

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2018

Deakin University

The University will improve the conditions for student inclusion and success, to positively impact the participation of persons traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

Pre-access (outreach to schools and communities) Outcome: Outreach programs will influence individuals' aspiration for higher education by active involvement in the academic, career development and transition support within partner school communities.

Strategies:

- Investment in collaborative models for experiential learning with partner schools, communities, organisations and industry.
- Collaboration with the Widening Participation Network (WPN) of nine Victorian universities regarding outreach programs, mapping partnerships with HEPPP-eligible schools to identify shared practice gains, gaps and/or duplication in resourcing.

Key Activities:

- Implement the Deakin Access and Engagement Program (DEAP) and Aspire Program in partner schools.
- Program monitoring - coordinate the WPN agendas and data analysis of state participation in partnerships.
- Support the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) in Melbourne, Geelong and Warrnambool.
- Facilitate access to campus facilities, expertise in research and faculty programs for community groups and partner organisations.

Partnerships and Collaborations:

- Victorian schools ICSEA<1000 surrounding campuses in Burwood, Geelong and Barwon South region.
- AIME, The Smith Family, The Skyline Education Foundation Australia, Ardoch Foundation and Foundation for Young Australians.
- Deakin Faculties, Institutes and Divisions and WPN Victorian HEPPP outreach programs.

Access (pre-entry and admissions) Outcome: Pathway entry will be simplified and prospective students from low socioeconomic backgrounds will be better supported to transition to first year.

Strategies:

- Alternative admission, Community Based Delivery model through the Institute of Koorie Education
- Provide and track targeted support to nurture the student journey from pathway program to higher education offer and through commencement.
- Reduce barriers to commencing higher education from a pathway or underrepresented schools.
- Influence donor support to invest in identified disadvantaged student cohorts accessing higher education.
- Increase personal contact and support for priority students.

Key Activities:

- Equity Scholarships and Financial Assistance Programs.
- Priority Student Campaigns – Early Intervention Program.
- Evaluate alternative access program to support disadvantaged students across the lifecycle for 2019.
- Offer Associate Degrees and monitor policy developments.

Partnerships and Collaborations:

- Deakin Faculties, Institutes and Divisions
- Pathway providers.

Participation (transition and progression during studies) Outcome: The participation and progress rate for students from equity backgrounds will progress towards parity to that of the University's overall rate.

Strategies:

- Offer culturally safe and study and residential environments.
- Increase the Strategic Planning Unit's investment in data analytics to improve the visualisation of priority student journeys and the influences on progress.
- Engage students as experts, to work alongside academic and professional staff on solutions for improvement in learning experience and success.
- Embed greater inclusive education design and practice across the University.
- Increase financial scholarship in T1, T2 and T3.

Key Activities:

- Monitoring student progress.
- Inclusive education design and digital accessibility projects.
- Academic, learning and mentoring support with students.
- Provide Cultural Competency training of Deakin employees
- Observe and celebration of key cultural events and cultural ceremony

Partnerships and Collaborations:

- National Priority Project, Improving the Transition and Retention of Regional Students from LSES backgrounds: A '5Ps' Approach.
- Deakin Faculties, Institutes and Divisions.

Progress and attainment (successful completion and preparation for graduate employment)

Outcome: Students from equity backgrounds will have improved higher education attainment rates and enter the higher skilled jobs in the labour market.

Strategies:

- Increase financial scholarships for Work Integrated Learning.
- Enhance student acquisition of Deakin's graduate attributes through paid mentoring and internship programs; volunteering with schools, communities and partners.
- Invest in industry networking, career advice and employment support.

Key activities

- Equity Scholarship Program.
- Students Leading Students, graduate talent programs.
- Internships at Deakin, Student Ambassador Programs.

Partnerships and Collaborations:

- Industry and Alumni.

Evaluation:

The HEPPP funded initiatives within this plan, will be monitored and evaluated by Deakin's Equity and Diversity Unit and Strategic Intelligence and Planning Unit. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the suite of 2017 equity strategies will be presented to the project management team in a final report, due in March 2018. Both will inform and report to Deakin's guiding plan for Student Learning and Experience in 2018.