

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2020

The University of Canberra's Access & Participation Plan aims to:

Enable the success of students from diverse backgrounds who may not otherwise have an opportunity to realise the benefits of higher education.

Strategies for improving outcomes for people from a low SES background:

The University of Canberra will be a university of choice for students from under-represented groups in our society and aims to increase their representation in the undergraduate student body. UC will place an emphasis on students and communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, especially in regional and rural areas of NSW. This aim will be achieved through implementation of five strategic initiatives, which span the student lifecycle, in a whole-of-institution approach.

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

Change the narrative of diverse student success

- Design and commence implementation of internal and external communications campaigns
- Produce feature stories of successful students from diverse backgrounds
- Develop innovative approaches to normalise help seeking through proactive communication

Implement discipline-aligned outreach in partnership with educationally disadvantaged schools and communities

- Develop and implement a university-wide Schools Outreach Strategy
- Produce discipline-aligned content in collaboration with Faculties

- Develop highly engaged partnerships with educationally disadvantaged schools and communities
- Monitor post-school transitions of students in partner schools to enable seamless transitions of those students who apply to UC, and to inform continuous improvement of outreach initiatives

Create exceptional student experiences and improve student success

- Design and implement the first wave of a longitudinal analysis of student readiness for university study, service use and academic performance
- Analyse and triangulate institutional and survey data
- Provide recommendations to the Student Equity and Access Advisory Group on

how to improve the quality and impact of student support services for a diverse cohort

Provide individualised and proactive transition support

- Develop and implement a pilot of intensive support in the transition to university which covers 5 core components:
 - Inspiration
 - Conversion
 - Social support
 - Technical aspects
 - Wider community
- Establish embedded transition and support programs in all faculties
- Provide recommendations to the Student Equity and Access Advisory Group to secure operational funds

Achieve 100% embedded Work Integrated Learning opportunities

- Design and implement a data collection process to better understand the challenges of the diverse UC student cohort in undertaking WIL placements
- Trial targeted interventions to support diverse students to undertake WIL placements
- Provide recommendations to the Student Equity and Access Advisory Group on how to achieve 100% uptake of WIL opportunities by 2022

Monitoring and Reporting:

- ✓ Bi-annual progress reports against project milestones to the Student Equity and Access Advisory Group
- ✓ Annual update of the project milestones and budget allocations in the *Student Equity and Access Plan* in consultation with the Advisory Group
- ✓ Production of HEPPP Annual Report to the Department of Education and Training
- ✓ Development of student vignettes to include the student voice

- ✓ Annual report to UC Council on progress against the *Student Equity and Access Plan*.

Evaluating the Impact of Strategic Initiatives

The University of Canberra aims to increase the total number of completions by recognised equity groups and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Formative and summative evaluation will be undertaken for all initiatives to demonstrate the influence of UC's access and participation initiatives on student outcomes. These research projects will be designed and implemented in collaboration with academic colleagues.

Student Equity and Access Advisory Group

Implementation of *the Strategic Initiatives* will be supported by a senior advisory group, chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) which meets twice per year.

Partnerships and Collaboration

The University of Canberra will continue to work collaboratively on a variety of access pathways with Education partners, including the University of Canberra College. There are also numerous partners offering credit arrangements to articulate in study at UC.

UC will continue to work collaboratively with:

- ✓ ACT Education Directorate
- ✓ NSW Department of Education
- ✓ Primary & Secondary schools in target regions across the ACT and NSW
- ✓ The Smith Family
- ✓ AIME
- ✓ Country Education Foundation
- ✓ Country to Canberra
- ✓ Migrant & Refugee Settlement Services

These collaborations and partnerships enhance educational opportunities and access to higher education for students from low SES backgrounds.

For further information, please see UC's Student Equity and Access Plan 2018-2022 <https://www.canberra.edu.au>