



REALISING ASPIRATIONS

2023-2024 BROCHURE

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REALISING ASPIRATIONS PROGRAMME 2023/24

1 SIGN UP

- Read the RA Brouchure 2023/24
- Complete the online application form
- Choose your first-choice and second-choice strand



2 LAUNCH EVENT

Show your commitment and find out more about your subject-strand...

Understand how to make the most of your Realising Aspirations Programme!



3 UNIVERSITY VISITS

- Each subject strand visits a university leading in the field
- Participate in taster sessions
- Meet undergraduates, university staff and academics
- Go on a campus tour!



4 TASTER SESSIONS

Attend at least 3 subject taster sessions at ASFC with visiting academics



5 IAG SESSIONS

- Information, Advise and Guidance
- Find out the more generic things about university
- Start thinking about your personal statement



6 FINALE EVENT

Celebration of your achievements!



AN INTRODUCTION...

WHAT IS REALISING ASPIRATIONS?

Realising Aspirations is a way to **prepare for life beyond college by 'trying out' university** before committing to a subject for 3+ years.

Through **workshops** and **seminars** led by academics, practitioners and researchers, you'll expand your subject knowledge and develop high-level study skills: note-taking, analytical reading, critical thinking and more. Through our information sessions in the summer term, you will also have the opportunity to discover what university life is really like, from learning how to manage your finances to finding out what clubs & societies you could join!

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

On most programmes, **you will take part in three in-college workshops** and visit a leading university in your subject area. All Realising Aspirations students will also attend a launch event and a grand finale, which will combine information about the programme with presentations from universities on topics like researching courses effectively and writing an amazing personal statement. There are also additional general sessions to help you with skills like public speaking and resilience. **You are expected to attend all of the events on any programme you sign up to**, so make sure you are happy to commit!

Please note that although every effort will be made to arrange your university visit on your study day to cause minimal disruption to your teaching, this may not always be possible. In such cases you will have to catch up on work missed. You will always be notified of trips well in advance so that if you have other commitments on the day, you can make arrangements.

Each activity (launch event, university visit, additional IAG sessions and in-college sessions for your subject strand) adds to your attendance points. At the end of the programme, you will have a chance to be entered into a prize draw depending on how many events you attend.



WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

Although we ask for students to choose a first-choice and second-choice strand, you can tailor the programme to support your next steps.

You can also attend as many in-college sessions for other subjects as you like – this is a great opportunity to find out more about other subjects you may be interested in!

Additional spaces on university visits may be offered out on a first come first serve basis, so keep your eye on your email.

Anyone who has 5 or more attendance points by the time of the Grand Finale event will be awarded a Platinum Award and will be entered into a prize draw to win one of several Amazon vouchers. For every point above 6 points you have, you will get one entry into a prize draw, so attending more sessions means more chances to win!

WHEN DOES IT TAKE PLACE?

Applications are open from Monday 25th September and will close on Friday 13th October 2023. Realising Aspirations will begin in November and run throughout the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms. For further details, see the 'Calendar of Events'.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Nothing! All trip & transport costs are covered, so the only commitment from you is your time.

WHO CAN I CONTACT WITH A QUESTION?

Alex Noble is the Realising Aspirations Coordinator. You can email her at alex.noble@asfc.ac.uk



WHAT SUBJECTS ARE ON OFFER?

There are **13 subject strands on offer** covering an enormous range of disciplines, approaches and topics – all are detailed inside this brochure, so read on!

Please note, taking any Realising Aspirations subject will help you, e.g. you don't have to want to take 'Computer Science' at university to take the 'Computer Science' Realising Aspirations strand. Most strands will introduce you to several degree areas, so pick something that sounds interesting to you and take the chance to expand your knowledge!

THE PROFESSIONS

- Business & Accounting
- Law



STEM

- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Physical Sciences
- Life Sciences
- Engineering



SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Psychology, Criminology & Sociology



THE ARTS

- Creative & Digital Industries



VOCATIONAL

- Healthcare
- Working with Young People



HUMANITIES

- The Written Word
- History & Politics



WHAT IF I CAN'T CHOOSE A SUBJECT OR WANT TO TAKE MORE THAN ONE?

If you can't choose a subject, read the details in this brochure carefully, pop and chat with Alex in **MB1.32**. You can only sign up to one programme, but you can attend as many additional in-college sessions for other subject strands as you like!



HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Just fill in the online application form by Friday 13th October 2023! As part of the application you will need to write a short statement about why you want to take part.



SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

<https://bit.ly/3LuPDSC>

(copy and paste this link if you are unable to click it).

FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS



@ASFCAspirations



VOCATIONAL

ARTS

HUMANITIES

**CHOOSING YOUR
SUBJECT STRAND...**

THE PROFESSIONS

**SOCIAL
SCIENCES**

STEM



LIFE SCIENCES

What do a botanist, a zoologist and a microbiologist all have in common? They're all life scientists!



The Life Sciences, also known as the bio-sciences, are a broad spectrum of disciplines all concerned with living organisms. On this strand, you'll be introduced to an array of topics and degree courses operating in different but related bio-scientific fields, from bio-medicine to cell biology and immunology.

If you want to challenge your understanding of what biology is and where it can take you, and push yourself to think like an undergraduate scientist, this is the strand for you.

WHO HAVE WE PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH?

- ★ UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS
- ★ NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER



WHO IS IT FOR?

The Life Sciences strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** any of the sciences (particularly Biology and/or Chemistry)
- **Considering studying** Biosciences, Medicine, Agriculture, Zoology, Veterinary Science or a similar subject at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in science research, communication, teaching and/or academia, medicine, environmental conservation, biotechnology, or another biology-related subject

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

The Physical Sciences study non-living systems, looking at the processes and components that comprise our world.

On the Physical Sciences strand, you will take part in Physics, Chemistry and Geography seminars that all tackle matters to do with Earth and space, encouraging you to examine your surroundings, near and far, more closely. While some of the topics may be familiar to you through your college work, the skills, knowledge and theoretical concepts you will be grappling with will be pitched at undergraduate-level, stretching you as a student and a scientist!



WHO HAVE WE PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH?

- ★ UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
- ★ DURHAM UNIVERSITY
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Physical Sciences strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** Maths, Further Maths, Geography, Physics or any other sciences
- **Considering studying** Chemistry, Physics, Forensic Science, Astrophysics, Geography, or another physical sciences subject at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in science research, communication, teaching and/or academia, chemical engineering, meteorology, ecology, or another area relating to chemistry, physics and/or geography

ENGINEERING

Engineering is an enormous discipline, its reach stretching from the microchips inside your phone to the International Space Station.



Throughout the Engineering strand, you will develop your problem-solving skills, applying your Maths and Physics knowledge to creative solutions to real-world scenarios.

You will be introduced to a number of different Engineering pathways, including sessions on such as Mechanical, Civil and Aerospace Engineering. As there are many avenues to consider with Engineering, there will be lots of academic content to dip in and out of to find out more!

WHO HAVE WE PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH?

- ★ UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD
- ★ DURHAM UNIVERSITY
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
- ★ LANCASTER UNIVERSITY
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Engineering strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** Maths, Further Maths, ICT, Design & Technology, or the sciences (particularly Physics)
- **Considering studying** Mechanical, Civil, Aerospace or general engineering, or Physics at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in engineering, teaching, surveying, or technical writing

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is an incredibly varied undergraduate degree – you will cover a range of pure mathematical ideas plus a huge array of practical applications. You will come to understand the significance and power of mathematics. Maths unlocks the sciences, is key for business and makes you a highly desirable graduate.

Throughout the Mathematics strand of Realising Aspirations, you will explore diverse mathematical applications and start to think like an undergraduate. From exploring the mathematics of a crisp to mathematics in epidemiology, this strand will give students the opportunity to understand how your subject interacts with the world.



WHO HAVE WE PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH?

- ★ UNIVERSITY OF HUDDERSFIELD
- ★ DURHAM UNIVERSITY
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM
- ★ LANCASTER UNIVERSITY
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF COVENTRY

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Mathematics strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** Mathematics and any science subject
- **Considering studying** Mathematics or related subjects, such as statistics or data science
- **Aspiring** to a career in analytics, research, business, academia or teaching

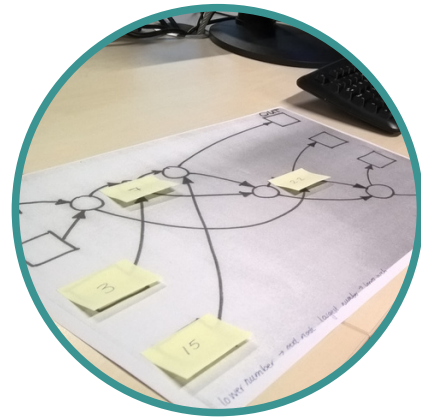


COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science is a challenging, exciting discipline because new technologies are ever-developing!

By taking part in the Computer Science strand, you can work with current academics to learn more about the frontiers of computer technology, exploring the technical skills and knowledge needed, as well as the legal and moral implications of technological developments such as artificial intelligence.

Along the way, you will also begin to explore the multitude of pathways available to a computer science graduate, from computer forensics to ethical hacking.



WHO HAVE WE PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH?

- ★ UNIVERSITY OF HUDDERSFIELD
- ★ DURHAM UNIVERSITY
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF COVENTRY

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Computer Science strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** Computer Science, Maths, Further Maths, ICT, Games Design, Physics, Law, Psychology or Philosophy
- **Considering studying** computer science, systems, artificial intelligence, ethical hacking, computer networking, or another computer-related subject at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in academia, ICT, software engineering, ethical hacking, or another computer-related field



HISTORY & POLITICS

The subject matter of History consists of the attempts of human beings to organise life materially and conceptually, individually and collectively, while the object of studying these things is to widen students' experience and develop qualities of perception and judgement. History's ability to promote understanding between cultures and between national traditions remains as important as ever. The world of politics does not stand still, and so neither does the study and teaching of the subject. Universities constantly update their courses to meet the shifting political landscape, which means that with politics you will learn, literally, something new every day.

Through both of these subjects, you will gain many analytical and practical skills including the ability to conduct research, oral and written communication, all of which are invaluable in today's employment market.



WHO HAVE WE PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH?

- ★ UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
- ★ MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNI
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

WHO IS IT FOR?

The History & Politics strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** History, Politics, Sociology and other arts/humanities/social science subjects
- **Considering studying** History, Politics, International Relations, Social Policy or an humanities/social science subject at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in education, academia, diplomacy, international development, journalism, the civil service or law



THE WRITTEN WORD

"The Written Word" strand encourages students to consider how we communicate and make sense of the world. Language is at the core of what makes us human and distinguishes us from other species.

This strand will encompass English & Global Literature, Linguistics, Creative Writing, English Language and Language Acquisition, aiming to provide a taster of what it is like to study these exciting subjects at university.

You will develop many analytical and practical skills including the ability to conduct research, oral and written communication, all of which are invaluable in today's employment market.



WHO HAVE WE PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH?

- ★ UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF HUDDERSFIELD
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Written Word strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** English Language or Literature, Film Studies, History, Sociology and/or other arts/humanities subjects
- **Considering studying** Language, Linguistics, Literature, Creative Writing, Speech & Language Therapy or an arts/humanities subject at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in education, journalism, speech & language therapy, writing & editing, media or academia



PSYCHOLOGY, CRIMINOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY

This strand takes a closer look at the exciting fields of Criminology, Psychology and Sociology. It is an interdisciplinary strand that deals with diverse topics, ranging from crime to religion, from the family to the state, from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture, thoughts and behaviours and more.

During the programme, you will be introduced to the three subject areas at undergraduate level: exploring the psychological case studies, how academic research influences the criminal justice systems, understand complex social systems and more!

Through this strand, you will develop your critical analysis and interpretive skills, approaching new and challenging areas and examining the world around you.



WHO HAVE WE PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH?

- ★ NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
- ★ LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Social Sciences strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** Criminology, Sociology, Psychology, Public Services, Law, Philosophy, Politics, Maths or any other sciences (particularly Biology and Chemistry)
- **Considering studying** Criminology, Social Policy, Politics, Law or Psychology or a related discipline at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in social policy, social research, public services, psychological practice, psychiatry, counselling, community development or teaching



LAW

The law governs every aspect of the lives we live. On this strand, you can expect to encounter key legal topics such as advocacy skills, human rights and crime & punishment, taught at undergraduate-level to stretch your legal knowledge. You will look at case studies to expand your knowledge outside of the curriculum.

In tandem, you'll develop the skills that any aspiring legal professional needs: critical reading and engagement, research, clarity of thought and speech, and presentation skills.

You will work with academics and legal professionals, learning about many of the pathways you can take.



WHO HAVE WE PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH?

- ★ UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL
- ★ LANCASTER UNIVERSITY
- ★ KEELE UNIVERSITY
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF LAW

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Law strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** Law, History, English Literature or any other essay based subject
- **Considering studying** any humanities or social sciences subject at university, particularly Law
- **Aspiring** to a career in law, the police, the prison service, legal research, academia or teaching.

BUSINESS & ACCOUNTING

Managing a business is a challenging endeavour, requiring confidence, creativity, research and diligence.

On the Business & Accounting strand, you will see a breakdown of how businesses work, gain an insight in economics and discover what a career in finance has in store.

You will learn about the impact of current affairs on business management, widening your horizons and honing your business acumen. If you want to know what the step up to business-related degrees at university might be like, this is the strand for you.



WHO HAVE WE PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH?

- ★ NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY
- ★ LEEDS TRINITY UNIVERSITY
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF HUDDERSFIELD
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
- ★ LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Business strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** Business Studies, Law, Maths/Further Maths, Economics or Accounting
- **Considering studying** Marketing, Accounting, Finance, Business Management, or another business-related degree at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in accounting, entrepreneurship, finance or management

CREATIVE & DIGITAL INDUSTRIES

There is an ever-increasing demand for people who can combine creativity with the technological know-how to help the industry expand.

The academics and practitioners on the Creative Industries strand will help you to acquire this knowledge and develop your creativity, preparing you for the step-up to university and a career in the creative industries.

In previous years, students have explored creative marketing, film and TV production, animation, illustration, photography and more! You will develop practical and academic skills to support you with a degree in the Creative sector.



WHO HAVE WE PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH?

- ★ LEEDS ARTS UNIVERSITY
- ★ EDGE HILL UNIVERSITY
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF HUDDERSFIELD
- ★ FUTUREWORKS
- ★ STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Creative Industries strand is best suited to students:

- **Studying** Art, English, Media, or Games Development
- **Considering studying** television, film or radio production, or media studies at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in the entertainment, information or communication industries, particularly film, television, video games and radio or marketing



HEALTHCARE

Healthcare needs so many more people than just doctors! The NHS offers lots of varied career roles including operating department practitioners, paramedics, occupational therapists, dental hygienists, nurses, and more!

The Healthcare strand will introduce you to some of the key knowledge and skills required if you want to work in the NHS, while looking at some important current issues facing the health-sector. Along the way, you will be able to work with and talk to allied healthcare professionals and students, and will learn more about how higher education can lead you to a future in healthcare.

Please note: If you are considering Medicine/Dentistry, you may wish to consider the Life Sciences strand. This strand will specifically be focused on allied healthcare pathways.



WHO HAVE WE PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH?

- ★ UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD
- ★ EDGE HILL UNIVERSITY
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF HUDDERSFIELD
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Healthcare strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** Health & Social Care, Sociology, Psychology or any other sciences (particularly Biology/Chemistry)
- **Considering** studying an allied healthcare subject at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in the NHS or other healthcare provider



WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

There are lots of ways you might consider working with young people: teaching, play therapy, social work, day care, youth work, and more.

The sessions in the Working with Young People strand will give you the chance to learn from and talk to university lecturers and professionals who teach and work in a number of these areas to get a fuller picture of what they involve, how they are taught, and what you can do to prepare yourself for this challenging and rewarding career path.



WHO HAVE WE PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH?

- ★ SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY
- ★ UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD
- ★ EDGE HILL UNIVERSITY
- ★ DURHAM UNIVERSITY
- ★ MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNI

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Working with Young People strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** any subjects at all!
- **Considering studying** childhood studies, primary education, another subject related to education or social work at university or thinking of doing a PGCE after your degree
- **Aspiring** to a career that involves working with young people

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2023/24

WHEN?	WHAT?	WHERE?
Monday 25th September 2023	Online applications open for all strands	Apply online
Friday 13th October 2023 (DEADLINE)	Online: applications close for all subject strands	Google Form
Monday 16th October 2023	You will be emailed: 1. Confirmation of your subject strand 2. Details of the Launch Event	Your college email address
Thursday 2nd November 2023, 4pm–5pm	Launch Event Please bring your student card to scan*	ASFC Sports Hall
Wednesday 15th November 2023 – January 2024	University visits*	Various universities
Monday 15th January – Tuesday 27th February 2024	Academic tasters sessions/workshops taking place on Monday and Tuesday after college*	ASFC classrooms (strand timetables to be emailed before Jan)
March 2024	Information, Advice & Guidance sessions (not compulsory)	ASFC/online
Tuesday 18th April 2024, 4pm–5pm	Grand Finale* Award ceremony and certificates	ASFC Sports Hall

**These events are compulsory for anyone taking part in Realising Aspirations. You will be notified of any sessions you are expected to attend well in advance of each session.*



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL

SUBJECTS

UNI VISITS

TASTER SESSIONS

HOW DO I SIGN UP TO REALISING ASPIRATIONS?

Alex will email the Google form for all students to sign up.

WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAMME?

- Check emails from Alex
- Canvas
- @ASFCAspirations *Instagram/Twitter*

Once enrolled on the programme, information about your subject programme will be emailed to you. An Online Resource Guide with a variety of academic content will be sent along with your subject strand timetable, key dates and more!

HOW WILL I BE CONTACTED DURING THE PROGRAMME?

Alex will be in contact with you via college email – it's important you check your college inbox!

DO I NEED TO ATTEND THE LAUNCH EVENT?

In short – yes. All students must attend the Launch Event to show their commitment to the programme and find out useful information relating to their subject strand. Dates/times will be sent by Alex.

HOW MANY SUBJECT STRANDS ARE THERE?

There are 13 strands ranging from STEM, Humanities, Creative Industries, Vocational, Social Sciences and the Professions!

HOW MANY STRANDS CAN I ENROLL ONTO?

Students enroll onto ONE subject strand. When applying, students choose a first-choice subject strand and a second choice subject strand.

- **First-choice:** the subject you are most interested in exploring further and finding information about studying this at undergraduate level
- **Second-choice:** this is so we are aware if you are interested in other subjects, we can get in touch regarding additional opportunities (trips, sessions, other events)

WHAT HAPPENS IF I WANT TO CHANGE SUBJECT STRANDS?

If you want to change subject strands it will depend on spaces. Please email Alex details of the strand you would like to move to and why.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO I SIGN UP TO GO ON A UNIVERSITY VISIT?

Alex will send round a Google Form for you to register your interest. From there, she will email details regarding the trip.

WHICH UNIVERSITIES HAVE WE WORKED WITH IN PREVIOUS YEARS?



WHICH UNIVERSITIES DO WE VISIT?

We visit a number of universities up and down the country from Russell Groups, specialist universities, or institutions leading in their field! If you are interested in attending a certain visit, please email Alex to see if there is space.

CAN I GO ON MULTIPLE UNIVERSITY VISITS?

Yes – if there are spaces!! Spaces are first available for subject strands, then opened out to other strands.

ARE UNIVERSITY VISITS FREE?

Yes – there is no charge to students, however you may have to bring a packed lunch.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A TASTER SESSION?

Academics, PhD tutors and university staff visit ASFC to deliver subject taster sessions at undergraduate level. This gives you the opportunity to explore topics outside of the curriculum and broaden your subject knowledge.

DO I NEED TO ATTEND ALL MY TASTER SESSIONS?

The taster sessions are a compulsory element of the programme as academics from across the country visit ASFC/volunteer their time to provide you with a taster session in their field.

CAN I ATTEND MULTIPLE TASTER SESSIONS?

Yes and we encourage this! If there is a taster session running for a different subject strand and you're interested in attending, please come along. *Remember, attendance is checked – so the more you attend, the more chance you have of winning prizes!*





BE OPEN-MINDED



GET INVOLVED

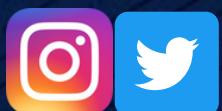


**MAKE THE MOST OF
EVERY OPPORTUNITY!**



CONTACTS

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@ASFCASPIRATIONS