

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2015-2017

The University of Melbourne

The University of Melbourne's Equity Access and Participation Plan for 2015-2017 continues and extends current access and participation activities. The Plan encompasses a suite of strategies and initiatives that can be categorised under five themes: Outreach, Access, Support, Research and Engagement. Throughout all categories, and particularly through Outreach and Engagement, the University collaborates with: secondary and primary schools and other universities, offering a variety of on and off-campus programs; TAFEs to offer alternative pathway entries to the University; and community to foster partnerships in support of educationally disadvantaged students. The University's priority equity groups are: Indigenous students, low SES students regional and remote students, and students with disability. Students with non-English speaking background and women in non-traditional areas of study are also supported through the wide range of services and activities at the University.

Goals	Initiatives	Outcomes	Evaluation
OUTREACH: Building awareness and aspiration for higher education			
Sustained outreach to target regions with the aim of building student aspiration, increasing teacher and parental support of student aspiration, increasing Year 10-12 retention rates, and providing pre-university experience programs.	<i>LEAP- Learn, Experience, Access Professions</i>	Raised awareness of and aspiration to higher education in pre-tertiary students.	Program participation numbers. Participant feedback. University application rates for equity cohorts. Special Entry Access Scheme (including <i>Access Melbourne</i>) application statistics.
	<i>R/ISE- Residential Indigenous Science Experience</i>	Increased applications from students in equity groups.	
	<i>Melbourne Connect - Low SES Schools Undergraduate Outreach</i>		
	<i>Careers Practitioners and Teacher Outreach</i>		
	<i>Year 9 and 10 Discipline Days</i>		
	<i>SEAMS – Strengthening Engagement and Achievement in Maths and Science, Year 8 and 9 Indigenous Program</i>		
ACCESS: Recruitment, pathways and selection mechanisms			
Provision and promotion of pathway programs, guaranteed entry, alternate selection criteria tools, scholarships, and integrated policy frameworks on equity-related issues.	<i>Access Melbourne - alternative selection program for disadvantaged students</i>	Greater than 20% of undergraduate students accessing the university through alternative selection criteria and pathways.	Access Melbourne enrolment numbers and offer statistics. Course enrolment numbers. Equity scholarships granted. Guaranteed accommodation offered from 2016. Internal analysis of access and participation numbers; government higher education statistics data.
	<i>SEAMS – Strengthening Engagement and Achievement in Maths and Science, VCE low SES and Indigenous Program</i>	Increased participation of equity group students, especially low SES and Indigenous students in STEM courses.	
	<i>DIGS – Diploma in General Studies</i>	Increased equity group access rates and participation ratios.	
	<i>Indigenous degree programs- Bachelor of Arts Extended, Bachelor of Science Extended</i>	Mechanisms and measurement framework for targeted equity access to graduate programs.	
	<i>Student Accommodation Project – meeting growing demand for high quality, affordable student housing</i>	Available accommodation for offer to equity group students based on need.	
	<i>Graduate Access Framework Development</i>		
	<i>English Language Bridging Program</i>		
	<i>Diagnostic English Language Assessment referrals</i>		
SUPPORT: Equality of Participation and Outcomes			
Provision and promotion of programs and support which ameliorate the challenges faced by students in groups of disadvantage - transition, retention, progress and success programs, scholarships, financial aid, employment, housing.	<i>ITAS Excellence Program</i>	Maximised success and retention ratios for equity groups.	Internal analysis of retention and success ratios; government higher education statistics data. Program participation numbers. Participant feedback. Graduate Destination Survey.
	<i>Academic Skills Programs</i>	Maximised completion rates for equity groups.	
	<i>Student Connect – transition and university experience advising program</i>		
	<i>Students at Work – student employment program prioritising disadvantaged students</i>	Maximised rates of graduate employment or postgraduate study.	
	<i>Destination Melbourne Transition Program</i>		
	<i>Academic English language programs</i>		
	<i>Equity Scholarships</i>		
	<i>Access Connections / Mentoring – connecting alumni with Low SES students</i>		
RESEARCH: Focused research on national equity priorities and issues			
Conducting and supporting focused and strategic research	<i>Centre for Study of Higher Education</i>	High quality equity in higher education research.	Reports and research contributions produced.
	<i>Melbourne Social Equity Institute</i>		

into equity in higher education to deepen understanding and inform practice with data-driven decision making.	<i>Refugee Studies Program</i>	Contribute to national policy formulation and evaluation.	
	Geocoding Project – enabling institutional level, geographical SES determination.		
ENGAGEMENT: Building socially inclusive communities and partnerships			
Cultivating a university community engaged in a range of programs and	<i>Leaders in Communities Award</i> – student leadership and volunteering award	Integrated and enriched University environment, attuned to social inclusion, equity and reducing	Participant feedback Number of participants / partnerships. Partnership outcomes met.
	Academic Subjects with a community service focus		
	<i>Community Partnerships and Networks- including Carlton Community, The Smith Family, Goulburn Valley Partnerships</i>		
	<i>Diversity Week – celebrating diversity through a range of socially inclusive activities</i>		
	Student organisations supporting women in non-traditional areas- <i>Women in: Physics / Science and Engineering / ICT; Banking on Women</i>		
	<i>Diversity and Inclusion Awards</i> – recognising and rewarding innovation and excellence in furthering diversity and social inclusion.		

ENABLERS
Integrated policy and planning frameworks on diversity related issues: Social Inclusion Plan; Reconciliation Action Plan; Indigenous Student Plan; Disability Action Plan; Mental Health Strategy; Graduate Equity Framework.
Equity Innovation Grants: Competitive seed funding for university special projects and initiatives to support Low SES students in higher education across the themes of Outreach, Access, Support, Research, and Engagement.
Social Inclusion Barometer – equity performance assessment publication
Social Inclusion Forum – annual forum examining issues of social inclusion, with expert academic and professional speakers
Social Inclusion Scholars and Practitioners' Network - A university wide 300+ member network for staff and associates with a common interest in social inclusion.
Group of Eight Social Inclusion Strategy Working Group.