

# ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2018-2020

## The University of Melbourne

The University of Melbourne's Equity Access and Participation Plan for 2015-2017 continues and extends current access and participation activities. The Plan encompasses a suite of strategies and initiatives that can be categorised under five themes: Outreach, Access, Support, Research and Engagement. Throughout all categories, and particularly through Outreach and Engagement, the University collaborates with: secondary and primary schools and other universities, offering a variety of on and off-campus programs; TAFEs to offer alternative pathway entries to the University; and community to foster partnerships in support of educationally disadvantaged students. The University's priority equity groups are: Indigenous students, low SES students, regional and remote students, and students with disability. Students with non-English speaking background and women in non-traditional areas of study are also supported through the wide range of services and activities at the University.

Goals	Initiatives	Outcomes	Evaluation
<b>OUTREACH: Building awareness and aspiration for higher education</b>			
Sustained outreach to target regions with the aim of building student aspiration, increasing teacher and parental support of student aspiration, increasing Year 10-12 retention rates, and providing pre-university experience programs.	SEAMS – Strengthening Engagement and Achievement in Maths and Science, Year 8 and 9 Indigenous Program	Raised awareness of and aspiration to higher education in pre-tertiary students.	Program participation numbers.  Participant feedback.  University application rates for equity cohorts.  Special Entry Access Scheme (including <i>Access Melbourne</i> ) application statistics.
	RISE- Residential Indigenous Science Experience	Increased applications from students in equity groups.	
	Melbourne Connect - Low SES Schools Undergraduate Outreach	Increased confidence and career aspirations.	
	Careers Practitioners and Teacher Outreach		
	Year 9 and 10 Discipline Days		
	Discipline specific and general outreach activities: <i>on- and off-site camps; school visits; campus-based activities; hands-on future career workshops and experiential learning; short vocational courses</i>		
	Indigenous Leadership, Excellence and Achievement Program (iLEAP),		
<b>ACCESS: Recruitment, pathways and selection mechanisms</b>			
Provision and promotion of pathway programs, guaranteed entry, alternate selection criteria tools, scholarships, and integrated policy frameworks on equity-related issues.	Access Melbourne and Graduate Access Melbourne - alternative selection program for disadvantaged students	Greater than 20% of undergraduate students accessing the university through alternative selection criteria and pathways.	Access Melbourne enrolment numbers and offer statistics. Course enrolment numbers.  Equity scholarships granted.  Guaranteed accommodation offered from 2016.  Internal analysis of access and participation numbers; government higher education statistics data.
	SEAMS – Strengthening Engagement and Achievement in Maths and Science, VCE low SES and Indigenous Program	Increased participation of equity group students, especially low SES and Indigenous students in STEM courses.	
	DiGS – Diploma in General Studies	Increased equity group access rates and participation ratios.	
	Indigenous degree programs- <i>Bachelor of Arts Extended, Bachelor of Science Extended</i>	Mechanisms and measurement framework for targeted equity access to graduate programs.	
	Student Accommodation Project – meeting growing demand for high quality, affordable student housing	Available accommodation for offer to equity group students based on need.	
	Equity Scholarships		
<b>SUPPORT: Equality of Participation and Outcomes</b>			
Provision and promotion of programs and support which ameliorate the challenges faced by students in groups of disadvantage - transition, retention, progress and success programs, scholarships, financial aid, employment, housing.	ITAS Excellence Program	Maximised success and retention ratios for equity groups.	Internal analysis of retention and success ratios; government higher education statistics data.  Program participation numbers.  Participant feedback.  Graduate Destination Survey.
	Academic Skills Programs		
	Student Connect – transition and university experience advising program	Maximised completion rates for equity groups.	
	First Year at Melbourne – transitions and making connections	Maximised rates of graduate employment or postgraduate study.	
	Students @ Work – student employment program prioritising disadvantaged students		
	Destination Melbourne Transition Program		
	Student Precinct – co-created accessible space where students can connect, study, innovate and unwind.		
	Academic English subjects		
	Indigenous Leadership, Excellence and Achievement Program (iLEAP),		
	Equity Scholarships and exchange programs		
	WiL and Career development support		

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	Developing Pathways into Business Professions for Indigenous Students		
	Employment Fundamentals – developing employment literacies		
	Expansion of childcare program		
	Mentoring programs		
<b>RESEARCH: Focused research on national equity priorities and issues</b>			
Conducting and supporting focused and strategic research into equity in higher education to deepen understanding and inform practice with data-driven decision making.	<i>Centre for Study of Higher Education</i>	High quality equity in higher education research.	Reports and research contributions produced.
	<i>Melbourne Social Equity Institute</i>		
	<i>Scope Victoria</i>	Contribute to national policy formulation and evaluation.	
	<i>Refugee Studies Program</i>		
<b>ENGAGEMENT: Building socially inclusive communities and partnerships</b>			
Cultivating a university community engaged in a range of programs and activities that promote positive social change.	<i>Leaders in Communities Award – student leadership and volunteering award</i>	Integrated and enriched University environment, attuned to social inclusion, equity and reducing disadvantage.	Participant feedback
	Academic Subjects with a community service focus		Number of participants / partnerships.
	Community Partnerships and Networks- including <i>Carlton Community, The Smith Family, Goulburn Valley Partnerships</i>		Partnership outcomes met.
	<i>Diversity Week – celebrating diversity through a range of socially inclusive activities</i>		
	<i>Respect Week – collaborative celebration with a new theme each year, focusing on different aspects of why Respect is important</i>		
	Student and faculty organisations supporting women in non-traditional areas- <i>Women in: Physics / Science / Engineering &amp; IT; Business &amp; Economics; Robogals</i>		
	<i>Award for Excellence in Social Inclusion - recognising outstanding contribution towards achieving the University's equity, diversity and social inclusion goals</i>		

### ENABLERS

Equity Innovation Grants: Competitive seed funding for university special projects and initiatives to support Low SES students in higher education across the themes of Outreach, Access, Support, Research, and Engagement.

Social Inclusion Barometer – equity performance assessment publication

Indigenous Internationalisation Program

Indigenous Outcomes Performance Report (IOPR)

Social Inclusion Scholars and Practitioners' Network

Digital Toolkits for low-SES students

Group of Eight Equity Working Group.

Integrated policy and planning frameworks on diversity related issues:

- Indigenous Student Plan;
- Disability Action Plan;
- Mental Health Promotion and Support Strategy;
- Indigenous Programs and Reconciliation Action Plan (IRAP);
- Engagement Strategy