

YESS: USC History Mentorship Programme – 7 Years of Excellence and Inspiration

On Friday, February 21st, the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) hosted the YESS: USC History Mentorship Programme at the Social Science Auditorium. Now in its seventh year, the event was a resounding success, bringing together approximately 300 students and their teachers from 15 schools across the country.

What is YESS: USC?

The Youth Empowerment for a Stronger Society (YESS: USC) is a transformative initiative spearheaded by USC's History and Social Studies Department. Aligned with the university's mission of holistic youth development, the programme is designed to empower students and teachers in the field of history education.

YESS: USC History Mentorship Programme 7th Anniversary

Organized by USC's History and Social Studies Department, this academic year's mentorship workshops marked seven years since the inception of YESS: USC. Two workshops were held during the 2024-2025 academic year. The first, conducted online in October 2024, focused on SBA Writing, Essay Writing, and Study Skills. The second workshop took place on February 21st and was facilitated by Dr. Loverne Jacobs-Browne, Dr. Fiona Rajkumar, Dr. Terencia Joseph, Dr. Fay White, and guest speaker Professor Bridget Brereton, UWI Professor Emeritus. Additionally, Mr. Samuel Dennis, a former USC history graduate and now a practicing attorney, addressed the students, highlighting the Department's History Degree with an emphasis in Legal Studies. The event was structured into two key sessions: a morning panel discussion and an afternoon past paper clinic. Both students and teachers expressed their appreciation for the insightful presentations and interactive sessions, emphasizing the programme's valuable contribution to their academic and personal development.

IMPACT

Since its official approval by the Ministry of Education in Trinidad and the Division of Education in Tobago in September 2018, the YESS: USC History Mentorship Programme has made a significant impact. Between September 2018 and February 2025, the initiative has reached over 1,500 history students across 25 schools.

Building on its success, the YESS: USC Mentorship Programme has expanded its scope to include workshops in English Language, English Literature, and Music, further broadening its contribution to youth empowerment and academic excellence.