

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2015-2017

The University of Sydney

Our purpose

We work to increase the participation and success in higher education of students from all equity groups with particular focus on those from low socio-economic backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and students from regional areas. We do this because we want every young person:

- to know that there are endless opportunities to follow their passions through work and study and for this idea to be ever present as they go through schooling;
- to be able, at key transition points, to make informed decisions about the future that is right for them; and
- to participate and succeed in higher education

Our goals

1. To prepare, motivate and engage young people to, with the support of their communities, participate and succeed in higher education;
2. To provide pathways for people with the ability to succeed to access the University of Sydney;
3. To provide personal, financial and academic services to support their participation and success; and,
4. To foster organisational commitment to the increased participation and success of people from communities under-represented in higher education

We deliver

- An evidence informed and innovative programs that utilise the teaching, learning and research expertise of the University;
- Sustainable programs with measurable outcomes; and
- Collaborative approaches that value the input of partners and build on the strengths of organisations and individuals.

Strategic Direction 2015 – 2017

Access:

1. Expand the opportunities for young people from identified communities to access and participate at the University of Sydney.
2. Build upon our high quality widening participation program to schools in Western and South West Sydney and regional areas of NSW
3. Grow our dedicated program of engagements with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pre-tertiary students from around Australia
4. Continue our innovative collaborations within the education and non-for-profit sectors to maximize impact and utilise expertise
5. Broaden the support and resource base for widening participation and social inclusion programs at Sydney

Success:

1. Increased scholarship and financial support to support student access, participation and success
2. Highly valued orientation and first year support programs
3. Continued high quality personal and academic support to ensure success at rates similar to the rest of the University community
4. A culturally competent workforce of academic and professional staff at the University.

We will know we are successful when:

1. Increased numbers of students from partner schools/communities access and participate in higher education
2. Increased numbers of students from identified cohorts access the University of Sydney
3. Our excellent rates of student success continue to be met.