

WIDENING PARTICIPATION POLICY 2018-2025 (VERSION 4.0)

1 University of Bolton, Academic Centre- Ras Al Khaimah Vision

- 1.1 The University acknowledges the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body and recognizes the need to increase and widen participation in higher education so that the most able students from any background are able to access and enjoy the best possible student experience within our institution in order to succeed in graduate employment.
- 1.2 The University also believes that it is part of our social responsibility to support community groups and raise aspirations and improve attainment among potential students in order to sustain professional life.

2 Context

- 2.1 UOBACERAK has long been proactive in widening participation since 1998.
- 2.2 This strategy recognizes the need to provide a coherent framework for widening participation and outreach activity at all levels and across all academic areas and central professional services of the University.

3 Aims

3.1 To support the University strategy 2018-25 and its imperatives:

- Quality - in particular to attract high caliber students from any background that are able to access and enjoy the best possible student experience at UOBACERAK
- International Impact - in particular to further internationalize our curriculum and student experience for all students, regardless of their background
- Collegiality - in particular a commitment to supporting all our students equally
- Professionalism - in particular ensuring that all policies and procedures are transparent, fair and ethical and address the WP and outreach agenda
- Sustainability - in particular to raise entry standards and increase application numbers in line with the widening participation and outreach strategy.

3.2 To implement the five key priorities for widening participation and outreach:

- On-campus taster activities aimed at aspiration and attainment raising as well as offering information, advice and guidance.
- University based residential 'summer' schools which target students from groups under- represented in certain subject areas and within higher education more generally
- Tutoring and mentoring schemes with local schools and Universities
- Off-campus presentations in schools and Universities aimed at raising aspirations and attainment, as well as offering information, advice and guidance.
- Targeted compact scheme designed to recruit students to the University from under- represented groups.

3.3 To create a common framework for recording and reporting on current widening participation and outreach activity across the six key themes of:

- Widening participation & outreach activity and initiatives including the targeting of particular student cohorts
- Partnership and engagement including schools, Universities, employers and the wider community
- Access including the use of contextual data and flexible admission schemes

- Learning and teaching including changes to assessment strategies and the use of student-centered learning
- Employability including promotion of the professional training year and progression to employment
- Targets, evaluation and impact including the use of data to assess recruitment, retention and employability strategies

4 Implementing the widening participation and outreach strategy

- 4.1** The University will ensure that resources, both financial and material, are maximized in order to support widening participation and outreach activity and that effective use of these resources is made.
- 4.2** The University will keep under constant review the financial support that it makes available to students.
- 4.3** The University will ensure that the faculties and relevant central professional services develop their own strategies and policies to implement and manage the priorities identified above whilst reflecting their own particular focus and expertise.
- 4.4** Relevant central professional services will, as appropriate, adopt a targeted approach to their activities in order to ensure that limited resources are used effectively.
- 4.5** Relevant central professional services will adopt an evidence-based approach to evaluating the outcomes and impacts of their strategies and policies whilst recognizing that not every activity need be evaluated in equal depth.
- 4.6** The University's Planning Department will provide Management Information to assist in monitoring key widening participation performance indicators and progress towards the achievement of strategic objectives.

Review history

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