



Guide for Parents



Doncaster
College

University
Centre

We are delighted your child has become a member of the Children's University™. We have provided the following information to help you and your child get the most from their involvement.

We have compiled this booklet, which answers our most frequently asked questions, to help you. However, if you are in doubt at all, please contact your child's school in the first instance, or your local Children's University™ team at childrensuniversity@don.ac.uk.

You can also reach us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/doncasterchildrensuniversity

What is Children's University?

Children's University™ (CU) is a national trust which is run individually in local areas. Doncaster CU is run by Doncaster College & University Centre. CU rewards children for participating in positive **extra-curricular** learning activities. We celebrate childrens achievement and participation in activities with our certificates and graduation ceremonies. Above all, it is an exciting way for children to learn whilst having fun and doing things they enjoy!



Passport to Learning

Your child's **Passport to Learning** is an essential part of CU. For your child it is a record of all the hours of activity that they take part in at CU **Learning Destinations**. For us at CU it is evidence of the hours of learning your child has done.

Each term the CU team will visit your child's school and count the hours in their passport and give out any certificates your child is due. It is important that your child takes their passport with them every time they go to a **Learning Destination**, so they can be credited for all activities they have participated in and get their Children's University Certificates when they have completed enough hours.



Learning Destinations

The ***Passport to Learning*** can only be used at places which have been validated as a CU ***Learning Destination***.

Hours can be collected at all after school clubs and other extra-curricular activities which take place in your child's school. They can also collect hours by visiting the many public Learning Destinations that are part of CU, these are clubs and organisations such as Leisure centres, Sports clubs, Drama clubs, Scouts, Brownies, national trusts and many more!

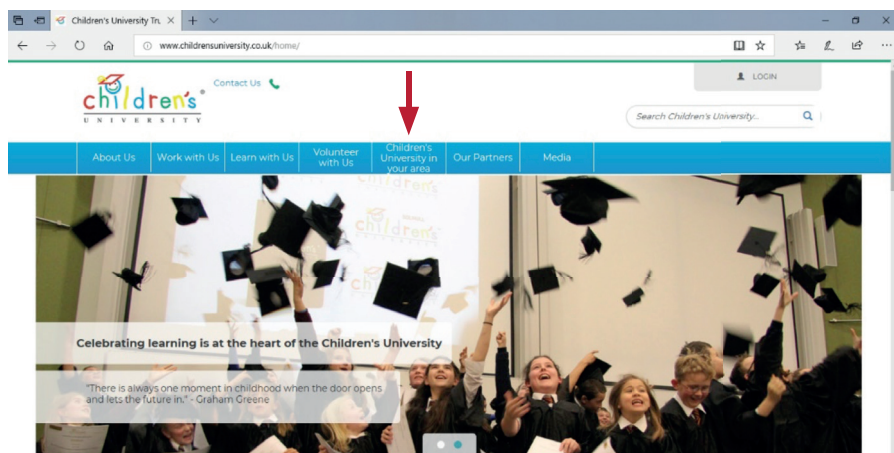
Most CU ***Learning Destinations*** display our Learning Destination sticker or poster like the images below. But, if you are unsure then ask a member of staff or check on either the Doncaster CU website for ***Learning Destinations*** within Doncaster or the National CU website for anything further afield (Instructions for this will be given in the next section). Alternatively, contact the CU team and we will be happy to confirm this for you.



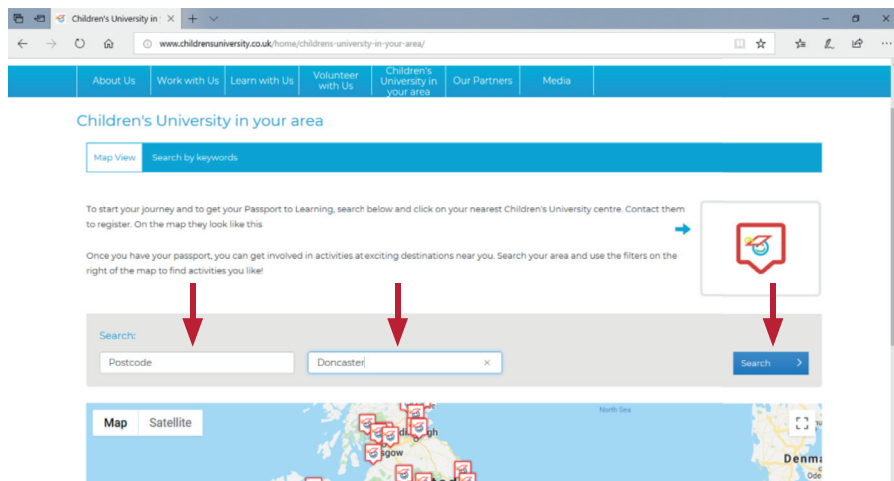
Discover our Learning Destinations

On the National CU website, you can not only find all the **Learning Destinations** here in Doncaster, but in the rest of the UK too. Even though your child is part of Doncaster CU, there is no limitation to what **Learning Destination** they can visit, so you can take advantage of this when planning a day out or a holiday! Here are step by step instructions of how to search for **Learning Destinations**.

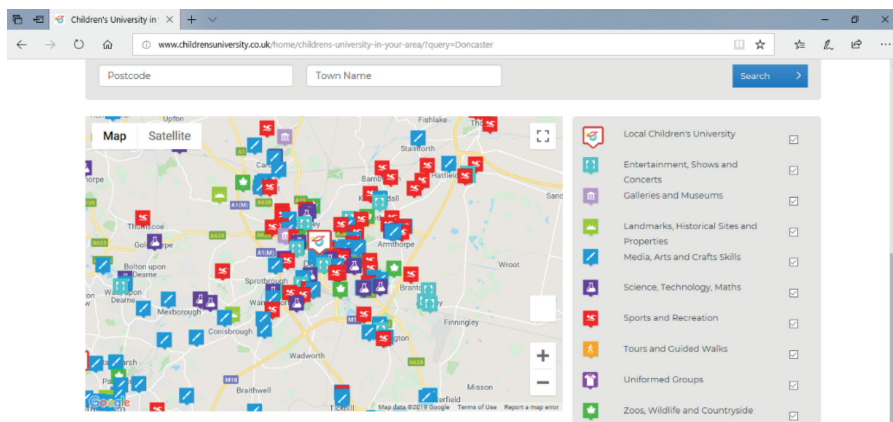
Step 1. Go to www.childrensuniversity.co.uk and click on the tab which says 'Children's University in your Area'



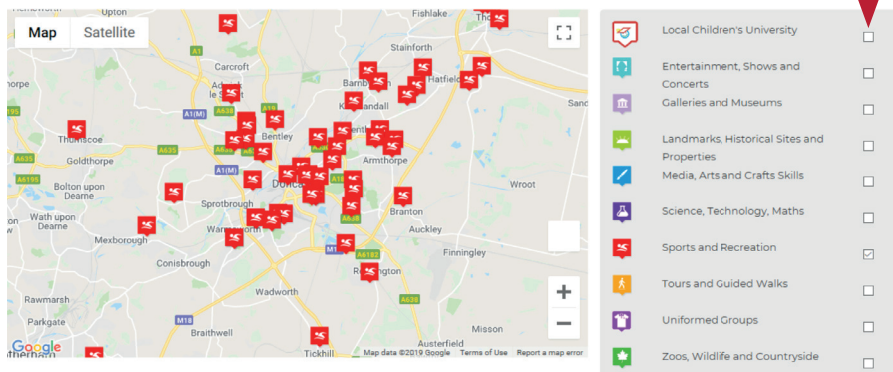
Step 2. Enter a postcode and/or a town/city name to search for **Learning Destinations**, and then click 'Search'.



Step 3. You will now see a map of the place which you have searched for, with all learning destinations displayed in their locations.



Step 4. On the right-hand side, you will see a list of categories for the learning destinations. You can unselect the categories which you do not wish to see. For example, if you only want to see 'Sports and Recreation' Learning Destinations, click the box next to every other category to untick it and those categories will no longer be displayed.





You can also find a full list of the Learning Destinations we have here in Doncaster on our website: www.don.ac.uk/Childrensuniversity

“My child goes to a club, but it isn’t a Learning Destination. What do I need to do?”

We always welcome new **Learning Destinations**, so please do let us know of any potential new ones! You can contact the CU team at childrensuniversity@don.ac.uk to tell us about it or pass our details on to the club if they would like to contact us. Becoming a **Learning Destination** is quick and easy for the club and completely FREE!

Recording Hours In The Passport To Learning

Your child must take their Passport to Learning to each Learning Destination that they visit. Inside the Passport to Learning should look like this:

DATE	HOUR(S)	ACTIVITY	STAMP OF APPROVAL
3/3/14	2	CU Live Lecture	
4/3/14	1	After School Cookery	

You or your child should fill in the 'Date', 'Hour(s)' and 'Activity' sections before the session. The Passport to Learning must then be given to the activity leader to fill in the 'Stamp of approval' section with either a stamp or a signature to show your child has taken part. If it is somewhere like the Wildlife Park or CAST then a member of staff will sign it when you buy a ticket.

Important:

- Please round anything under 30 minutes up to 30 minutes.
- Please round anything over 30 minutes and less than a full hour up to 1 hour.

“My child has forgotten to take their passport; can they still record their hours for this time?”

Yes, we understand passports may be forgotten from time to time. In this event, you should write the hours in and ask the session leader to sign/stamp the passport on your child's next visit. If for any reason this is not possible, then please contact the CU team at childrensuniversity@don.ac.uk.

Aim for a Range of Activities!

Encouraging children to try **new activities** and **unfamiliar experiences** and promoting independence in learners is a key principle of Children's University learning. For the total hours making up a CU certificate we would ideally like to see a mixture of activities, with preferably no more than a third of any hours for a certificate spent on a single activity.

For example a 30-hour CU Award could be made up of:

- 10 hours of Swimming Club activities (practice, competitions, coaching)
- 4 hours of Brownies
- 10 hours of school clubs (e.g. Sports, Cooking, IT)
- 6 hours of music (tuition, practice, performance)

The **maximum** number of hours that can be awarded within one day is **6**. This counts for residential trips and events such as Young Voices. This is a National CU guideline and cannot be altered by us here at Doncaster CU.



Certificates


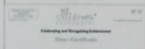


We reward participation in learning activities with CU certificates, which are earned at regular intervals. The certificates are **Bronze**, **Silver** and **Gold**.

The first certificate is awarded upon completing **30 hours**, the second is given for **65 hours** and the third for **100 hours**. Certificates are then given at every interval of 30, 65 and 100 all the way up until 1,000 hours. Each set of three has a different name; the first set are '**Awards**', followed by '**Certificates**' and so on, please see below pictures for the full list.





PART A PASSPORT TO LEARNING

On the following pages you can collect the stamps/stickers on your journey to the Children's University certificates

1. Children's University Undergraduate Level (30 to 400 hours)
The Undergraduate Level is about choosing to take part

Children's University Awards		30	65	100
Children's University Certificates		130	165	200
Children's University Diplomas		230	265	300
Children's University Degrees		330	365	400

2. Children's University Postgraduate Level (430 to 800 hours)
The Postgraduate Level is about choosing to take part and showing what you have achieved through, for example, displays, performances, exhibitions and publications

Children's University Postgraduate Awards		430	465	500
Children's University Postgraduate Certificates		530	565	600
Children's University Postgraduate Diplomas		630	665	700
Children's University Postgraduate Masters Degrees		730	765	800

3. Children's University Doctorate Level (830 to 1000 hours)

The Doctorate Level is about choosing to take part, showing what you have achieved and helping others to learn

Children's University **Doctorates**



830 865 900

Children's University **Fellowships**



930 965 1000

Only activities recognised by the Children's University count towards the certificates

The certificates look like this:




Graduation

At the end of the school year we hold a CU graduation ceremony at Doncaster College & University Centre (The HUB). This is a day to celebrate your child's achievements, success and commitment to extra-curricular learning. Details of the graduation ceremony will be given to you by your child's school as soon as the arrangements have been made. We aim to make this graduation as special as possible and encourage all parents to attend. Siblings are also welcome so the whole family can enjoy the day!

Graduation ceremonies typically last between two and three hours, depending on the number of children graduating. There will be refreshments provided and a professional photographer to capture the moments of the day – consent forms will be sent out so if you wish for your child to **not** be photographed then they will not be.

We look forward to seeing you all there!





Doncaster Children's University™
The Hub
Chappell Drive
Doncaster
DN1 2RF

Email: childrens.university@don.ac.uk

Telephone: (01302) 553791