

A group of diverse young people, likely students, are walking through a stone archway. In the center, a man with glasses and a dark suit is smiling broadly with his arms raised in celebration. To his left, a woman with long blonde hair is wearing a denim jacket and jeans. To his right, a woman with long dark hair is also smiling. In the foreground on the right, a man wearing a grey sweater and a blue turban is walking towards the camera. Other people are visible in the background, some wearing lanyards with ID badges. The scene is set in a grand, historic building with stone arches and windows.

CHAMPIONING SOCIAL MOBILITY

ABOUT US

Social mobility in Britain is low. The educational opportunities and life chances of a child born today are strongly linked to their parents' socio-economic background. This is the challenge we face.

Since 1997 and under the leadership of our founder, Sir Peter Lampl, the Sutton Trust has worked to address this. We fight for social mobility from birth to the workplace so that every young person – no matter who their parents are, what school they go to, or where they live – has the chance to succeed in life.

How we work

Our Agenda-Setting Research

identifies the root causes of low social mobility and promotes effective solutions through education and employment.



Our Programmes

support 5,000 high attaining young people each year from less advantaged backgrounds to access leading universities and careers, helping them to raise and then realise their aspirations.



Our Policy Work

keeps social mobility at the top of the national agenda and many of our practical and evidence-based recommendations have influenced national change in all of the areas we work in.

Our Strategic Advisory and Development Board

attracts prominent leaders from both sides of the Atlantic who make significant financial contributions to the Trust and lend their expert advice and support.



Our Alumni Community

brings together everyone who has been through our programme since 1997, so they can create connections, access support and inspire change.

In order to leverage what we do, we work in partnership with leading UK and US universities, foundations, corporate partners and other not-for-profits.

“I applied for this programme because I didn’t have any knowledge of university life for a law student and no one in my life who could help me. I wanted to know if law was the right subject choice for me. And thanks to the programme, I can confidently say that it is!”

Saira, UK Summer School Programme

POLICY AND RESEARCH

The Sutton Trust put social mobility on the map. Since 1997, we’ve worked with every government to make sure that social mobility stays at the top of the agenda. We’ve published over 200 reports which have gone on to influence national policy.



Our priorities

We aim to develop concrete and achievable policy asks in our five priority areas that we work in, at every stage of a young person's life:



EARLY YEARS



SCHOOLS



ACCESS TO THE
WORKPLACE



HIGHER EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS

Research highlights



Our 2006 seminal study from The London School of Economics found that social mobility in Britain was lower than in other advanced countries and declining. Its long lasting influence means that social mobility is now at the heart of policy making and reform.

Since then, the Trust has continued to regularly shine a light on social mobility issues through our research. Our flagship piece of research for 2019, *Elitist Britain*, analysed the educational backgrounds of over 5,000 leading figures across all areas of British life. We found that they are five times as likely to have attended a fee-paying school than the general population.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION



Early Years

Through the development and field trial of targeted interventions, we work to address inequality in children's early attainment. We managed the parental Engagement Fund (PEF) in 2014-2017, looking at what works to engage parents and improve home learning.

This reached
1,330

families and leveraged further funding and opportunities, such as larger scale trials delivered by the Sutton Trust's sister charity the Education Endowment Foundation.



UK Summer Schools

Launched in 1997, our flagship programme works to address the access gap for highly able students from less advantaged backgrounds at the UK's leading universities. Since 1997, over 20,000 young people have taken part.

Students are
4x

more likely to go on to a leading university

We work with
13

leading university partners



US Programme

Delivered in partnership with the US-UK Fulbright Commission, this programme allows students to explore US study through a week-long visit to the US and a calendar of events and activities in the UK.

989

students have participated to date, unlocking **\$110m** of financial aid.

40%

of students have gone on to study in the US.



Essential Life Skills

The Trust is embedding essential life skills across our programmes, as evidence shows these are associated with better academic outcomes and better prospects in the workplace.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

CONFIDENCE

MOTIVATION

RESILIENCE

SELF-CONTROL

SOCIAL SKILLS

ACCESS TO THE WORKPLACE



Pathways to the Professions

Working closely with universities and corporate partners, we run a suite of programmes that aim to put talented but less advantaged students in the best possible place to enter competitive careers such as law, banking & finance and medicine. Students receive mentoring, networking opportunities, residentials and guaranteed work experience placements. Pathways to the Professions currently supports c.800 students annually, with plans to expand as well as develop new programme models for engineering and technology.

85%

of banking & finance respondents agreed their work experience made them more likely to enter the financial sector.

96%

of Medicine at Imperial respondents felt the programme had been useful in preparing them for a career in medicine.

“ Personally speaking, it was the most rewarding 6 days of my working life”

Industry Volunteer

2000+

Work placements taken place and secured since 2017.



Apprenticeships

High-quality apprenticeships have the potential to be powerful vehicles for social mobility. Apprentices earn while they learn and develop skills employers want. Our research has revealed the challenges poorer students face in accessing them. We are now focussed on embedding degree-level apprenticeships into our programmes and influencing policy. The new Sutton Trust Apprenticeship Summer School will help post-16 students explore degree level apprenticeships.

£50,000
more

How much the best apprentices can earn over their lifetime compared to many graduates.

HOW WE ARE FUNDED

The Sutton Trust has a diverse funding base and is entirely supported by voluntary donations from more than 100 generous individuals, trusts and foundations and companies. The Sutton Trust has a strong fundraising team, supported by the Chairman, Chief Executive, trustees and members of the Board, and raises £6m annually to meet programme and research costs and the core operation of the Trust.



The amount we raise annually to champion social mobility.



The return on investment for every £1 invested in our programmes, in terms of lifetime earnings.

Why support us



“Capital One is proud to partner with the Sutton Trust, with our shared focus on providing opportunity to help young people become confident and successful adults.”

Amy Lenander, Head of International and UK CEO of Capital One UK

The Sutton Trust is the UK’s go-to authority on social mobility and educational inequality.

We run a unique model, delivering programmes to widen access to selective universities and leading professions whilst producing agenda-setting research to keep social mobility high on the political agenda.

We maintain an impressive national reach, with programme beneficiaries in every single UK constituency.

Our programmes are independently evaluated to make sure that they have the biggest possible impact on participants.

“As a national grant-maker we particularly value the Sutton Trust’s rigorous targeting of its work in order to support the young people who would benefit the most. This is underpinned by independent evaluation and ongoing review of programmes, which makes for a strong partnership.”

Philippa Charles
Director, The Garfield Weston Foundation

OUR IMPACT

Over the past two decades, the Sutton Trust has driven the widening access agenda and made a real difference to the numbers of disadvantaged young people at leading universities and in competitive careers. To explore this data in more detail, we have developed a new ‘Impact Hub’ online.



STUDENT DESTINATIONS



University retention rate for our students is double the national average.

OUR PROGRAMMES ARE WELL-TARGETED AND SUPPORT THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WILL BENEFIT THE MOST



I grew up living with my Mum and my older brother. It felt incredibly risky to head off to university placing all my bets on a subject I'd never formally studied before. So, when I heard that the Sutton Trust were offering low-income students the opportunity to study Sociology and Social Anthropology at Cambridge University, I jumped at the chance.

My week at Cambridge University was game-changing. Learning from and discussing human behaviour with world leaders in the field was awe-inspiring. They had so many ideas, so much to share and to ponder. The same went for my fellow summer-school students, who all brought vastly different experiences to the table.

I applied to UCL to study Anthropology with a study abroad year in California. After applying to graduate schemes across several sectors, I'm now a Partner Development Manager at Microsoft, where I work with a portfolio of independent software vendors it's my job to help them grow their businesses and I love it.

Emily Gotch
UK Summer School 2013
Partner Development Manager at Microsoft UK



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