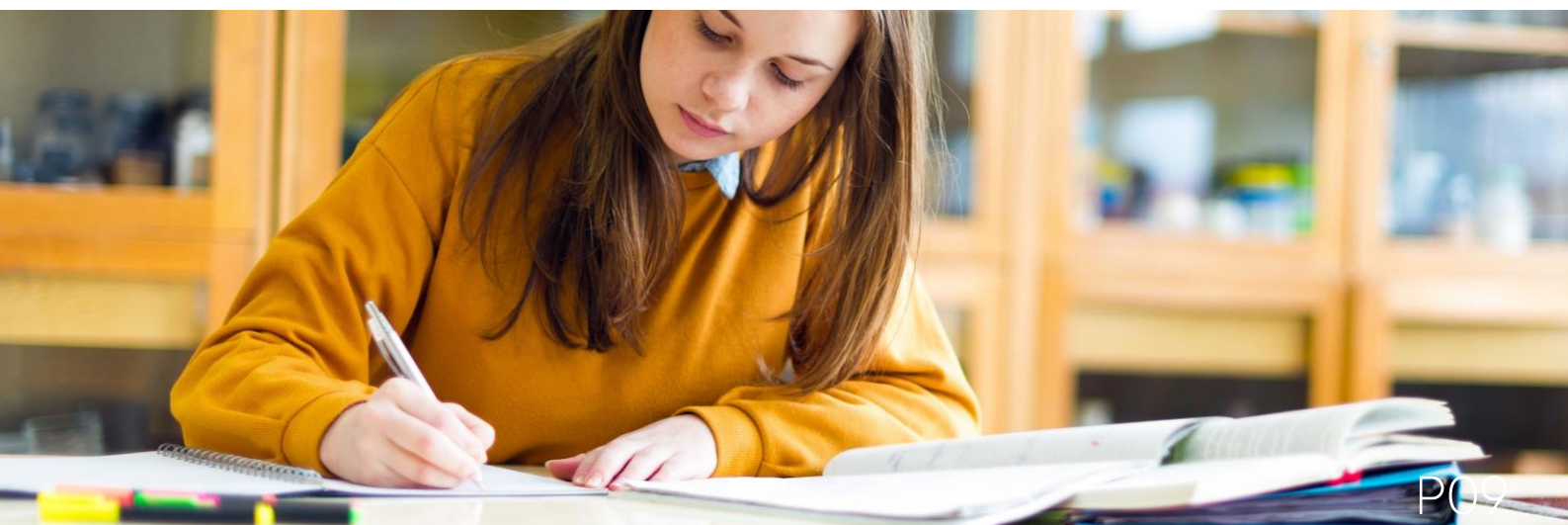
Programme Evaluation

Aim - To demonstrate initial impact through the monitoring and evaluation of programme data, and the creation of case studies.

4

Business Development

Aim - To build management and fundraising skills, create an operational plan and place joint bids for funding that support programme expansion in Year 2 and thereafter.



Year 1 Workshops

Theory of change

Researcher recruitment, and retention
Researcher training
Course design
Stakeholder management
Management stools

Moderation
Data collection
Impact reporting
Case studies

Partnerships and networking
Funding – applications & governance
Operations – human resources & budget management
Marketing and communication – branding

Year 1 Resources

Each module is delivered through a series workshops. Some of these are core and some are bespoke to the individual needs of partners.

To best support partners, core workshops in each module are delivered before the launch of a pilot programme. Bespoke workshops are delivered to meet the individual needs of partners during the course of the Incubator Programme.

2021/2022 Year 1 partners will complete the following core workshops:

Programme Design: These workshops support partners to draw on their knowledge and expertise of the school system in their community to articulate a theory of change. AccessEd will provide research support and help partners to identify significant themes. The workshops support partners to define their mission, target population, outcomes and programme model. Part of the module will be completed at the assessment stage, and part will be completed thereafter.

2021/22 Year 1 partners will then also complete a series of further workshops throughout the year, linked to the other three modules. These will focus on the areas outlined in the left hand diagram, and will be delivered in line with the needs and schedule of each partner.

Shared Resources: Alongside the above workshops, the Incubator Programme is delivered through a series of tried and tested resources. These resources support partners to learn from best practice and create effective programme and business materials.

Partnerships Management: All partners are assigned a Programme Manager. The Programme Manager will work with the partner on a regular basis, assessing their individual needs and developing bespoke training and resources in collaboration with AccessEd.

Funding

AccessEd does not compensate entrepreneurs for their participation in the Incubator Programme.

AccessEd supports Incubator Programme partners by placing joint bids to source funding for the pilot programme. However, in the interest of programme sustainability and scalability, we encourage partners to secure funding prior to submitting their Expression of Interest Form.



Partnership Management

Principles and Checks

AccessEd and Incubator Programme partners agree individually and collectively to the following principles which we believe drive the quality and impact of our programmes.

- We are guided by a strong sense of mission
- Values: **collaboration, humility, respect, empathy, excellence**
- We celebrate successes and share good practice
- We are committed to professional development, reflecting and providing constructive feedback
- We are open, transparent, and regular in our communication

AccessEd is committed to providing Incubator Programme partners with the support they need to enable them to establish self-sustaining university access organisations that deliver meaningful outcomes for young people from under-represented backgrounds.

In order to provide this support, AccessEd holds regular milestones checks to assess partners' progress, identify and address their needs, as well as ensure continued partnership alignment. These checks take place at key points throughout the year.

Milestone checks are completed by the AccessEd Leadership Team. At each check, progress towards module aims is reviewed, programme successes are shared, and development targets are mutually agreed.

In addition to milestone checks, partnerships are managed by regular support calls and virtual check-ins. These are conducted between the partner and the assigned Programme Manager.



Values



Milestone checks



Fortnightly Support calls



Monthly virtual check-ins

Partnership Governance

Each individual partner enters into a formal agreement with AccessEd, which outlines the expectations of each party. This includes the above expectations around partnership management, as well as policies for using the intellectual property of AccessEd. Both parties will then sign the partnership agreement, which acts as a guide for the initial two years.



AccessEd

Pilot Case Study



AccessEd ZA

In partnership with schools and non-profits serving under-represented students, AccessEd ZA has designed a structured outreach programme to support university access in the Western Cape and Gauteng.

Following interest from education leaders in South Africa, AccessEd Za was established in September 2016. The programme was designed and delivered by AccessEd in collaboration with local school and non-profit partners.

AccessEd ZA has now delivered three programme cohorts in 2017, 2018 and 2020.

Since 2017

15

post-graduate researchers
delivered university-style tutorials

168

hours of university-style
tutorials were delivered

283

pupils participated in
the programme

22

placements have been made
across the Western Cape and
Gauteng

Tutorials 1-7
Designed and
delivered by
postgraduate
researchers

Research
Assignment
Extended project

In-School
Tutorial 8
1-1 Feedback
Grades

University
Graduation Trip
Guidance Workshop
Campus Tour
Certificates

The AccessEd ZA programme seeks to support Grade 8 and 9 pupils in three key areas: **improving academic performance**, **raising aspirations**, and **supporting university completion**.



AccessEd Team

Our Senior Leadership



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AccessEd is a charity

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