

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2018

The University of Queensland

- 1 Equity outcomes and strategies:** for improving outcomes for people from a low SES background.
 - Significantly increase the representation of students from under-represented backgrounds, including those from rural, regional and interstate locations as well as those facing socioeconomic disadvantage
 - Improve student retention and success rates of students from under-represented equity groups through a pro-active supportive approach
 - Increased participation (including those from regional and remote backgrounds), progression and completions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- 2 Key activities:** which will deliver an increase in the access, participation and success of people from a low SES background.

Access

We aim to raise the educational aspirations and capabilities of students from low-socio economic (low SES) and Indigenous backgrounds through a range of outreach activities focused on secondary schools in regions of strategic priority. Our strategies include:

- Increase awareness of tertiary study as a post school option among students in Years 7 – 12.
- Provide opportunities for students in younger years to experience university and interact with university students, helping to overcome perception barriers.
- Provide opportunities for parents to engage with university staff and students.
- Build the academic capacity of secondary school students, helping to prepare them for success in Years 11 and 12 and beyond.
- Build an endowment fund for scholarships to support those from a socioeconomically disadvantaged background and those from regional and remote backgrounds.
- Provide financial (scholarship) assistance for all commencing students who meet the financial hardship criteria.
- Deliver an Indigenous student outreach and aspiration building program that provides university experiential opportunities, with an emphasis on the professions – *InspireU*.
- Provide Alternative Entry (first semester and mid-year intake) and Alternative Entry MD Schemes for Indigenous students.

Participation, Progress and Attainment

We will refine the University's strategies to improve educational outcomes for students from equity groups. Our strategies currently include:

- Support programs for under-represented groups that assist with the transition to tertiary level study, including support relating to accommodation, financial issues, academic preparedness, and a sense of belonging. Additional services are provided to specifically target retention and success for academically vulnerable students.

- Targeted support for Indigenous students including a ‘whole of University’ approach to improve student retention and performance; pastoral, professional and social support; advice on financial support available; professional development and career opportunities; hosting social and cultural events; and academic and learning support and advice.
- Reviewing our approach to supporting student employability and careers, developing an institution-wide strategy that is inclusive of the needs of students from under-represented groups.

3 Evaluation: how the university plans to evaluate the effectiveness of the equity strategies.

- Success in increasing the participation, retention, and success rates of students from under- represented groups, both at a state and institutional level.
- Numbers of schools, organisations and students participating in outreach activities.
- Surveys of outreach activities measuring student study intentions, confidence for school and university study.

4 Partnerships and collaboration: who the university will partner and collaborate with and how this will improve equity performance.

UQ works with a range of government, industry, school, philanthropic and community partners in the delivery of its outreach and tertiary aspiration building programs.

The University of Queensland will continue to work in close partnership with secondary schools throughout Queensland to deliver an effective program of outreach initiatives that benefit students in Years 7 – 12 as well as teaching staff within the schools. UQ provides a range of support services targeted at students from equity groups across the student life cycle, including assistance with pre-entry and admissions, a comprehensive program of orientation events and activities to assist with the transition into University studies, and a range of learning, social, pastoral and professional development services. The University works closely with a range of industry, government and community partners in delivering these services.

UQ’s program of Indigenous outreach, engagement and student support is founded on the input and involvement of Indigenous people. We work collaboratively with Queensland schools, community organisations and elders, and industry partners in delivering outreach activities to Indigenous high school students, their families and communities. We work closely with these groups to raise Indigenous students’ aspiration for tertiary study and develop their capabilities to succeed. UQ’s student retention and support activities for Indigenous students are based on a ‘whole of University’ model, with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit working in collaboration with UQ schools, faculties and Student Affairs and Academic Services divisions to provide a cohesive range of integrated services.