



MORGAN CRONIN FROM HAWTHORN HIGH SCHOOL IN PONTYPRIDD WINS PLACE AT YALE UNIVERSITY ON SUTTON TRUST US UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME

Morgan Cronin, 18, from Pontypridd, who is completing her A Levels at Hawthorn High School has won a place and a financial aid package to study at Yale University after participating in the Sutton Trust's US Programme run in partnership with the US-UK Fulbright Commission.

Last summer, Morgan was one of 150 students selected for a summer school in the US at either Yale University or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). They competed with over 1,600 applicants to win a place on the programme and spent a week living on campus and visiting a number of other US universities.

The students benefited from residential activities and received an intensive programme of support, delivered by the US-UK Fulbright Commission over a number of months before and after their US visit, which covered admission tests, college choices and the application process.

The aim of the Sutton Trust's US Programme is to encourage academically talented, low and middle income British students to consider studying at American universities. The 2016 - 2017 programme cohort comes from across the UK and 76% of the students admitted early will be the first in their family to go to university. Of the 43 accepted students, 60% of participants are from households that earn less than £25,000 a year.

Morgan is an ambitious and enthusiastic student committed to academic excellence. She will be the first in her family to attend university and the first in her school to apply to US institutions. Morgan has a passion for community service and dedicates her weekends to working with local charities. Morgan is also active within her school community: she tutors both SEN English and GCSE Maths, and founded the Eco Club. Morgan was drawn to the US for the liberal arts education offered, and is eager to pursue undergraduate research and study abroad opportunities. Morgan hopes to major in either maths or physics, but is also excited to study a range of classes outside these disciplines. She has found the whole experience with the Sutton Trust a rewarding one and is looking forward to

experiencing the diversity of American culture, as well as getting involved in as many activities on campus as possible. Morgan took advantage of the MAAT provision at Hawthorn High School and attended the RCT SEREN Network. Her application for this programme was successfully supported by Hawthorn and the SEREN network. She is now using her time and experience to mentor others from Hawthorn High School to apply for the programme so they too can benefit from this amazing opportunity.

Morgan is one of 42 students across the UK, and one of only 3 in Wales, who have been selected under the early application deadline to US universities, and more students will be applying by the January deadline with results available later this spring.

The participants admitted early have been offered a total of approximately \$11m of financial aid from the universities over the next four years. They have been accepted to 30 different institutions, including Harvard, Princeton, Duke, and Columbia. One of the admitted students has been awarded the prestigious Robertson Scholarship.

Support for the US Programme was provided in part by a grant from the Robertson Foundation.

The programme is also made possible through support from its founding corporate partner, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, whose investment is matched by Peter Baldwin and Lisbet Rausing who have generously supported the programme since its launch. The programme is also supported by Jerry del Missier, The Neuberger Berman Foundation and EducationUSA along with recent funders, the London Stock Exchange Group Foundation and Big Change.

Applications for this year's programme close on 20 January and can be completed online (<http://us.suttontrust.com>)

The US Programme is based on the Sutton Trust's successful flagship programme in the UK which now runs at 11 leading British universities and has benefited over ten thousand state school students. Applications for the UK programme are also open now until March 2016 at www.suttontrust.com

For further information please contact Hilary Cornwell at the Sutton Trust on 020 7802 1660 or David Mannion at the US-UK Fulbright Commission on 07846 303 956.

