Understanding Widening Participation & Fair Access to Higher Education

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Welcome

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Introductions

HELLO,
MY NAME IS ___
Aims and Objectives
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1. Understand WP and the challenge to support under-represented learners into higher education

2. How to identify & target WP Learners

3. The King’s model & top tips
Q: What support can universities offer students, parents, teachers and social workers to support their educational journey?
Widening Participation
Agree or Disagree?
“University is for everyone.”
“I will talk to younger (under 14s) & older (21 or above) people about university.”
“Parental engagement is a critical factor in widening access to university.”
“A degree from Oxford Brookes is just as valuable as a degree from the University of Oxford.”
What is WP?

• In groups...
“The most disadvantaged 20% of young people are still 6.8 times less likely to attend highly selective universities than the most advantaged 20%.”

Source: Office for Fair Access Strategic Plan, 2015
What is WP?

“We will seek out and nurture talent to ensure that our pursuit of academic excellence is enriched by the diverse experiences of our students. Students from under-represented backgrounds will be supported to access higher education through high quality, innovative and effective widening participation schemes.”
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What is WP?

- Strategic priority for the UK government to restructure higher education based on equality
- Mostly university-led through collaboration with schools and other institutions
- Universities are relatively autonomous in deciding their WP strategy
- Accountability via an Access Agreement
What is WP?
Targeting WP Learners
Activity A

Targeting support

1. On each post-it note, write down one group of people who are under-represented in Higher Education.

2. On another post-it note, write down how you would identify whether a student belonged to that group.
Assessing WP Status

First generation

POLAR
ACORN
FSM

School Performance

Special status
- LAC/ Care leaver
- Asylum seeker
- Estranged
- Disability
- Ethnicity
- Gender

Participation in WP scheme

Parental income
WP at King’s
# Programmes at King’s

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<td><strong>Pre-16 outreach</strong></td>
<td><strong>Post-16 outreach</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fair admissions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Positive student experience</strong></td>
<td><strong>Successful graduates</strong></td>
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<td>We will deliver aspiration-raising activities for local students that encourage higher education participation. King’s outreach programmes will support informed choice-making through impartial guidance.</td>
<td>We will deliver targeted outreach work with students in London and beyond to improve access to King’s College London and other universities. Activities will seek to enhance attainment and preparedness for higher study.</td>
<td>We will ensure that King’s College’s recruitment, selection and admissions processes are fair, transparent and identify the talent and potential of students from all backgrounds.</td>
<td>We will provide excellent student and education support services that seek to address the on-course needs of students from widening participation backgrounds.</td>
<td>We will deliver tailored support to improve the employability and career outcomes of students from widening participation backgrounds.</td>
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Our Aims

• Targeting and Evaluation

• London focus

• Commitment to encouraging education at King’s & beyond

• Sustained Impact
• Y12 and Y13 (Around 280 per year, 40 per stream)

• Variable Offer & Special Admissions Consideration

• Start-up Scholarship

• Eligibility:
  - Have achieved at least 8 A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent, including English Language and Maths, with a minimum of 5 A or A* grades
  - Do not have parents or carers who have studied at university in the UK or abroad.
  - Study at a London-based state school
A family member told me
A friend told me
A K+ postcard at my school/college
A K+ poster in my school/college
Another student who is currently on K+ spoke at my school/college
I found it by searching on the internet
My teacher or a member of school/college staff told me
Other
Someone from King's spoke at my school/college
Someone who's already on the programme told me
King’s Scholars

Helping young people explore university and beyond
Advancing Access

- Virtual Conferences
- Case Studies
- Webinars
- Classroom Materials, Presentations & Activities
- Advice, Guidance & Other Resources
- Links to universities
King’s Advocate Award

**Aims**

- Support access
- Increase engagement
- Create school links
- Establish a network
- Introduce best practice
King’s Advocate Award

Benefits

• CPD
• £500 start-up bursary*
• Project Grant
• Join a network of teachers across London
• Official recognition from King’s College London
Next Steps
Stakeholder mapping

Team building and increasing capacity
List all of the individuals who are currently, or should be, engaged in the work of widening participation.

Consider and discuss …
# Building a programme of activity

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One thing you will do

One thing you will share
Thank you