

## ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2020

### Equity outcomes and strategies for improving outcomes for people from a low Socio Economic (SES) Status background

The University of Western Australia remains committed to recruiting and supporting students of high potential but limited means and opportunity, with ambitious long term targets relating to Access, Participation and Retention of low SES students. In 2020 UWA is launching 'Experience 2025', a student experience strategy with key pillars including an 'Inclusive and Diversified Student Community' and 'Indigenous Knowledges'. This strategy is underpinned by UWA's decadal plan 'Vision 2030' and the Education 2025 strategy, and together is guiding the development of a five-year Student Access and Participation Framework. UWA continues to take a layered and life-long learning approach with initiatives across the student life-cycle.

Since initially developing this strategy, the University is responding the rapidly changing Covid-19 situation and further developing innovative ways to engage with students and support students as they transition to studying online and are impacted in various ways. Some examples include:

- Moving to online and phone appointments for support services (including health, wellbeing, welfare, disability and study support)
- Increasing check-ins for students to support mental health and wellbeing and welfare needs
- Making available care packages and IT hardware for students in need
- Producing video and online content for widening participation and support programs

Appendix A outlines specific strategies and KPIs. The activities outlined are funded through a variety of funding sources, including the Higher Education Participation and Partnership Program.

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

The University has developed a comprehensive student equity strategy that engages equity groups at all stages of the student life cycle:

PRE-ACCESS	ACCESS	PARTICIPATION	ATTAINMENT
WA Children's University Partnership, Aspire UWA, School of Indigenous Studies High School Outreach programs (inc Ambassador support)			
	Fairway UWA and School of Indigenous Studies Orientation Program and UWA Smart Start		
	Broadway UWA Mature Age Access Program; Rural and Broadway Direct Pathways to Health		
		UniAccess; University Accommodation; Scholarships; StudySmarter	

The University has an inclusive approach to supporting access and participation of students from low SES backgrounds. As many of the activities are also available to the broader student community, strategies have been developed that ensure students from low SES backgrounds are aware of, and are encouraged to access the services and programs offered. StudySmarter provide specialised support to students from access programs during transition to university; disability services are more likely to be accessed by students from low SES backgrounds; and Aspire UWA partners with schools experiencing educational disadvantage and schools specifically consider the programs' target groups (including low SES) when selecting students for on campus activities. UWA has joined the WA Children's University Partnership to provide further support for students as young as five years old from low SES schools and communities.

## Evaluation

UWA has developed an evidence-based, mixed-methods approach to assessing performance against various equity indicators identified in the Student Data Collection. Formative and summative data is used to evaluate programs and long term student success is measured through longitudinal student participation and enrolment statistics. Qualitative data is also collected through individual program evaluation, impact surveys and focus groups.

UWA actively participates in Australian and international research in widening participation and continues to benchmark nationally and internationally to ensure our programs are innovative and responsive to the needs of participants and their communities.

## Partnership and collaboration

UWA has established partnerships with schools, government and community organisations throughout Western Australia with the aim of enhancing education opportunities for students from low SES backgrounds. The Western Australian Widening Participation Working Group was formed as a subcommittee of the Western Australian Higher Education Council (WAHEC) to facilitate a collaborative approach to initiatives being delivered across the WA universities. Staff are also actively engaged in a variety of professional networks and contribute to national (and state) benchmarking activities and research.



## Appendix A: Equity strategies and activities

	OUTCOME	STRATEGY	ACTIVITIES (WITH KPIS)
PRE-ACCESS	Raise student aspiration for university in low SES communities	Establish partnerships with primary schools located in low socio-economic areas across Western Australia as defined by Index of Community Social and Economic Advantage (ICSEA)	Pilot the <i>Western Australia Children's University Partnership</i> , with 9 primary schools across three locations in 2020.
		Establish partnerships with district and senior high schools located in low socio-economic areas across Western Australia as defined by Index of Community Social and Economic Advantage (ICSEA)	In 2020, 10,000 students will be engaged in school and campus activities, from 73 partner schools across metropolitan, region and remote WA. <i>School of Indigenous Studies High School Outreach program</i> will engage 750 students (including students from low SES backgrounds) in campus and school based programs. In 2020, 500 prospective students will be provided with support throughout the entry process into medicine and dentistry through the <i>Rural and Broadway Direct Pathways to Health</i> .
ACCESS	Support students from low SES communities to gain entry to UWA and successfully transition through to university study	Provide equitable access to professions of medicine and dentistry to students from low Socio-economic schools as defined by ICSEA	In 2020, 75 students will be supported through the entry process and receive offers through the <i>Rural and Broadway Direct Pathways to Health</i> .
		Support identified students facing significant financial disadvantage with a structured program of academic support and extension through to university admission	<i>Fairway UWA</i> recruits and supports participating students throughout their penultimate year of school through to graduation and university transition. In 2020, 135 Year 12 students will undertake the program with 36 new students gaining entry to university through the program.
		Identify disadvantaged schools (defined by ICSEA) and offer adjusted admission to an undergraduate degree	In 2020 at least 90 students will receive an offer for university through <i>Broadway UWA</i> .
		Provide an open access pathway for mature age students who have not previously studied at tertiary level	<i>Mature Age Access Pathway</i> is an open access pathway. During transition students receive individual support focused on academic skill development and pastoral care support. In 2020, 250 students will receive an offer for UWA through the access program.
PARTICIPATION AND ATTAINMENT	Provide timely and targeted support for low SES students throughout their university study and create career development opportunities that enhance their employment options.	Provide direct entry pathways and a university preparation course (Aboriginal Orientation Course and UWA Smart Start) for Indigenous students to transition to university study	Through these programs 60 Indigenous students will enrol in degrees in 2020 and be supported through their university study.
		Students in financial need will be provided with timely financial assistance	Over 100 students will be awarded university administered scholarships exceeding \$400,000 in value. Demonstrating financial need is a criterion for these scholarships. In addition the new Hackett Scholarship aimed at students from identified schools in metropolitan, regional and remote WA will support at least 280 students in 2020 for the duration of their undergraduate degrees.
		Provide ongoing pastoral care, academic support and career development for students from low SES backgrounds	Students who entered university with support from pre-access and access programs will be continued engaged through volunteer programs. For example, <i>Fairway UWA</i> will engage and support more than 170 current university students through 2020 through student consultations, academic support sessions and career workshops.
		Provide numeracy support for students entering UWA through an access program	Numeracy skill workshops, drop-ins and consultations will be provided for 100 university students.
		Provide targeted academic skill development and support for students entering UWA through an access program	Academic skill Workshops, drop-ins and student consultations will be provided for 340 university students.
		Provide affordable student accommodation to students from low SES background who require housing	In 2020, 1000 rooms will be available in university residences for LSES students, supported through the National Rental Affordability Scheme.
Provide support to students with a medical condition and or disability to fully participate in the curriculum, linking with the Careers team to overcome the barriers of low outcomes for employment for students	UniAccess will provide individual planning and support to 1000 students who disclose they have a medical condition or disability.		