



University of Worcester

Jul 16, 2019 14:00 BST

## Free travel to University of Worcester Open Day under pilot scheme

Students considering studying at the University of Worcester can claim free travel on West Midlands Railway to attend an Open Day under a new pilot scheme launched today.

Under the scheme, students can register their interest in attending the Open Day - on Sunday 8 September - with the university, who will provide details of how to claim free train travel on West Midlands Railway services only.

Jon Harris, integration and accessibility manager at West Midlands Railway, said:

“We are committed to making rail travel sustainable and accessible for all our passengers. Under our successful Way to Work scheme we offer free travel to job interviews , work experience and training courses for job seekers, new university and college graduates and those about to begin apprenticeships.

“Our universities are a vital part of our communities and we are pleased to partner with the University of Worcester in piloting free travel on our services for prospective students attending this open day and will work with partners to monitor its success.”

Ross Renton, pro vice chancellor at the University of Worcester, said: “Going to university is such a positive, transformational experience for the good when the right course and university is picked. We know how important Open Days are for prospective students as a chance to ask questions, speak to lecturers and to get a feel for whether it is the place for them.

“We are committed to the concept of inclusion and we hope these steps will help make travel costs less prohibitive for people visiting the University of Worcester, enabling them to see for themselves what we have to offer.”

Students wishing to take advantage of the scheme should register attendance with the University of Worcester when they will receive details of the process for obtaining a complimentary one-day West Midlands Railway pass for the Open Day.

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## **Notes to Editors**

The free travel offer includes West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway services only.

The offer is applicable to prospective students only. In the case of students with disabilities requiring assistance to attend the Open Day, the free travel offer may be extended to the carer or support worker.

## About West Midlands Trains

For further information on this release, call our press office on 03300 955150 or email [press.office@wmtrains.co.uk](mailto:press.office@wmtrains.co.uk)

West Midlands Trains operates both West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway services.

- **London Northwestern Railway** services operate between Liverpool and Birmingham, and on the West Coast mainline to and from London Euston.
- **West Midlands Railway** services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street.

For more information on these services visit [westmidlandsrailway.co.uk](http://westmidlandsrailway.co.uk) or [londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk](http://londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk)

The West Midlands Trains franchise started on 10 December 2017 and will run until 2025/26.

West Midlands Trains operates 1,300 services a day, manages 150 stations and provides over 70 million passenger journeys a year. Over the course of the franchise, West Midlands Trains will be investing £1 billion into the rail network to deliver new trains, improved routes and station upgrades. This will include 400 new train carriages across the network and space for an extra 85,000 passengers into Birmingham and London at peak times.

The franchise is a joint venture between Abellio (70.1% share) and East Japan Railway Company / Mitsui & Co., Ltd (29.9% share in a 50:50 split). Abellio is the international passenger transport subsidiary of the Dutch national railway company, Nederlandse Spoorwegen. In the UK, Abellio operates ScotRail and Greater Anglia train services, Merseyrail services in a joint venture with Serco and buses through Abellio London. For more information visit [www.abellio.com](http://www.abellio.com)

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