Prologue

Investment Academy

Beyond the academic curriculum

A rigorous, applied supercurricular experience for ambitious sixth form students.

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Applied Supercurricular | əˈplaɪd ˌsuːpəkəˈrɪkjʊlə | *(noun)*

Taking learning beyond the curriculum: enabling sixth form students to explore their interests, deepen their understanding, develop and apply knowledge through practical, real-world challenges, build transferable professional skills, create credible evidence of what they can do and make better decisions about what comes next.



Beyond the Academic Curriculum

Sixth form is primarily focused on academic achievement. Students develop subject knowledge, prepare for examinations and work hard to achieve the grades required for their next step.

But for students applying to the most competitive courses, **grades are just the starting point**. Universities are increasingly looking beyond academic attainment to understand how a student thinks, what they have chosen to explore outside of the syllabus and what they have learned from doing so.

The Prologue Investment Academy is a rigorous, applied supercurricular programme that gives sixth form students the opportunity to extend their learning beyond the academic curriculum.

Investment management provides the context.

The wider purpose is to challenge students to apply their academic ability to complex, real-world commercial problems and **to build credible evidence of how they think, what they can do and where their interests may take them.**

The Academy

The Prologue Investment Academy is built around a fictional client with £150,000 to invest. She has a defined mandate, specific investment objectives, clear personal preferences and an individual attitude to risk.

Over 20 weeks, students work in small teams through 40 hours of structured sessions to interpret the client's mandate and translate it into an investment strategy.

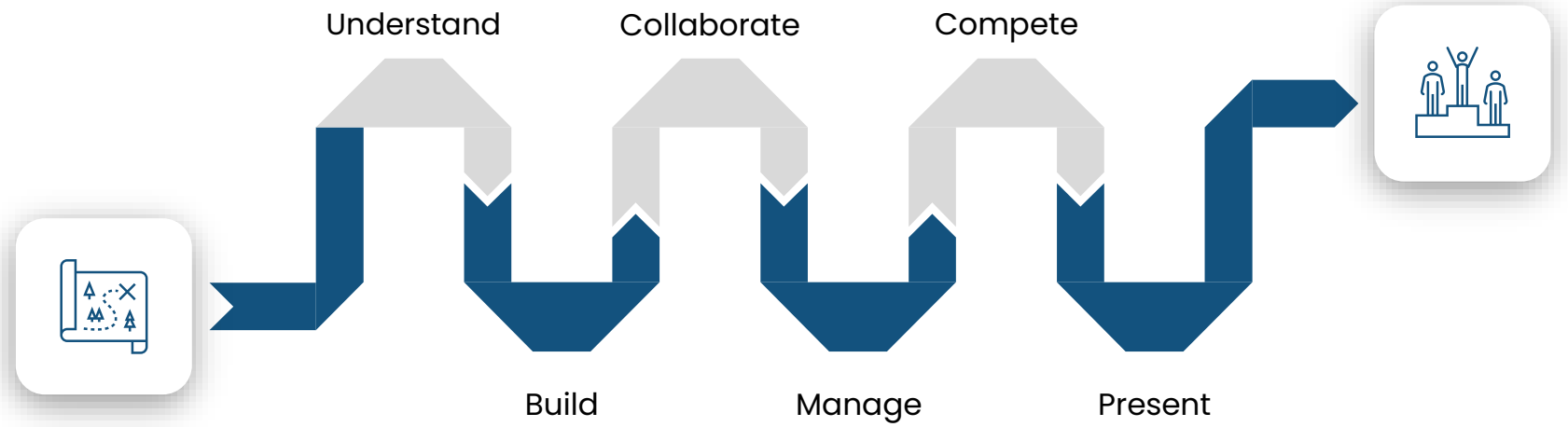
During the six-week Foundation, students develop their **understanding** of financial markets, investment products, risk and return, diversification and portfolio construction. They research investment ideas, evaluate evidence and begin to **build their portfolio strategy** within the constraints of the client mandate.

Things get competitive from the start of the 12-week Challenge. Students **collaborate within their team** to implement and **manage their strategy**, while **competing** to best meet the requirements of the client. As markets move and circumstances change, they must decide whether - and when - to act.

The Academy culminates in a Presentation and Awards Evening, where students **present their portfolio and defend their decisions** before a panel of investment professionals.

Teams are assessed against a published framework covering client suitability, research quality, risk management, decision-making and professional communication, not solely on portfolio returns.

£150,000. One client. Competing teams. Twenty weeks.



One Winner.

Outcomes: Evidence of Capability

Today's sixth form students are preparing to enter an increasingly competitive landscape, from university places and degree apprenticeships through to high-quality early-career opportunities.

Strong grades alone no longer guarantee the differentiation they did even a decade ago.

The Prologue Investment Academy is designed to give students that differentiation: tangible, attributable evidence of their capability. Evidence of what they can do when faced with complex, real-world problems, how they think and communicate under professional scrutiny, and what they have learned from doing so.

Throughout the programme, students build their **Prologue Evidence Pack**, a documented record of what they were responsible for, what they did and how their thinking developed.

Students draw on this evidence when writing UCAS personal statements, preparing for university and apprenticeship interviews, and building the early professional profile that follows them beyond school.

The Prologue Evidence Pack includes:

- The student's named role and defined responsibilities within the team.
- The formal Investment Policy Statement.
- Investment research and analysis.
- Decision logs recording significant portfolio decisions and their rationale.
- Portfolio monitoring records and risk analysis.
- Evidence of how the team responded to changing market and client circumstances.
- The team's final investment recommendation.
- Professional feedback and personal reflection.

Outcomes: Transferable Skills

Over 20 weeks working on a complex real-world brief, students develop and demonstrate many of the skills that are valued across university, degree apprenticeships and early careers.

Commercial awareness: Understanding how economic developments, market movements, business performance and client circumstances shape real-world decisions.

Analytical thinking and judgement: Breaking down complex problems, evaluating evidence, challenging assumptions and making well-reasoned decisions when there is no single correct answer.

Client focus: Understanding different needs, priorities and constraints, then ensuring that recommendations are appropriate for the person or organisation concerned.

Professional communication: Explaining complex thinking clearly, including presenting and defending recommendations under questioning.

Collaboration and accountability: Working effectively in a small team, holding a defined role, contributing to shared outcomes and taking responsibility for the quality of work produced.

Adaptability: Responding thoughtfully to changing circumstances and new information, rather than simply persisting with an initial plan.

How the Programme Works

The Prologue Investment Academy runs over 20 weeks, through:

- 6 two-hour Foundation sessions,
- 12 two-hour Challenge sessions,
- A Presentation and Awards Evening
- A final Reflection Session.



The Foundation

6 sessions | 12 contact hours

Students develop the knowledge and frameworks required to approach the client brief properly. They examine financial markets and investment products, risk and return, diversification, portfolio construction, client objectives and needs, and evidence-based decision-making.

The Foundation is taught through the client problem. Students learn to assess whether an investment strategy is suitable for the client's objectives, circumstances, time horizon, liquidity needs and attitude to risk.

The Challenge

12 sessions | 24 contact hours

Students work in small teams to implement and manage their strategy using the StockTrak Virtual Stock Market Simulator and current market data.

Teams compete to develop the strategy that best meets the requirements of the client, not solely on portfolio returns.

As markets move and client circumstances change, teams must monitor their portfolio, reassess assumptions and decide whether and when to act.

Every investment decision must ultimately answer a central question**:**

Is this decision right for this client?

Presentation & Awards Evening

1 session | 2 contact hours

Each team presents and defends its final strategy and recommendations before an external panel of practising investment professionals.

Students are questioned on the decisions they made, how they responded as circumstances changed and why their final recommendation remains appropriate for their client.

At the close of the evening, the panel announces the winning team and presents individual awards.

The Reflection Session

1 session | 2 contact hours

Students review the experience as a group, comparing the decisions made by different teams, the outcomes they produced and the feedback they received. They explore why some approaches proved more effective than others and what can be learned collectively from the experience.

Students then reflect on their own contribution, how their thinking changed and what the experience has revealed about their interests, capabilities and next steps.

Over 20 weeks, students take on a practical, real-world challenge, create credible evidence of their capability, develop transferable skills and gain a clearer understanding of where their interests and strengths may take them.

Professional Insight and Scrutiny

The Prologue Investment Academy brings students into contact with practising investment professionals throughout the programme.

Guest practitioners share insight from their own areas of expertise, helping students understand how investment professionals assess evidence, challenge assumptions and make decisions.

At the Presentation and Awards Evening, **students present to a panel of investment professionals**. They must explain the strategy they developed, the decisions they made, how they responded as circumstances changed, and why their final recommendation remains appropriate for their client.

Each student receives **structured feedback** from the panel on their contribution and on how effectively they explain and defend the team's final strategy and recommendations.

Why Now?

For students in Year 12 and 13, the decisions that follow school are starting to take shape. University courses, degree apprenticeships, gap years and early career paths all require choices made with limited direct experience of the fields being considered.

The Prologue Investment Academy gives sixth form students the opportunity to explore a potential field of interest in genuine depth before those decisions are made, not by learning more about the subject in theory, but by developing and applying their knowledge in practice.

Over 20 weeks, students encounter the questions, uncertainty and accountability that exist beyond the academic curriculum at exactly the point when they are beginning to make consequential decisions about what comes next. They discover whether they enjoy researching companies, interpreting economic developments, evaluating competing evidence, making decisions, working with others on a problem that has no single correct answer and presenting their output to a panel of professionals.

For some, the experience will reinforce an existing interest. For others, it may challenge and change their thinking. Both are valuable outcomes at a point when the quality of students' decisions matters.



Who Is It For?

The Prologue Investment Academy is designed for students in Years 12 and 13 who are ready to extend their learning beyond the classroom through a serious, applied experience.

Students do not need previous investment experience, nor do they need to be studying maths, economics or business. They do need **intellectual curiosity**, a willingness to engage with financial market data and current affairs, and the commitment to participate and contribute fully to a small team over 20 weeks.

The Academy will particularly suit students considering university courses or degree apprenticeships in mathematics, economics, finance, business, management or related fields. It may also suit students who want to understand whether these areas are right for them before committing to a direction.

What Students Should Expect

- 1–2 hours of independent work between sessions, with additional preparation around key portfolio decisions and the final presentation.
- Active participation throughout the Challenge as teams respond to changing circumstances.
- Professional scrutiny culminating in the presentation and defence of their recommendations.
- Individual accountability, with every student expected to contribute fully to the work of their small team.

Places are limited as the programme depends on small teams for active participation and individual accountability.

Designed and Delivered by Simon Selkirk

The Prologue Investment Academy has been developed by **Simon Selkirk**, Founder of Prologue.

Before founding Prologue, Simon **spent four years teaching Economics at Stamford School**, where he held senior pastoral leadership responsibility as part of the sixth form management team.

Prior to teaching, Simon spent **20 years in recruitment**, placing candidates across investment banking, investment management, commercial and retail banking and insurance, working with organisations including Deutsche Bank, NatWest Markets, Lehman Brothers, ING Direct, Macquarie Bank and Westpac in London and Sydney.

This combination of teaching experience and deep familiarity with how financial services firms hire and develop talent **informs every aspect** of the programme's design.



Mentoring and Support

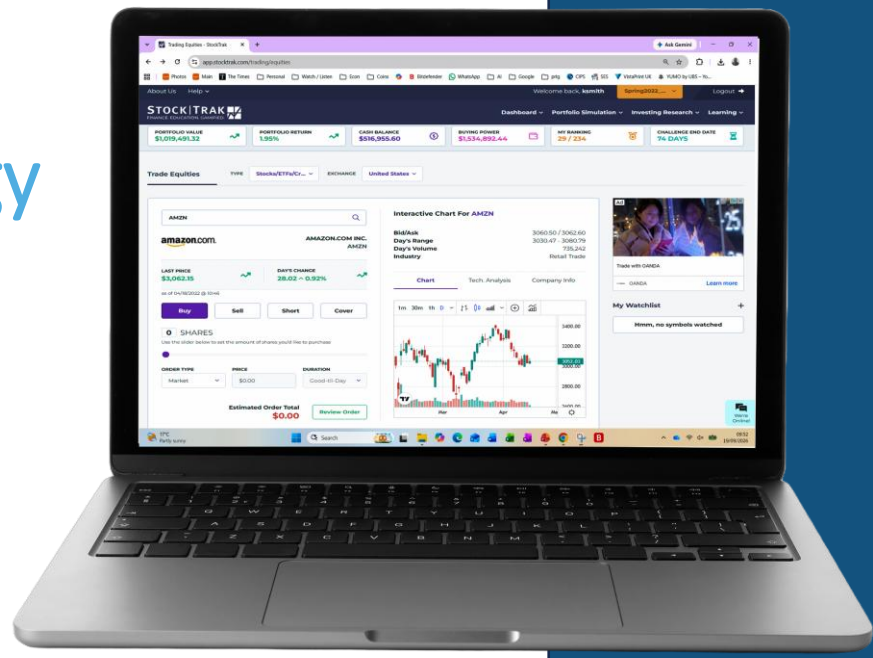
The decisions made in the two years of sixth form can shape the decade that follows. University course. Degree apprenticeship. Early career direction. These are consequential choices, made with limited direct experience of the fields being considered.

Simon has spent 20 years on both sides of these decisions. As a recruiter, he saw what separated candidates who thrived from those who didn't. As a teacher and Head of Year 13, he worked directly with students as these decisions became real.

Each student on the Prologue Investment Academy has access to individual mentoring from Simon throughout the programme. Not generic support. A direct, ongoing conversation with someone who understands the industry, knows how your child works and can help them think clearly about what comes next.

For some students, the Academy will confirm a direction. For others it will challenge and change their thinking. Either way, Simon is there to help them make sense of what they have learned and what it means for the decisions ahead.

Learning: Enabled by Technology



From the outset, every student works within a professional digital environment via their own **prlg.academy Google Workspace** account, with access to the research, trading and AI tools used throughout the programme.

StockTrak provides the virtual trading environment, giving students access to real market data and a professional portfolio management interface throughout the Challenge.

AI is embedded into the programme as a professional working tool, not as a topic in its own right. Students use three AI tools* for distinct purposes: **Perplexity** for current market and company research, **Gemini** as a working partner for questioning ideas and challenging assumptions, and **Gemini Notebook** as a source-grounded environment built around programme materials and each team's accumulated research.

Students learn to use AI responsibly through **V.E.R.I.F.Y.**, Prologue's proprietary framework for verifying sources, evaluating outputs, retaining independent judgement and taking responsibility for the work they submit.

The habits and discipline developed through **V.E.R.I.F.Y.** will serve students well beyond the Academy, as AI becomes an increasingly prominent part of university and professional life.

* The AI market is extremely dynamic. Prologue continually reviews AI tools to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

Academy Details

Each Prologue Investment Academy has limited places, enabling small-team dynamics, active participation and individual accountability throughout the programme.

Early registration is recommended.

Scan the QR code or visit investment.prlg.academy to **view upcoming dates, times, locations, pricing and availability,** and to register your interest and secure your place.

For further information, please email academies@prlg.co.uk

Important information

The Prologue Investment Academy is an educational programme. All portfolio activity is simulated; no real money is invested, managed or held by Prologue.

Programme content is provided for educational purposes only. It does not constitute investment advice, financial advice, investment research, or a recommendation to buy, sell, subscribe for, hold or otherwise deal in any particular investment. Prologue does not provide regulated investment advice, discretionary investment management, brokerage or financial planning services. Learners and families should seek advice from an appropriately authorised financial adviser before making any investment decisions.

Prologue is committed to **safeguarding** the welfare of all learners. All activity involving learners under 18 is delivered in accordance with Prologue's safeguarding policies and procedures. Prologue's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is available at safeguarding.prlg.academy



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