

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2018

Flinders University

1 **Equity outcomes and strategies:** for improving outcomes for people from a low SES background.

Flinders University, in achieving its widening participation and equity objectives in 2018, will increase participation and success for the following equity groups:

- Indigenous students
- Students from low SES backgrounds
- Students from rural and remote areas
- Students with a disability
- Students from non-English speaking backgrounds
- Women in non-traditional fields of study

2 **Key activities:** which will deliver an increase in the access, participation and success of people from a low SES background.

PRE-ACCESS (Outreach To Schools And Communities)	
Activity	Description
Inspire Mentor Program	The program connects students in equity groups in metropolitan, rural, regional and remote locations with mentors to raise aspirations for participation in higher education. Partnerships with indigenous groups enable the mentoring of indigenous primary and secondary students. Online mentoring is under investigation for regional and remote students. Partnerships with refugee and migrant groups facilitate mentoring students from non-English speaking backgrounds.
The River Journey	The River Journey is an early intervention initiative to create anticipation of participation in higher education. Students from low SES backgrounds from metropolitan and regional schools, and, at different stages of their schooling benefit from aspiration raising and career clarification activities.
University Experience Days	Targets Upper Primary and Mid Secondary students in low SES schools. Targeted activities for students with disabilities and for female students into non-traditional study areas through STEM events and activities.

ACCESS (Pre-Entry And Admissions)	
Activity	Description
Enrichment Program	An interactive, targeted experience to raise aspirations of students from low SES metropolitan and regional schools.

Regional Engagement	Tailored aspiration raising initiatives for students in rural and remote locations of South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and the Northern Territory. Engagement with parent/caregiver sessions and university campus experiences
Indigenous	Building on previous initiatives to increase participation of indigenous students in higher education, strategies are being implemented to increase recruitment and support for indigenous students at pre-entry and undergraduate stages. Pre-entry strategies involve partnerships with schools with indigenous student populations and other organisations such as White Lion.
uniTEST	An aptitude test supporting academic aspirations of students from low SES, and rural and remote backgrounds. Particular focus on providing equal access admission pathways and inclusive entry processes.
STEM Experience	Partnership between the University and selected low SES schools to raise awareness of STEM pathways and careers
Outreach to low SES schools	Information, support and advice to low SES, Indigenous, NESB students, students with Disabilities
Focus Entry Pathways	These initiatives focus on working with selected organisations in tailoring pathways to accessing higher education. Examples include working with AFL SportsReady in the development of admissions pathways, Research Project pathway, Elite Athletes pathways, Extension Studies program for gifted students, and, partnership with TAFE SA in the development of pathway, dual offer and dual award qualifications.
Foundation Studies	Program designed to prepare students, who do not have access to traditional entry pathways or academic preparation, to succeed in higher education.

PARTICIPATION (Transition And Progression During Studies)	
Activity	Description
Transition Experience	Program for commencing students from low SES schools in the Adelaide metropolitan and Adelaide Hills regions to visit Flinders University prior to Orientation Week raising awareness of support services and increasing familiarity with the campus environment for both students and their parents/caregivers.
Regional and Rural Transition Experience	Program for commencing students from rural and remote locations to visit Flinders University prior to Orientation Week raising awareness of support services and increasing familiarity with the campus environment for both students and their parents/caregivers.
Student Access Scholarships	Scholarships and bursaries for undergraduate students which are designed to alleviate financial hardship or need. Particularly relevant to students from rural and remote locations, also considered low SES.
Student Success	Continued focus on quality education, retention, graduate employment outcomes. Strategies embedded within each of the six Colleges to focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • student engagement at university ensuring students feel welcomed and supported in their study • learning analytics employed to identify students at higher risk of attrition in order to deliver proactive, targeted support and advice

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colleges have targeted interventions for first year students including early low stakes assessment in first year topics.
Indigenous	Strategies have been identified and are being implemented to increase support for indigenous students throughout their studies at university.
Regional Voice	Focus on current first year and continuing students from regional and remote backgrounds to harness their voice on identifying enablers and barriers to higher education. Establishment of focus groups will create additional support networks within the University for regional and remote students
Student Academic and Transition Support	A range of activities including: Studiosity: online student tutoring, online learning resources, pop-up seminars, post-entry language assessment, learning lounge, university experience days for students with a disability, transition experiences for students from equity groups, counselling and health services. Professional development for staff engaged in counselling and disability services.

PROGRESS AND ATTAINMENT (Successful Completion And Preparation For Graduate Employment)	
Activity	Description
Professional Development - Disadvantaged Student Learning Strategies	Advice and professional development for university staff engaged in teaching students from equity groups. Focus on understanding distinctive student learning attributes, adaptations of teaching and assessment methods, curriculum implications and identification of students at risk.
Transition to Professional Identity Careers and Employability Service Workplace Integrated Learning	Programs to focus on building employability skills and graduate employment rates for students from equity groups to assist in their transition from university to employment. Utilising mentoring, industry engagement sessions, professional development and work place experiences. Career Hub, an online portal, provides 24/7 access to services and resources. The University is increasing the number of workplace integrated learning (WIL) opportunities in a range of qualifications.

3 **Evaluation:** how the university plans to evaluate the effectiveness of the equity strategies.

Institutional enrolment and planning data will be used to measure progress against targets and to aid in the development of widening participation initiatives.

The University program evaluation includes:

- individual post program activity evaluation
- annual internal reviews of all programs contained in the plan to improve processes and outcomes for students participating in the initiatives
- annual review of HEPPP plan against targets

Flinders University will use a variety of evaluation data for continuous program improvement including: Qualitative data; Quantitative Data; and Focus group feedback.

4 **Partnerships and collaboration:** who the university will partner and collaborate with and how this will improve equity performance.

Partner	Activity
South Australian Department for Education and Child Development (DECD)	Target low SES schools within the DECD network and work with DECD, understand their strategic directions and act within policy guidelines. University experience days, Enrichment program, uniTEST, Inspire Mentoring (Face to Face and e-Mentoring), career development sessions, Science and Maths Academy and The River Journey.
TAFE SA	Extend pathways and widen participation through the continued development of credit transfer, dual offers and dual awards with TAFE SA. Extending reach and opportunities to higher education for VET students. Particular focus on low SES metropolitan regions, and rural and remote locations across South Australia.
The Smith Family	Provision of mentoring support for students, university campus experiences and scholarship support for current university students. Connecting with The Smith Family Learning for Life program and study clubs.
AFL Sports Ready	University awareness presentations, guaranteed entry pathways, credit transfer arrangements and university experience days. Focus pathways for Indigenous/low SES students.
Catholic Education South Australia	University experience days, Enrichment program, uniTEST, Inspire Mentoring (Face to Face and e-Mentoring), career development sessions, Science and Maths Academy and The River Journey. Particular focus on low SES metropolitan regions, and rural and remote locations across South Australia.
Southern Adelaide & Fleurieu Secondary Schools Alliance (SAFSTA) and the Community Education Partnership. Northern Adelaide State Secondary School Alliance. Western Adelaide Secondary School Network.	Collaboration and participation in Alliances and Networks to remain connected with leadership and new initiatives that drive access and participation performance measures in key feeder schools. University experience days, Enrichment program, uniTEST, Inspire Mentoring (Face to Face and e-Mentoring), career development sessions, Science and Maths Academy and The River Journey.