

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2019

University of New England

The University's Access and Participation plan will promote increased aspiration, access and participation for individual from low SES backgrounds and the increased progression, retention and completion of domestic undergraduate students from low socioeconomic backgrounds in Higher Education.

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

To encourage and support diversity by increasing opportunities for access, developing strategies and improving activities to encourage participation and success in higher education for all equity groups, including those from a low SES background.

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

- **Pre-Access:**

Expand outreach liaison to increase interest and aspirations of potential students and their families through comprehensive access and participation programs and partnerships that provide a sustainable outreach & engagement model for UNE through the delivery of key activities, such as:

- ❖ Discovery Voyager
- ❖ HSC Booster Days & Science in the Bush
- ❖ Far Out Science 2019
- ❖ Careers Fairs and targeted outreach events
- ❖ Schools and Universities connect

- **Access:**

Engagement, pre-entry and admissions activities to advise expectations of university life, provide opportunities to participate in university life and promote inclusion for commencing and future students:

- ❖ SMART Farms Education Program
- ❖ On Campus programs
- ❖ Peer Support programs

- **Participation:**

Provision of a suite of programs that complement existing student services to facilitate transition and progression including student mentoring and support programs. Additional support is provided for students from low SES backgrounds to continue to attend university through the provision of bursaries and scholarships. Key activities include:

- ❖ Scholarships and Bursaries
- ❖ Peer Mentoring and Tutoring programs
- ❖ Transition programs and workshops
- ❖ Student Support and Progression programs

- **Attainment:**

Aimed at improving preparation for graduate employment and ensuring learning and graduate outcomes enhance students' employability skills base. Key activities include:

- ❖ Career and Graduate Employability readiness including collaboration and careers toolkit resources
- ❖ Business and Industry Connections
- ❖ Targeted reSTART activities.

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

Institutional enrolment and planning data using qualitative and quantitative measurements will be used to quantify progress and to aid in the development of access and participation initiatives. HEPP funded projects will be monitored at defined times, against agreed milestones and evaluative controls.

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

The University of New England is a partner in the RUN network and will continue to work with regional universities to foster a broad coverage of regional issues. The University will continue its work with schools, and community groups in the New England/North West of NSW, Hunter Valley, Central Coast and North Coast of NSW in delivering programs to improve the access and participation in Higher Education of students in equity groups. Opportunities with industry will continue to be pursued.