

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2019

University of New South Wales Sydney

The University of New South Wales Sydney (UNSW) is committed to increasing the participation and achievement of students from all equity backgrounds. UNSW Sydney seeks to reduce educational disadvantage stemming from low socioeconomic status, which may occur in conjunction with life circumstances of disability and discrimination as well as cultural and linguistic diversity.

Equity outcomes and strategies

UNSW Sydney seeks to:

- **engage** with prospective and current students to improve access and participation rates of targeted equity cohorts to UNSW
- **support** student participation and success in higher education before, during and after transition into university, maintaining current retention and success rates across UNSW Australia’s equity cohorts
- **develop** student potential by maintaining and improving support services and opportunities for low SES and equity students throughout their study

Key activities

To achieve these outcomes, UNSW Sydney delivers:

- innovative evidence-based programs that recognise the diversity of Australian society and the university community
- co-curricular opportunities for personal and professional development for all students, recognising the diversity of their social and cultural capital

Stage	Activities
Access: Partnerships	UNSW will continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build aspirations and awareness of higher education within partner schools from Years K to 9 and communities through the multifaceted and broad-based UNSW outreach program in schools and on campus • build academic enrichment opportunities particularly in STEM subjects for primary and high school students (Years 5- 9) and a tailored program for outstanding students in Years 10-12 aiming to build academic capability. • offer enabling programs for school leavers and mature aged students who do not meet minimum ATAR academic entry requirements • build on UNSW initiatives such as the Gonski Institute to address known access barriers and improve access rates of students from disadvantaged communities
Participation	UNSW Sydney is committed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing participation numbers of equity/low SES students, especially subgroups such as students with disabilities, those from disadvantaged schools, and those from rural/remote areas. • providing focused ongoing support for new students during transition to university through online peer contact with incoming new and first-year students. This is achieved through online and face-to-face engagement, peer mentor training, targeted workshops and educational support advisors.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • offering volunteer opportunities for professional and personal development through the Skill Development and Leadership programs, targeted at equity students. • encouraging online peer engagement (via a chat tool) throughout the academic year with incoming students to encourage early engagement with equity services to ease transition and maintain participation.
Progress and attainment	<p>To maximise students' graduate attributes, UNSW will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opportunities for paid and unpaid internships in UNSW Sydney and in partner community organisations, where they gain experience in professional roles, with recognition of their professional experience on their Australian Higher Education Graduate Statement (AHEGS). • Education Support Advisors to support the development of study and life skills by equity students. • the Connections program offered via UNSW Co-op, which offers industry placements and financial support for equity students, such as those from disadvantaged schools and similar backgrounds. UNSW Equity staff will connect students to existing programs that will add value to their existing connections, particularly regarding mentoring and volunteering.

Evaluation

Evaluation of equity programs is conducted by:

- providing regular feedback across the University and to external key stakeholders.
- undertaking evaluations using both qualitative and quantitative methodologies including measuring attitudinal shifts, % changes in offers to university, access, retention and success rates to university
- seeking regular feedback from key stakeholders both within and external to the University
- surveying past and present participants in programs

Partnerships and collaboration

UNSW Sydney will:

- build on the strong partnerships with both Sydney metro and rural NSW schools identified as being disadvantaged to build social capital within these communities
- consult with administrative services, faculties and schools to maintain currency and accuracy of Education Support Service advice and information on online tools that is relevant to specific faculties and programs of study.
- maintain relationships with faculties and other professionals in university and other equity services or organisations to ensure currency and best practice in engagement, support and development activities.
- build on existing corporate and not-for-profit partnerships to provide information, advice and guidance on subject choices, degree options and career opportunities to improve both access and post-completion outcomes
- build on established community partnerships to provide opportunities for professional development through volunteer service with non-profit organisations, and to enable outreach work with students and families to take place within targeted communities outside the school environment in order to build community capacity.