

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2019

Deakin University

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 for future on campus and cloud campus learners.

Strategies

- Investment in collaborative models for experiential learning with partner schools, communities, organisations and industry.
- Improve pre-enrolment study planning for cloud campus students.
- 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) in partner schools and rural schools across Barwon South West.
- Continue the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) in Melbourne, Geelong and Warrnambool.
- Develop and trial digital outreach activities for regional and low SES communities.

Partnerships and Collaborations

- Victorian schools ICSEA<1000 in Low SES communities surrounding campuses; Burwood, Geelong and Barwon-South West region. AIME, The Smith Family, 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

- 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.
- Alternative admission, Community Based Delivery model through the Institute of Koorie Education.

Key Activities

- Equity Scholarships and Financial Assistance Programs.
- Priority Student Campaigns – Early Intervention Program.
- Increase cohort engagement planning and coordination to support low SES students across the lifecycle.
- Offer Associate Degrees, monitor and contribute to policy development in sub bachelor and enabling funding.

Partnerships and Collaborations

- Deakin Faculties, Institutes and Divisions. Pathway providers and Victorian Tertiary Admission Centre. Philanthropic and community partners.

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

- 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, including developing a local Aboriginal pedagogical framework for teaching and learning.
- Increase financial scholarship in Trimester 1, Trimester 2 and Trimester 3.
- Offer culturally safe study and residential environments.

Key Activities:

- Monitoring low SES student progress.
- Embed inclusive education and extend to pilot discipline specific exemplar units and monitor for impact.
- Academic, learning and mentoring support with students.
- Provide Cultural Competence training of Deakin employees. Observe and celebration of key cultural events and cultural ceremony.

Partnerships and Collaborations:

- Elders and community. 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 (WIL).
- Enhance student acquisition of Deakin's graduate attributes through paid mentoring and internship programs; volunteering with schools, communities and partners.
- Curate undergraduate resources and plan targeted engagement with employability curricula to improve graduate diversity employment outcomes.

Key activities

- WIL Equity Scholarship Program.
- Students as Partners Framework and programs, graduate talent programs.
- Internships at Deakin, Student Ambassador and Mentor Programs.

Partnerships and Collaborations

- Deakin Graduate Talent, Industry and Alumni.

Evaluation

The evaluation of HEPPP funded initiatives within this plan is supported by Deakin's Diversity and Inclusion Unit and Strategic Intelligence and Planning Unit. Key metrics for low SES access and participation are embedded within Deakin's Student Learning and Experience Plan 2019. Progress against targets is routinely reported to the University community. An Access and Participation Strategy Group has been established to review current equity and low SES strategies and identify opportunities for greater impact.