

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2020

Curtin University

1. Equity outcomes and strategies

The Curtin University Access and Participation Plan 2020 (The Plan) provides an operational framework for progressing student diversity, equity, and inclusion, embedded within Curtin's Strategic Plan 2017-2020. The Plan details targeted initiatives to support the access, participation and success of people from Low Socio-Economic Status (LSES) backgrounds, including regional, remote and Indigenous Australians. The Plan sets out how Curtin will meet its obligations under State and Federal equity legislation and policy including expenditure of Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP) funding. The Plan supports the following objectives, reflecting the four key stages of the student lifecycle.

1. **Pre-access:** Partner with LSES Schools and communities to attract students from LSES backgrounds to Higher Education (HE), by developing positive attitudes towards HE, increasing awareness and understanding of HE as a viable post-school option, and supporting the development of capabilities applicable to undergraduate entry.
2. **Access:** Enrol students from LSES backgrounds at Curtin University, through application and admissions support, alternative entry and ATAR bonus schemes, and Enabling Programs.
3. **Participation:** Retain students from LSES backgrounds, by facilitating an inclusive and supportive learning environment, and targeted academic support programs.
4. **Progress and attainment:** Place graduates from LSES backgrounds in employment or further study, by supporting students to develop learning/career goals, and to obtain practical and relevant experience that will position them as attractive to employers.

2. Key activities

Table 1 lists the key activities that will deliver an increase in the access, participation and success of students from LSES backgrounds.

Table 1. Curtin University Access and Participation Activities

Student Lifecycle Stage	Activity
Pre-access	Curtin Addressing Higher Educational Access Disadvantage (AHEAD)
	Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME)
Access	LSES and Indigenous Admissions Support
	Regional Indigenous Tertiary Enabling Course (ITEC)
Participation	LSES, Online and Indigenous Counselling Services
	LSES Student Wellbeing Advisory Services

	Hardship Grants and Equipment Loans
	Digital Student Lifecycle Engagement
	Engagement Automation Project
	Online Study Skills Programs
	DigiDex Programs
	Indigenous Student Mentoring Program
	Indigenous Student Engagement and Support
	Curtin Challenge Platform
Progress and Attainment	LSES Student Career Development and Employability Services
	Indigenous Student Employability and Placement Programs
	Faculty LSES Student Retention and Employability

3. Evaluation

All Access and Participation Plan activities, and associated HEPPP expenditure, are actively monitored on a quarterly basis, overseen by Curtin's Student Diversity and Equity Unit. All activities report annually on the demonstrable impact of that initiative for students from LSES backgrounds, and achievement/progress towards proposed outcomes. Overall, the success of The Plan is measured against the observed growth in LSES enrolments, and subsequent retention and success (pass/completion) rates for LSES students. The Curtin University annual LSES Access and Participation Report is presented to the University's Learning and Student Experience Committee, and submitted to the Commonwealth, as required. In 2020, the Student Diversity and Equity Unit will also undertake a dedicated project to review and enhance Curtin University's data capture, recording and reporting functions in relation to students from LSES backgrounds, to support evaluation of this Plan.

4. Partnerships and collaboration

Implementation of The Plan involves delivery of a range of initiatives including education and awareness programs, campus visits, regional visits, mentoring, role modelling and leadership, learning clubs, and pre-release programs, in collaboration with a range of external partners including:

- Primary Schools;
- Secondary Schools;
- Government Departments (such as the Department of Corrective Services); and
- Community Organisations (such as the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME), Future Footprints, RMLA, and The Smith Family).

The University also works closely with other Higher Education providers across Western Australia to ensure associated programs are complimentary and reach effectively into regional and isolated areas of the State.