

NOVEMBER 2025

# StateElevate Autumn Update

## Hello Everyone,

It's been a busy and exciting period at StateElevate as our students have been diligently working on their university applications.

We are incredibly proud of their efforts and are thrilled to share some of our recent successes and activities.

## Grace & Lennon.

"The mentoring has been a brilliant process [...] I've been able to build a productive professional connection with my mentee, and help them show their talent in their UCAS statement."

One of our mentors, Arun, studying History & Politics at Oxford.



## Application Successes

The dedication of our students is truly paying off! We are pleased to announce that we have recently submitted around 25 amazing applications to **Oxford and Cambridge**, a tremendous achievement.

Beyond Oxbridge, our students are also applying to other top UK universities, including **LSE, Imperial, Durham, and Edinburgh**. We're delighted that some have already received offers from Durham and Edinburgh – a huge congratulations to those students!

We're also supporting a diverse range of aspiring professionals, with approximately 5 medics, a dentist, and a vet in our cohort this year.



## In Conversation with Laurie Bristow

Sir Laurie Bristow, the first in his family to attend university, has had an esteemed career in diplomacy. He served as the British Ambassador to Azerbaijan (2004-2007) and Russia (2016-2020), and is now the President of Hughes Hall, Cambridge. Laurie is perhaps best known for his work as British Ambassador to Afghanistan in 2021 during the fall of Kabul, for which he was described as a 'true hero' by the Evening Standard.

In this session, he shared his wealth of experience in a fascinating fireside chat, offering a unique look into global affairs and a career at the highest levels of diplomacy.



## James Langan: A policy journey from Sunderland to the Ministry of Defence

We were delighted to welcome James Langan for a talk on all things policy, government, and state education. James is a respected RAF Officer who led the ground evacuation of Kabul in 2021. He currently serves as an OF3 Euro-Atlantic Security Policy Advisor in the Ministry of Defence, alongside studying for a Masters in Politics and International Studies at Cambridge.

He provided a fascinating look into his journey from a state school in the North East of England to the Ministry of Defence, his geopolitical research interests, and what it is like to work with the government. This was an amazing opportunity to gain insight and network with a contact in a high governmental position.



Ministry  
of Defence

## Dates for your diary and next steps

If you receive an interview for Oxbridge: Congratulations! This is a huge achievement. The next stage is for us to provide a mock interview for you, which will be arranged after we are notified of your interview.

If the outcome isn't what you hoped: remember, this is not the end of the road. Your mentor will help you process the decision and focus your energy on your other outstanding applications, which are to other world-class universities.

For students applying to other universities, a crucial deadline is on the horizon. The UCAS equal consideration deadline is January 31st. Ensure your application is submitted before this date to guarantee it receives equal consideration by the universities. If you have any last minute questions, please reach out to your mentor.

It's never too early to think about the practicalities of university life. We recommend that students and parents begin exploring the student finance application process now. While the deadline is later, submitting your application early ensures everything is in place for a smooth start to the academic year. We hope to provide some webinars on student finance. You can find information and apply via the official GOV.UK website.

## Mentor Spotlight: Callum Kendray

This month, we're shining a spotlight on one of our fantastic mentors, Callum! Callum is studying Medicine at the University of Oxford, and is himself from Sunderland.

Callum has been an invaluable part of the StateElevate team, currently guiding **three students** through their application journeys. But his contribution doesn't stop there! He is also taking the lead in coordinating a Medicine Interview Series, collaborating with our other amazing medic mentors to provide comprehensive preparation for our aspiring doctors. Thank you for your work, Callum!

