

Access and Participation Plan 2020

“At the University of Sydney, we believe that the brightest and most promising students, regardless of their cultural or social background, can thrive and realise their potential through higher education.”

The University of Sydney Strategic Plan 2016-2020



The University of Sydney's Access and Participation Plan 2020 outlines the University's strategic and practical commitment to increasing access to and participation in higher education for people from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds.

The Plan draws upon the collective work of Widening Participation and Outreach (Sydney Future Students), Domestic Recruitment (Sydney Future Students), Pro Vice-Chancellor Student Life (DVC Education), the Pro Vice-Chancellor Educational Innovation (DVC Education) and significant collaboration with Indigenous Strategy and Services.

Underpinning this collaborative work is a commitment in 2020 to:

- Alignment of access and participation initiatives with institutional strategy;
- Development of cohesive cross-institutional widening participation strategy and cohesive offerings;
- Review of impact measurement ensuring transition and success data is captured and evaluated; and
- Development and trial of initiatives that offer underrepresented students an opportunity to have their involvement in the University's widening participation schemes formally recognised as part of their application to enrol.

Partnerships and Collaboration

To achieve the outcomes set out in the Access and Participation Plan, the following stakeholders will be engaged:

University of Sydney

- Widening Participation and Outreach
- Faculties and Schools
- DVC-Education including Educational Innovation, Student Life and Student Experience Program
- DVC-Indigenous Strategy and Services
- Domestic Recruitment & Admissions

- Student Support Services
- Research teams from Sydney School of Education and Social Work
- Professional Services including Analytics & Planning, Alumni & Development, Enterprise & Engagement

External Stakeholders

- Universities Admissions Centre (UAC)
- Country Education Foundation
- Harding Miller Education Foundation
- Education and Training Out West
- The Smith Family
- Clontarf Foundation
- NSW Department of Education
- University of Canberra
- University of Wollongong
- ThreeFourFive
- InspireEd
- The Story Factory

Target Cohort	Programs and Initiatives	Evaluation Instruments and Outcomes
ASPIRATION: Pre-tertiary personal and academic capacity building programs to increase access and participation in higher education.		
<p>Low SES secondary school students and teachers</p> <p>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students</p> <p>Secondary school teachers and teachers from regional and remote NSW</p>	<p>On campus learning: Future Fridays for Year 12 students, Regional Careers Advisors conference and professional learning, Digital Narratives professional learning.</p>	<p>Outcome: Increased E12, Gadigal and other admissions pathways applications</p>
	<p>Digital outreach: Bunga Barrabugu Winter Program, Future Fridays for Year 10 and 11 students, Innovation in Practice competition, Year 12 pilot transition program, Student leader social media campaigns</p>	<p>Evaluation: Longitudinal Evaluation Project (2018-2020) Participant pre- and post- responses measured against WPO Theory of Change Participant numbers and rates of engagement for digital resources Application and enrolment statistics (UAC and University)</p>
	<p>In School programs: Year 9 Preparation for NAPLAN</p>	
	<p>Residential programs (where possible): Wingara Mura Bunga Barrabugu Summer Program, Open Day Residential Program, Life at Sydney Residential Program</p>	
ACCESS: Delivery of admission pathway programs, selection criteria tools, scholarship and integrated policy framework on equity-related issues.		
<p>Low SES school-leavers including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students and students from regional and remote NSW</p>	<p>Early Offer Year 12 (E12) Scheme providing an opportunity for an early conditional offer and a \$5950 first year scholarship for eligible students from low SES, regional and remote and students who have experienced financial hardship.</p>	<p>Outcome: Increased E12, Gadigal and other admissions pathways applications</p>
	<p>Gadigal Early Offer Scheme and streamlining of Gadigal application process into University Admission Centre (UAC) platform.</p>	<p>Outcome: Passport Program trialled in 2020 for 2021 admission</p>
	<p>Pilot Passport Program to assign formal recognition of outreach program participation.</p>	<p>Evaluation: Gadigal E12 and other pathway application, offer and enrolment numbers, subscription numbers to Gap Year resources</p>
	<p>Re-inventing the Gap Year, a digital initiative to dispel myths about university and encouraging transition to university for regional students.</p>	

PARTICIPATION: Provision and promotion of support programs which address the challenges faced by identified student cohorts - transition, retention and success programs.

<p>Enrolled Low SES tertiary student cohorts</p> <p>Tertiary education practitioners and academics</p>	<p>Open-access online Transition Canvas module for future and new students and their key influencers to support transition to University for students from Low SES backgrounds.</p> <p>2020 Strategic Education Grants – Widening Participation category: Developing transition and learning networks amongst Social Science students Communities of Support: First Generation Students and Transition to University</p> <p>Faculty-led (FASS) pilot initiatives focussed on first year experience, online and peer enabled mentoring.</p> <p>Widening Participation Network (WPN) communities of practice initiatives.</p> <p>Modular Professional Learning Framework (MPLF) Inclusivity and Diversity Module review and update</p> <p>Student Experience project collaboration Development and design of a University-wide approach to mentoring.</p> <p>Streamline current use of resources and siloing of mentoring program coordination across the university.</p> <p>Ensure a student-centred approach to program design for future support.</p> <p>Design curricula and content for transition support programs for target cohorts in preparation for 2021 pilot.</p> <p>New Student Mental Wellbeing and English Language Support Strategies.</p>	<p>Outcome: Increase in target cohort retention and success rates</p> <p>Evaluation: Engagement metrics for online modules and portals Support program/s participation numbers and participant feedback Student Experience Survey results Student Life Survey results</p>
<p>PROGRESS AND ATTAINMENT: Ensuring successful completion and preparation for employment.</p>		
<p>Graduating students from target cohorts</p>	<p>Review and analysis of the student experience and graduate destinations for students from target cohorts</p>	<p>Outcome: Increased completion rates for target cohorts, increased rates of graduate employment or postgraduate study by target cohorts</p> <p>Evaluation: Graduate Destination Survey</p>