

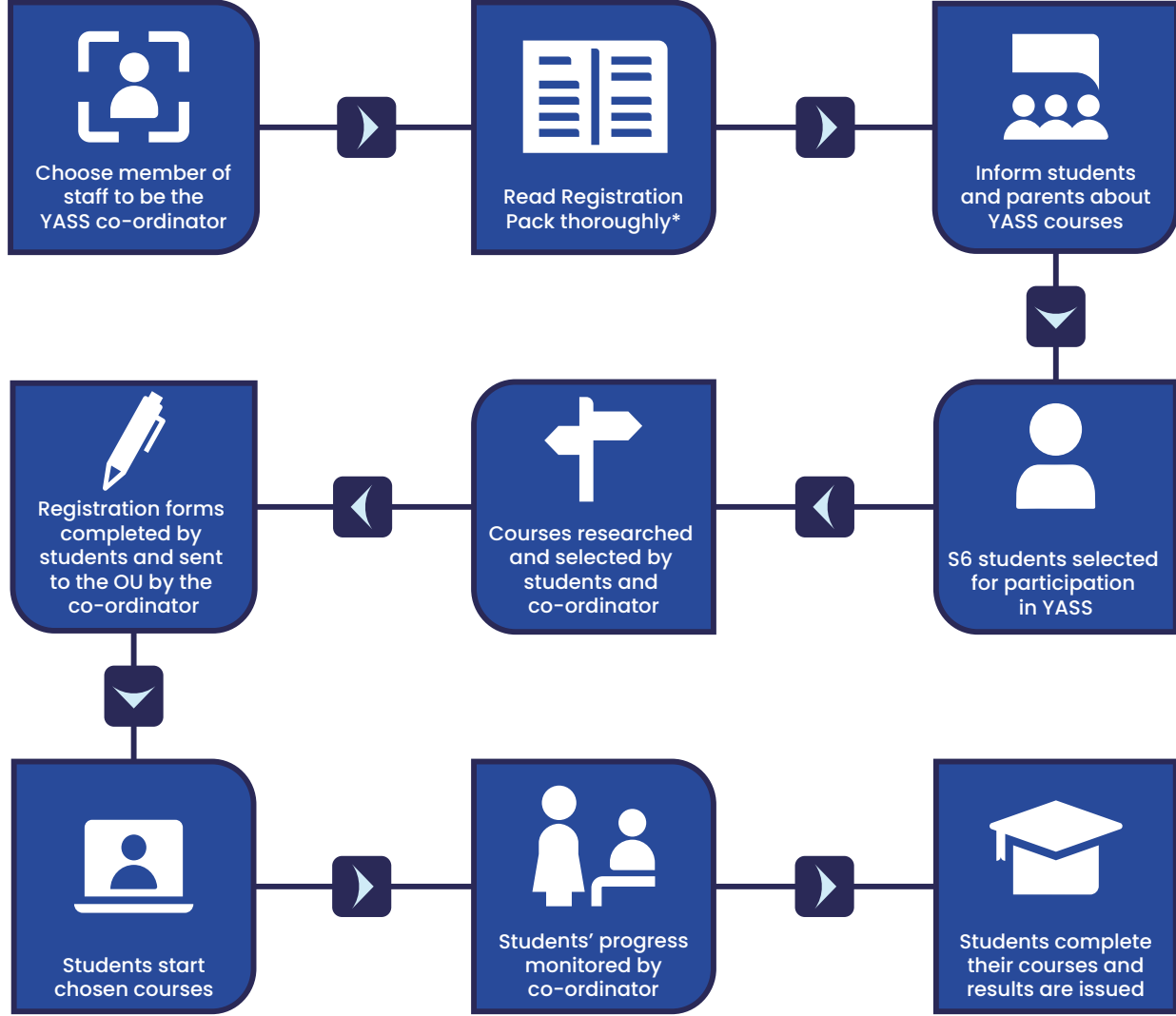
# Young Applicants in Schools Scheme

Course list and teachers guide

**2025–26**



# YASS process for schools



\*Please contact the YASS team with any questions or to arrange an information session for the school.

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There is a dedicated **section for pupils** at the end of this guide which includes the **course guide** on page 17

# Welcome

## Welcome to the Young Applicants in Schools Scheme (YASS)

YASS is The Open University (OU) in Scotland's national bridging programme for S6 pupils. It offers pupils the opportunity to study Open University level 1 courses (SCQF level 7) in school alongside their other studies.

The programme is designed to help develop a range of skills and knowledge that will support the transition from school to university, college or the workplace.



The pupils and staff at Doon Academy are grateful for the opportunities the YASS scheme provides.

For me, YASS ticks just about all of the boxes of a good widening access initiative: it fills a curricular gap; it provides opportunities to deepen and broaden learning; it provides routes into higher education; it encourages our young people to take responsibility for and be positive about their futures; and it limits the disadvantage faced by pupils from one of the most deprived parts of the country.



**UCAS Adviser & Widening Access Co-ordinator**  
Doon Academy

# YASS explained

## Where is YASS available?

YASS is uniquely placed as a bridging activity that has full geographical reach. It is open to **every** secondary school in Scotland and participation is not limited by minimum numbers. Since it was launched in 2007, all 32 local authorities in Scotland have participated in YASS and over 13,000 students have studied a YASS course.

## Who can take part?

YASS is open to every S6 pupil in full-time study in Scottish schools. The programme works best for students who are motivated, committed and able to cope well with independent learning. Before considering the scheme, pupils need to be aware of the extra study requirements. For example, a typical 30-credit course runs from October to June and will need up to 14 hours of independent study each week.



**100%** of co-ordinators surveyed recently agreed that YASS is beneficial to their students

## How much does it cost?

There is no cost to the school or the pupil. YASS is fully funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and is completely free for pupils in local authority schools. Pupils who attend independent schools can self-fund the course or be sponsored by their school.

## What impact has Brexit had on registering for a course?

Post-Brexit changes have an impact on EEA (European Economic Area) and Swiss nationals and their family members starting a course in 2025/26 – **this means that additional fee assessment checks need to be asked by registration teams. To avoid delays in registering on YASS modules, we recommend you aim to complete registration early and ahead of given deadline dates so all the appropriate checking processes can be undertaken. These checks are an OU requirement so that the correct funding can be applied to students.**



## How is YASS recognised?

1. Schools can include YASS attainment in the Scottish Government's Insight reporting.
2. Pupils can add their YASS course to their UCAS forms under the Education section. It's also beneficial to highlight what a pupil has learnt from their YASS course in their personal statement – the knowledge and skills gained and how it has helped them to prepare for studying at university.

## What is the role of the school in YASS?

All learning materials, teaching and academic support for YASS courses are provided by the OU. The main role of the school is to be a link between pupils and the YASS team. This link is usually a named contact who takes on the role of the YASS co-ordinator.

## What does the school YASS co-ordinator do?



Arrange in-school information sessions delivered either by the co-ordinator or the YASS team at the OU



Introduce pupils to the YASS programme



Undertake one-to-one interviews with prospective YASS students to help them make informed choices about their options



Ensure all interested students use the YASS website and guide to research their course options before deciding which course to take



Ensure pupils are aware of the commitment required to study a YASS course



Take responsibility for the administration of registering pupils on their courses



Provide appropriate in-school support for pupils throughout their course



Co-ordinators find they spend most time on the registration of pupils and checking in with them to see how they are progressing throughout the year



## How does the school prepare pupils for taking part in YASS?

It is best to start talking to pupils about YASS in S5 when they are starting to make decisions about their course choices for S6. Talking about YASS in S5 means that pupils have enough time to think about how YASS will fit around their other studies and commitments, like sports, volunteering or a job.

YASS co-ordinators should speak with pupils individually to make sure they understand the commitment needed and what will be involved in studying a YASS course before they register.



**90%** of co-ordinators agreed that the courses offered through YASS are suitable for their pupils in terms of difficulty

## Top 3 reasons co-ordinators get pupils involved in YASS



To prepare for university or college

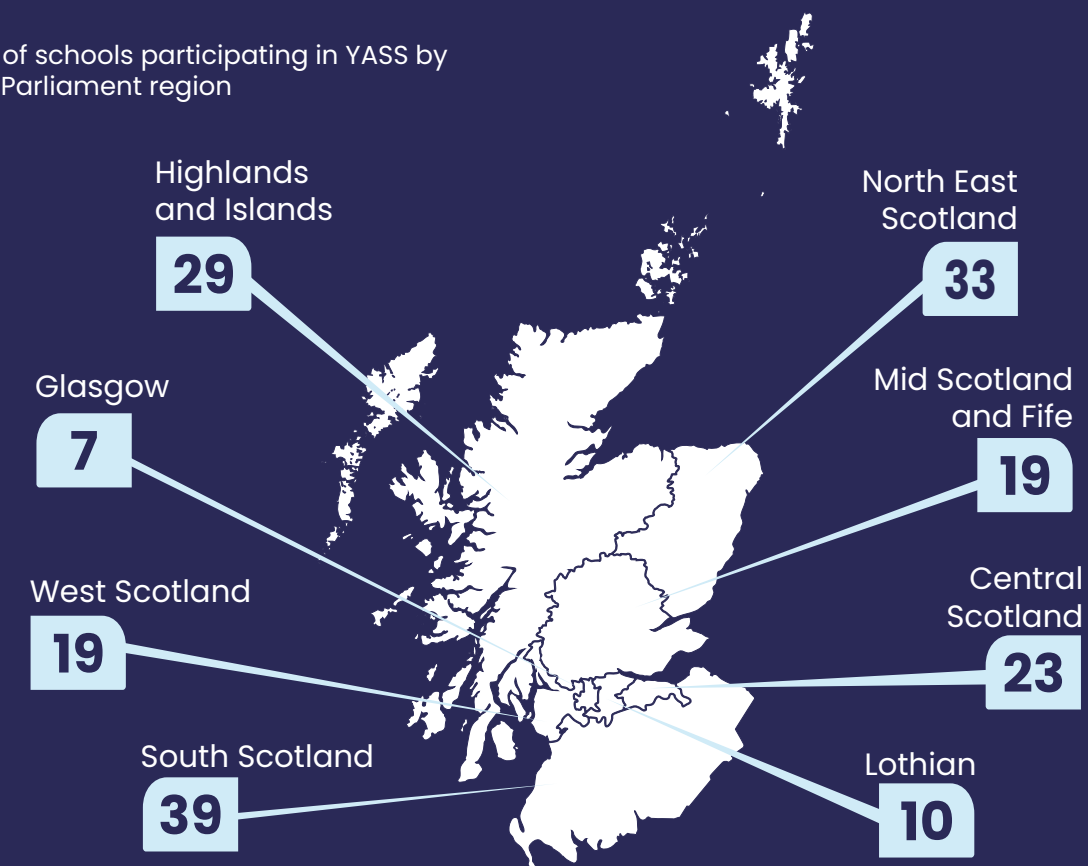


To study a subject which isn't offered at school



To improve UCAS or college applications

Number of schools participating in YASS by Scottish Parliament region  
**2023-24**



# Getting involved

## Getting your school involved

**Step 1** Visit the YASS website for more information about the programme and to see what students and co-ordinators say about it.

**Step 2** Get in touch with the YASS team by email to ask any questions and let us know your school is interested in the programme.

**Step 3** Request an information session (in school or online) or resource pack from the YASS team. We may be able to design an information session to suit your needs, for example we can:

- Come into school for an informal discussion with pupils/staff,
- Deliver a presentation to your S5 year group,
- Attend senior phase course choice events.

The resource pack has been designed to allow a school co-ordinator to deliver an information session as well as activities to encourage sharing between S6 pupils currently taking part in YASS, and prospective S5 students.

Get in touch with the YASS team if you'd like more details on information sessions and/or the resource pack.

**Step 4** Speak to interested pupils and get them registered. Registration for YASS is due to open in April 2025. Registration documents will be available on the YASS website and upon request. Visit the YASS website for more details on registration.

If you have any questions about the registration process, please get in touch.

# Contact and further information



Visit

YASS website

**[open.ac.uk/scotland/study/young-applicants-schools](https://open.ac.uk/scotland/study/young-applicants-schools)**



What do students and teachers say about YASS

**[open.ac.uk/scotland/study/young-applicants-schools/what-do-students-and-teachers-say-about-yass](https://open.ac.uk/scotland/study/young-applicants-schools/what-do-students-and-teachers-say-about-yass)**

YASS Resources

**[open.ac.uk/scotland/study/young-applicants-schools/support-resources](https://open.ac.uk/scotland/study/young-applicants-schools/support-resources)**



Call

YASS Team

**0131 549 7112**



Email

**[Scotland-YASS@open.ac.uk](mailto:Scotland-YASS@open.ac.uk)**

If you are interested in exploring more of what the OU can offer, there are hundreds of free learning resources available on OpenLearn or you can find out more about other types of study with the OU on the website.



Visit

OpenLearn website

**[open.edu/openlearn](https://open.edu/openlearn)**

The Open University website

**[open.ac.uk](https://open.ac.uk)**

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All information in this guide is indicative and correct at the time of going to press.