



AHLAAM MOLEDINA FROM BIRMINGHAM WINS PRESTIGIOUS PLACE NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY THROUGH SUTTON TRUST US PROGRAMME

Ahlaam Moledina, 17, from Birmingham, who is completing her A-Levels at Bishop Challoner Catholic College, has won a place and a financial aid package to study at a top US university after participating in the Sutton Trust US Programme, run in partnership with the US-UK Fulbright Commission.

Ahlaam will take up her place at Northwestern University, Illinois this autumn.

Last year, Moledina was one of 150 students selected for the programme, which included a week-long trip to the United States to visit a variety of universities and meet admissions officers from colleges across the US. They competed with over 1,000 applicants to win a place on the programme and spent a week staying in the dorms at Yale University, Princeton University or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

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

The aim of the Sutton Trust US Programme is to encourage British state school students from low and moderate income homes to consider studying at American universities.

The 2018-2019 programme cohort comes from across the UK. 74% of the students admitted early will be the first in their family to go to university. Of the 47 accepted students, 53% are from households that earn less than £25,000 a year.

Ahlaam, from Bishop Challoner Catholic College in Birmingham, said, "I've not quite processed the fact that I've been accepted to Northwestern University. This would have been completely impossible without the phenomenal support from The Sutton Trust US Programme staff, my cohort, and my school."

Ahlaam is one of 47 students who have been accepted under the early application deadline to US universities, and more students applied by the January deadline with results available later this spring.

The participants admitted early have been offered a total of approximately \$13.4m of financial aid from the universities over the next four years. They have been accepted to 33 different institutions, including Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and Columbia.

The Sutton Trust US programme is made possible through generous support from donors including: the Robertson Foundation, founding corporate partner Bank of America Merrill Lynch, longstanding supporters Peter Baldwin and Lisbet Rausing, Martin and Antoinette Sullivan, The Neuberger Berman Foundation and EducationUSA.

Sir Peter Lampl, Founder and Chairman of the Sutton Trust and Chairman of the Education Endowment Foundation, said:

“America’s leading universities are bastions of progressive values and outstanding education. Their campuses are welcoming places for international students, whatever country or social background they come from.

“I’m delighted that 47 state school students have won places to study in the States. They will benefit from a broad and varied curriculum as well as in-depth study and generous funding for both tuition and living costs.

“I hope more young people will look to their success and realise that a university education in the States is well within their grasp.”

Penny Egan CBE, Executive Director of the US-UK Fulbright Commission, said:

“I am so pleased to see the early successes of the current cohort in securing places and funding at top universities across the United States. These young people demonstrate the continued interest in US higher education among talented students in the UK, many drawn by the chance to pursue a liberal arts education and by the diversity and quality of US universities.”

The US Programme is based on the Sutton Trust’s successful flagship programme in the UK which now runs at 13 leading British universities and has benefited over 20,000 state school students.

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