

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2019 [Macquarie University]

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

a) Equity outcomes:

- Participation rate of students from low socio-economic background increases at or above the sector rate.
- Retention and success rate of students from low socio-economic background increases at or above the sector rate.

b) Strategies for achieving the outcomes:

- LEAP -UP: Strengthen the capacity of students from low socio-economic backgrounds to participate in higher education
- LEAP IN: Increase opportunities for students from low socio-economic backgrounds to study at Macquarie University
- LEAP THROUGH: Enhance support for students from low socio-economic backgrounds, from enrolment through to graduation
- LEAP ON: Improve graduate outcomes, employment and professional opportunities for students from low socio-economic backgrounds

Pillar 1 Outreach	Pillar 2 Pathways	Pillar 3 Participation	Pillar 4 Impact
<i>LEAP UP</i>	<i>LEAP IN</i>	<i>LEAP THROUGH</i>	<i>LEAP ON</i>
Objective: Strengthen the capacity of students low socio-economic backgrounds to participate in higher education	Objective: Increase opportunities for students from low socio-economic backgrounds to study at Macquarie University	Objective: Enhance support to students from low socio-economic backgrounds, from enrolment through to graduation	Objective: Improve graduate outcomes, employment and professional opportunities for students from low socio-economic backgrounds
Goal A Build awareness of and broaden aspirations around higher education study for students from low socio-economic backgrounds	Goal A Provide opportunities for students from low socio-economic backgrounds to access university through our diverse range of admission pathways	Goal A Provide targeted and appropriate transition support to university life for students from low socio-economic backgrounds	Goal A Enhance employability opportunities for students from low socio-economic backgrounds by providing mentoring and professional development opportunities

Goal B	Goal B	Goal B	Goal B
Establish Macquarie University as a study destination of choice among prospective students from low socio-economic backgrounds, their families/carers, teachers and communities	Provide a range of support services (including scholarships and financial support) to high school students from low socio-economic backgrounds, their families / carers, teachers and communities	Synchronise the effective delivery of a range of university support services available to students from low socio-economic backgrounds to foster their sense of belonging and maximise their potential for success	Encourage student life-long learning and continuous engagement with MQ for students from low socio-economic backgrounds

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

- Work in collaboration with partner schools, partner community organisations, VET providers and partner universities to deliver programs as outlined in the Widening Participation Strategic Framework 2018 – 2023.
- Build interest and capability among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to access and succeed in higher education through the detailed approach outlined in the Macquarie University Indigenous Strategy, 2016 – 2025.
- Develop appropriate entry pathways, including new enabling and foundation programs.
- Build workplace readiness among target students from low socio-economic backgrounds through partnerships with business and industry.

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

- Mixed method approach based on the evaluation framework developed with KPMG and Bridges to Higher Education, together with the national framework being developed by NCSEHE.
- Ongoing evaluation will include qualitative and quantitative data collected through participant observation, focus groups, interviews, case studies, surveys and the collection of statistical data related to the enrolment, retention and success of participants in programs.

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

- Continued partnerships with: the NSW Department of Education (DEC), in particular the Multicultural Programs Unit, the DEC Director Secondary Education, and the Aurora Virtual Secondary School, schools, community agencies and non-for-profit organisations, including The Country Education Foundation of Australia, The Smith Family, Centrelink and local Councils .
- Development of new partnerships with schools, not for profit organisations, local employers and industry representative.