

1. Equity outcomes and strategies

a) Outcomes for improving performance for equity groups from 2015-2017

- Further increase the participation rate of domestic undergraduate students from low socioeconomic backgrounds from 19.3% in 2013 to 21% in 2017.
- Increase the number of Indigenous students at La Trobe University from 156 in 2013 to 250 in 2017.

b) Strategies for achieving the outcomes

- Increase participation and achievement of under-represented students through equity scholarships targeted to low SES, regional, Indigenous, disability, and students from refugee backgrounds;
- Expand the UniBridges program that raises interest and capability in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics among year 10 -12 students in selected low SES and regional secondary schools;
- Expand the University's outreach programs, including delivering the School Partnerships Program to more schools and to lower year year levels where appropriate;
- Develop a university-wide approach to peer mentoring and academic advising;
- Implement the Indigenous La Trobe strategy, 'gamagoen yarrbat'. The Student domain of the Strategy aims to attract Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and support them through to completion. The Strategy encompasses: evidence-based recruitment methods; collaboration with the Koorie Academy of Excellence; niche programs for Indigenous cohorts based upon community identified needs and opportunities; place-based initiatives in the regions; and facilitated access to internal and external scholarships.
- Continue the University's commitment to core first year curricula including enquiry-based learning, groupwork and student engagement, an approach that has seen an increase in success rates;
- Ensure that equity is embedded within the La Trobe Essentials, including 'innovation and enterprise';
- Expand the University's Academic Early Warning System (Succeed@La Trobe);
- Raise participation through expansion of alternative entry pathways, including the 'Aspire' program;
- Continue the University's support for LEAP (Learn, Experience, Access Professions) to raise awareness, aspiration and participation;
- Work with partner TAFEs to: deliver new joint degree programs (such as within the Vic Gov funded Bendigo Tertiary Education Plan); and develop pathways and articulation models (such as through Melbourne Polytechnic) to raise participation of under-represented students, particularly those in the regions.

2. Evaluation Plan

- The Access and Achievement Research Unit will continue its role of program evaluation for internal projects such as outreach and school partnership activities, while building capacity among other units for self-evaluation through developing evaluation frameworks and internal communications;
- Access, participation, and success rates of under-represented students will continue to be monitored through the University's Student Information System, and Succeed@ La Trobe will capture rich data around the engagement and achievement levels of under-represented (and other) students.

3. Partnerships and collaboration

- The University: is a partner on LEAP; leads UniBridges which involves the Koorie Academy of Excellence, Quantum Victoria, and the Victorian Department of Education; is a partner with NMIT on Melbourne Polytechnic; and works with Bendigo TAFE and Victorian schools to deliver the Bendigo Tertiary Education Plan.