

WIDENING PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

The Widening Participation Strategy is designed to support the University's Strategy 2030: "Our purpose is to challenge our students and staff to realise their talent and thrive, for their own benefit and for the wider good. By doing this, we will think and make the world better."

OUR VISION FOR WIDENING PARTICIPATION

We will work collectively as a community to continue to embed widening participation and social inclusion at the heart of the University and achieve equality of opportunity across the student lifecycle and beyond.

We will champion the transformative power of education to change lives and feel access to university should be possible for anyone with the commitment, passion and skills for Higher Education.

- We will partner with schools, colleges and other organisations to facilitate, support and realise aspirations
- We will enable our students to thrive and reach their full potential
- We will put widening participation, inclusion and social justice at the heart of the University and our work to drive forward equality of opportunity
- We will champion the transformative power of education and removal of barriers to opportunity both individually and collectively for wider societal benefit

WIDENING PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLES

Our principles are to ensure that:

1. We develop and deepen our strategic partnerships with schools, colleges and organisations within our communities and across the wider regions we operate in
2. We widen opportunities to access learning
3. We promote student engagement and the student voice
4. We will deliver a student centred approach to education that reflects the changing profile and needs of our students and delivers successful outcomes for all
5. We continue to develop an inclusive and positive learning environment and embed a whole institutional approach to promotion of mental health and wellbeing
6. We embed evaluation across the University and work collaboratively with our educational partners to use evidence to inform our educational approach and hone our understanding of equality of opportunity enablers
7. Our portfolio, curriculum and approach to learning and teaching and wider student experiences are inclusive and take into full consideration the diversity of our student body and their experiences
8. We empower positive change in our communities
9. We add to the national knowledge base through publishing our evaluations of access, participation and success interventions

WIDENING PARTICIPATION OBJECTIVES FOR 2030

The principal objectives for our widening participation activities align with the University's Strategy 2030, Education Strategy, International Strategy, Educational Partnerships Strategy and Equality and Diversity Policy. These are:

1. To work toward achieving equality of opportunity for under-represented groups
2. To deliver outreach activity and progression frameworks designed to build appetite and confidence for the benefits of HE
3. To offer a range of financial support measures that enable widening access by removing financial barriers to education for students from under-represented groups and support students throughout their studies
4. To ensure that our admissions processes are fair and ethical and introduce contextual admissions where this can support the removal of barriers to opportunity
5. To enable successful welcome, induction and transitions to and through university and foster inclusive and diverse learning communities
6. To work closely with schools in low participation areas and in identified subject areas where we can make a difference to the aspirations and attainment of learners
7. To extend our curriculum and skills portfolio through more diverse and flexible pathways and careers and employability experiences and opportunities that meet the needs of different learners throughout their learning journeys
8. To embed social inclusion and social mobility in our curriculum, pedagogy and quality and standards so as to foster and develop the curiosity, confidence and creativity of our students
9. To improve student success and outcomes by enhancing the student journey and experience and beyond through evidence led interventions and by taking a whole institutional approach

