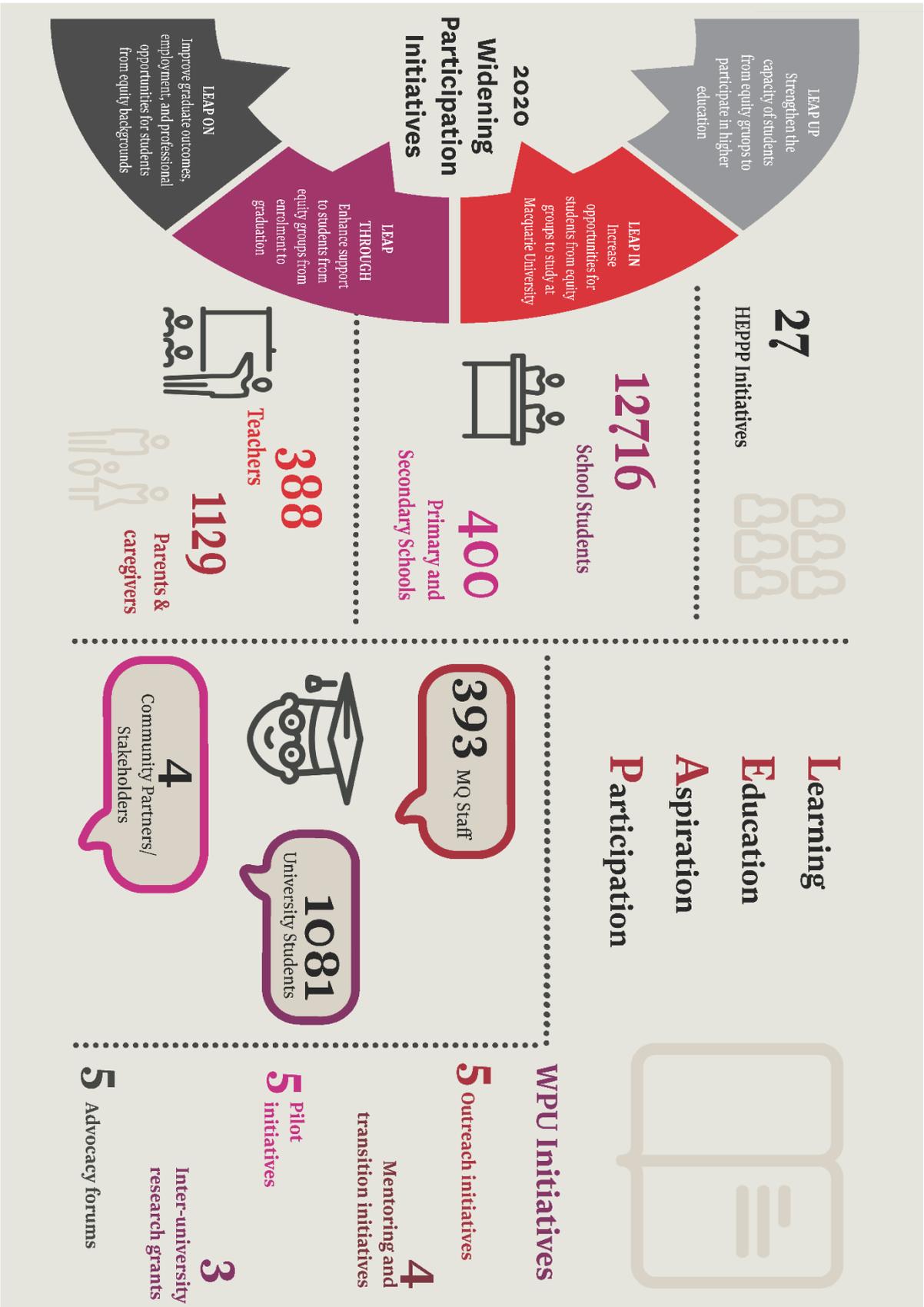


Widening Participation Highlights 2020



2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit



2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

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2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

Message from the Pro Vice-Chancellor Programs and Pathways

Colleagues, friends and supporters of Widening Participation at MQ, I am pleased to present this account of the achievements realised by the Widening Participation Unit (WPU) during 2020.

The Unit has built on the excellent work conducted in previous years to manage the challenges of the last year. The team put a great deal of work into translating existing programs into online offerings and ensuring students could still be supported through this exceptional period.

The outcomes of the Unit's efforts reflect the collaborative nature of the team and their focus on building positive and productive relations with our stakeholder partners. Their help in co-designing programs was invaluable.

Our engaging student initiatives follow evidence-based research aimed at raising student success through both academic and social engagement in an educational journey.

Despite the disruption of lockdowns and understandable school concern, our popular LEAP ROADS and InRoads Programs for Regional and Remote Students was able to be delivered in November. MQ academics, professional staff and students gave up their time to travel to the Broken Hill area in far Western NSW, meeting nearly 900 school students plus community members in collaboration with partners including the Country Universities Centre and TAFE NSW.

Collaborations with internal partners across MQ and our external partners continue with the projects including mentoring programs, Dunmore Lang College rural student support (both of which have been especially valuable during this period to support students during what has been an especially challenging year for many), Junior Science Academy, National Indigenous Science Education Program, 2SER Radio, the Australian Museum and the Smith Family.

My thanks to the WP team whose passion and dedication to our equity groups is inspirational. Dr Stuart Upton continues to provide excellent leadership of the Unit alongside his other responsibilities within the Office of the PVC(P&P).

Reflecting on WPU's achievements during the COVID-19 emergency of 2020 highlights the Unit's agility to respond and adapt to the changing dynamic of the higher education environment. Beyond the achievements outlined in this report, I hold great anticipation for the Unit's impact during the current emergency and in the years to come.

PROFESSOR SEAN BRAWLEY, PFHEA, FRSN
PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR PROGRAMS AND PATHWAYS

2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

The Widening Participation Unit

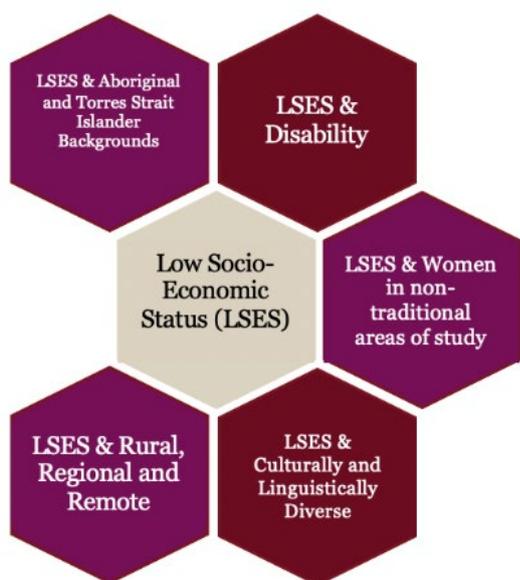
The Widening Participation Unit works to meet the University's commitment to the national widening participation agenda, with the goal of equitable access and participation in higher education learning.

The WPU's initiatives engage disadvantaged and underrepresented students with enriching educational opportunities that encourage them to realise their personal potential.

The WPU's mission is also to broaden the community of equitable practice, through advocacy, collaboration, and partnerships. Broadening the community of practice, by sharing awareness of the challenges that underrepresented and disadvantaged students face, improves inclusivity in higher education and has long term benefits and impacts on society at large.

The WPU's initiatives are primarily funded by the Government's Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP). HEPPP funding encourages the development and implementation of strategies that improve student access to undergraduate courses, and that promote retention and completion rates.

Target strategies aim to empower the following categories of disadvantaged and underrepresented students:



Widening Participation Unit Initiatives

In 2020, the University's Widening Participation Unit (WPU) delivered, or partnered in the delivery of 29 initiatives.

Disadvantaged and underrepresented students were engaged across the life cycle of their learning journey.

Primary and high school students were empowered with knowledge relating to alternate learning and entry pathways into university; and encouraged in their confidence to pursue higher education learning.

Students beginning higher education were supported through their transition with academic preparedness and connected with opportunities, academics, and services to enhance their learning outcomes, student experience, employment-ready skills and networks.

Learning, Education, Aspiration and Participation (LEAP)

The WPU has designed and delivered research-informed initiatives for students from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds since 2011. In that time, thousands of students have engaged with WPU initiatives that are delivered under the Learning, Education, Aspiration, Participation (LEAP) banner. LEAP initiatives seek to engage students across four identified widening participation pillars.

LEAP Learning, Education, Aspiration, Participation			
Pillar 1	Pillar 2	Pillar 3	Pillar 4
LEAP UP Outreach	LEAP IN Pathways	LEAP THROUGH Participation	LEAP ON Impact
Strengthen the capacity of students from equity groups to participate in higher education.	Increase opportunities for students from equity groups to study at Macquarie University.	Enhance support to students from equity groups, from enrolment through to graduation.	Improve graduate outcomes, employment, and professional opportunities for students from equity groups.

2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

LEAP UP – Refugee Mentoring and Transition



In 2020, the LEAP UP – Macquarie Mentoring Program was set to be delivered at six partner schools. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the program was suspended for 2020. The LEAP UP team moved online, continuing to provide both high school mentees and university mentors with educational resources.

LEAP ON(line)

- Online video and worksheet resources created in collaboration with the MQ Learning Innovation Hub
- Provided high school students with an online, sustainable resource to assist with navigating pathways, informed decision making, study tips and tricks, and advice for physical and mental wellbeing.

“Huge thanks for this fantastic resource. It will be very valuable and definitely used.”

-Teacher recipient, LEAP Partner School

LEAP IN Transition

- Information and resources for year 12 students about navigating their post-school options the supports available through the transition from high school into higher education.
- Interactive information session on pathways, courses, scholarships, fees, and support services
- Express Lecture workshop presented by MQ Business School National Economics and Business Education Program (NEBEP) team

LEAP Discover University

- Online information panel for 14 Year 10 students from Auburn Girls High School
- Interactive forum with university student ambassadors, exploring individual learning journeys and experiences.
- Provided high school students with an insight into life as a university student – balancing learning with other responsibilities – meeting academic expectations, participating in extra-curricular activities and life on campus.

STARTTS Workshop

- Twenty LEAP UP university mentors participated in an online workshop delivered by NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS)
- Aimed at enhancing mentor skills and awareness of unique challenges faced by people from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds.
- Workshop modules included: *The refugee experience; impacts of trauma, cultural competency, how to respond to a disclosure*

2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

LEAP THROUGH Refugee Transition Support

An initiative engaging students from refugee and asylum-seeker backgrounds with academic preparedness, the confidence to actively participate in higher education learning, and a support network within the university to enhance students' sense of belonging.

2020 Engagement

- 39 students from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds
- Ongoing engagement with Transition Support Officer
- Targeted orientation at beginning of academic sessions 1 & 2
- Connection to support services (student wellbeing, career and employment services, academic support, scholarships and prizes)

2020 Highlights

- Enabled students who otherwise may be financially excluded from higher education participation to utilise their capacities as learners and pursue their aspirations for tertiary education.

Student feedback also confirmed the initiative assisted them in:

- Accessing the network of support services available internal and external to the university
- Feeling connected to a learning community of peers and academics
- Feeling supported at university

“The Transition Support Program helps me with all university aspects. [The transition officer] takes care of all aspects and doubts I have during the semester. Even in relation to emotional aspects. I am very grateful.”

- Participating student, 2020

Career Seekers Internships

- Collaboration between MQ and Career Seekers enabled students to participate in a paid internship, within their academic discipline.
- Enhanced students' preparedness for professional employment
- Empowered students with job-ready skills, career networks, and professional experiences.

English Language Centre

- Collaboration with the English Language Centre to offer RTP students English language workshops and one-on-one language consultations

“Consultations with the English Language Centre were really helpful... I felt more confident when I got helpful feedback. I really appreciate having the opportunity to consult with the English Language Centre.”

- Transition Program Student, 2020

2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

LEAP Outreach

LEAP Roadshow



Regional primary and secondary school students, their teachers and communities were engaged in a university “taster” experience, delivered at schools and within the community by the Roadshow team. Taster sessions and community events included information on opportunities available in higher education, mock lectures, and community sports days.

2020 Engagement

- 2 NSW regions: Riverina and Far West
- 866 school students, teachers, and community members
- 6 schools
- External partners included:
 - Country Universities Centre
 - TAFE NSW
 - Headspace
 - St John Ambulance Cadet Division
 - GWS Giants Netball and AFL Academy

2020 Highlights

- Following the disruptions of 2019/2020 summer bushfires and COVID-19, the Roadshow was able to connect isolated regional communities with enriching educational experiences that had not otherwise been accessible during 2020
- Enabled MQ to create deeper and more meaningful connections with regional areas, students, schools and communities
- Fostering collaboration across the MQ network
- Developing strong partnerships with external stakeholders.

“The feedback was very positive from students, parents and teaching staff. Particularly around the resources brought out to small communities and the exceptional quality and knowledge of the presenters.”

- Collaborative stakeholder feedback, 2020

2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

LEAP inROADS



Senior high school students who have previously participated in LEAP ROADShows engaged in an opportunity to extend their university experiences by attending an on-campus experience initiative. In 2020, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the on-campus experience was redesigned into a Virtual InRoads.

The InRoads team travelled to LEAP Partner schools on the NSW Mid-North Coast to coordinate the delivery of the 2-day virtual program.

2020 Engagement

- 103 High School students
- 2 LEAP partner high schools
- 2-day virtual inROADS with activities such as conferences, MQ academic-run Q&A sessions, interactive sessions with student services providers and MQ student ambassadors

2020 Highlights

- Enhanced awareness of the range of learning options available at university
- Empowering student confidence in their capacity to participate in higher education learning
- Enhanced student motivation to consider higher education as both academically and financially possible



2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

Other LEAP Outreach

LEAP Aurora Masterclasses

- A series of online workshops aimed at enriching the learning experiences of regional and remote students
- Delivered in collaboration with AURORA College
- Engaged 170 primary school students and 176 high school students
- 8 interactive online workshops in Ancient History and literature

LEAP into Genetics

- Regional and remote senior high school students doing HSC Genetics Depth Study were provided with targeted academic resources and opportunities to access to lab equipment to explore genetic technologies.
- Pilot aimed at providing students with interactive lab experiences to better contextualise HSC biology learning with real-life research projects
- Development of online academic resources and workshops
- Participation in LEAP inROADS Virtual with delivery of interactive fruit DNA workshop
- Participation in STEM learning and career path forum sessions

Lego Educational LEAP Robotics

- A pilot initiative aimed at introducing regional students to robotics, computational thinking, coding, and engineering concepts.
- Piloted in-school with 1 primary school and as an interactive online workshop series with 1 high school
- Designed in collaboration with MQ Junior Science Academy and LEAP FIRST Robotics
- Delivered by the ROADShow team with support from MQ Faculty of Science and Engineering student ambassadors



LEAP Student ambassador, LEAP Robotics

2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

2020 LEAP Pilot & Community Engagement Initiatives

Australian Museum (Holiday Workshops and SST)

Continuing the partnership formed in 2019, the WPU supported the Australian Museum's delivery of their National Science Week program - Sydney Science Trail.

Sydney Science Trail was the Australian Museum's major school and community event in 2020 and aimed at engaging stakeholder groups in informative and interactive STEAM-based initiatives (incorporating the Arts as a means through which to engage with STEM concepts). The 2020 Sydney Science Trail was delivered virtually by the Australian Museum and their event partner, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney.

2020 Engagement

- WPU supported the development of content for the online Sydney Science Trail program
- 38 MQ LEAP schools were invited to participate in the week-long online events delivered during National Science Week
- 5824 school students, 268 parents, carers and community members
- WPU also supported 20 places for students from within our community network to participate in face-to-face holiday workshops at the Australian Museum

Ryde Junior Scientists

Working in partnership with local community stakeholders, Ryde Junior Scientists enables young learners to participate in STEAM workshops delivered by the Macquarie Junior Science Academy. Through JSA workshops, students to explore interactive STEAM concepts that aimed to inspire curiosity and passion for learning in STEAM fields.

The WPU also collaborated with Relationships Australia and AP Penny Van Bergen from the MQ School of education to offer parents a series of online workshops aimed at engaging parents/ carers with information relating to the benefits of higher education learning, and strategies to support their children in their learning and wellbeing development.

2020 Engagement

- 70 primary-aged students
- 31 parents/carers
- Collaborative stakeholders included City of Ryde Council, Relationships Australia, Mission Australia, and the MQ Junior Science Academy
- Families experiencing financial hardship and vulnerability were invited to participate in workshops free of charge

2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

LEAP WORDS: I Am Made of Words



A WPU pilot initiative aimed at inspiring Year 7 students to find their voice by exploring different forms of written expression. Facilitated by Story Factory with support from MQ student co-facilitators, the workshop engaged students' creative side as they delved into their own identities – deconstructing and reconstructing the many facets of who “I Am”.

2020 Engagement

- Engaged 2 regional partner schools and 1 new Sydney-based partner school
- Aligned with NESA Stage 4 outcomes
- LEAP WORDS: I Am Made of Words was adapted into an on-campus school holiday workshop for primary-aged students. LEAP WORDS: Someday Stories engaged students in creative writing tasks while also providing the opportunity to experience a university campus.

2020 Highlights

- Provided an enriching educational opportunity to build students' literacy skills
- Enhanced students' confidence in literacy skills and promoted engagement with learning and expression through creative writing
- Empowered student learning and enhanced their capacity to actively and confidently participate in their learning community

“During the program, I enjoyed being able to share my ideas. Throughout the program, they asked questions, so we were able to construct a poem. Being given the ideas, I was able to improve on my descriptive skills which allowed my poem to be more visually descriptive.”

“With the opportunity to learn with the university mentors, they welcomed us which made me feel more comfortable to share my ideas. When I shared my ideas, they gave me feedback that was able to make me feel more confident with my work.”

– Year 7 LEAP WORDS participants

2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit



2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP)

Since 2011, the WPU has developed strong collaborative relationships with teams across the University as well as external partners who share an interest in furthering opportunities for students from disadvantaged and or underrepresented backgrounds.

The following HEPPP funded programs were delivered in 2020 by a range of dedicated University teams in various portfolios and faculties, along with external partners.

National Indigenous Science Education Program (NISEP)

- Engages primary and secondary students in interactive science-based workshops enabling active learning and new perspectives to STEM learning.
- Aimed at enhancing students' academic, leadership, and cultural capacities, while motivating and inspiring toward higher education STEM streams.
- Delivered by Faculty of Science and Engineering
- 1280 students (880 secondary, 400 primary) from 31 schools participated.
- 40 MQ student mentors participated

Country Education Foundation Regional and Remote Student Engagement

- Engaged students from RRR backgrounds through pre-university stages and transitioning into university learning
- Aimed to engage students with information on pathway access to university and financial scholarship opportunities (co-funded by CEF and WPU).
- Creation of *Make it IMPOSSIBLE* online resource to empower pre-university students with tools to navigate higher education learning opportunities, pathways, and scholarships.
- 11 MQ students received co-funded scholarships
- Delivered by Country Education Foundation

Dunmore Lang College (DLC) RRR and Indigenous Student Support Program

- Outreach and Transition support for students from rural, regional, and remote, or Indigenous backgrounds
- Connected students, families, and communities with information and resources that enhanced awareness of the benefits of university study.
- Engagement with students transitioning into the university learning journeys through ongoing engagement with wellbeing and academic supports, and professional skills workshops, with additional targeted cultural support for Indigenous students.
- Targeted cultural support for Indigenous students
- Delivered by Dunmore Lang College

Learning for Life Scholarship and Support Program – The Smith Family

- Encouraged students to continue engaging in education by providing financial, academic, and mentoring support, mitigating potential hurdles that may limit participation in education.
- Access to a Tertiary Coordinator who provided wellbeing and other supports to encourage students to remain engaged in learning.
- Cadetship to Career – A career transition program to equip students with industry exposure, professional networks, and work-ready skills through a paid internship with a Smith Family Corporate Partner.
- 20 MQ *Learning for Life* scholarship recipients; 3 MQ students participated in the Cadetship to Careers program.
- Delivered by The Smith Family

2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

Success in STEM

- A student-delivered transition and mentoring initiative first-year university students studying undergraduate STEM degrees.
- First-year students paired with senior mentors to encourage positive transition through first year of tertiary study and promote academic engagement and peer networking.
- 19 first-year students from LSES backgrounds, studying STEM-based degrees participated as mentees. 3 MQ students trained as 'Success Coaches', providing peer-led mentoring and academic support.
- Delivered by the MQ Faculty of Science and Engineering.

Academic Mentoring Suite

- The academic mentoring suite aimed to foster social and academic networks to enhance student experiences and academic confidence in learning; and connect students with academics in complementary academic disciplines.
- Making Connections – Connected 22 undergraduate students from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds.
- Waranara Mentoring – Engaged 16 domestic, undergraduate students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.
- Pasifika Connections – Engaged 7 domestic, undergraduate students from Pasifika backgrounds.
- 34 MQ academics participated as mentors.

Macquarie Undergraduate Research Internship (MURI) Program

- Student-led program that engaged 10 undergraduate students from LSES background in paid research internships, supervised by an academic sponsor.
- Program aimed to enhance student retention in higher education learning by offering capacity for students to connect research skills with practical applications and develop professional networks with research academics in their field of study.

Future Students Regional Student Engagement

- Engaged students in RRR areas of NSW with in-school and on-campus information, career workshops, and face-to-face consultations on higher education pathways and university learning.
- Students were engaged both in-person (through regional career expos and school visits) and remotely (virtual career markets, online school presentations and webinars, outreach pathways consultations, virtual on-campus events)
- Engaged 2036 regional high school students.
- Delivered by Future Students.



2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

LEAP Robotics

- Engaged primary and secondary students with interactive STEM and robotics technologies, enabling students to explore team-based creative design and computational thinking of robotic constructs in meeting solution-based challenges.
- The LEAP Robotics initiative included the provision of robotics equipment for schools and weekly robotics mentoring for students, delivered by the LEAP Robotics team to build students' skills and knowledge.
- 12 FIRST LEGO League teams were formed to compete in state-based competitions.
- Engaged 108 school students (51 primary, 57 secondary), from 6 schools across NSW

Indigenous Outreach and Transition Suite

- Aims to engage students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds from the start of high school and through their transition into university.
- CLS (Culture, Leadership, Scholarship) program (in-school) – Engages students in stages 4 & 5 in a strengths-based initiative celebrating indigenous knowledge and culture
- Camp Aspire – Students in stage 6 are invited to stay on campus to build familiarity and promote experiential engagement with the University learning environment
- Delivered by Walanga Muru (the University's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Unit)

Macquarie Media Mentoring (MMM)

- Scaffolded initiative designed to engage undergraduate students from LSES and equity cohorts who undertake media studies at MQ
- Scaffolded 3-year program
- Empowered students from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds to actively participate in the media industry, assisting to reshape and influence the discourse of representation as more inclusive

Bridging Grants and Accommodation Scholarships

- Offered to commencing and continuing MQ domestic undergraduate students from equity backgrounds
- Co-funded with Dunmore Lang College, accommodation places available at DLC
- One-off \$1000 Bridging Grant payment allocated to students from equity cohorts
- Scholarships promote student engagement and retention in education by reducing financial strain



2020 Highlights

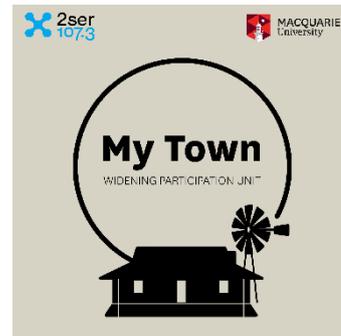
Widening Participation Unit

Our Community

My Town

My Town is a collection of personal narratives shared by university students from regional and rural backgrounds. They capture aspirations, motivations, experiences, and reflections of 20 students who left the familiarity of home to pursue city-based higher education. The result is a rich array of films and podcasts, each carefully curated to explore the various facets of RRR life, education and the journey to and through university.

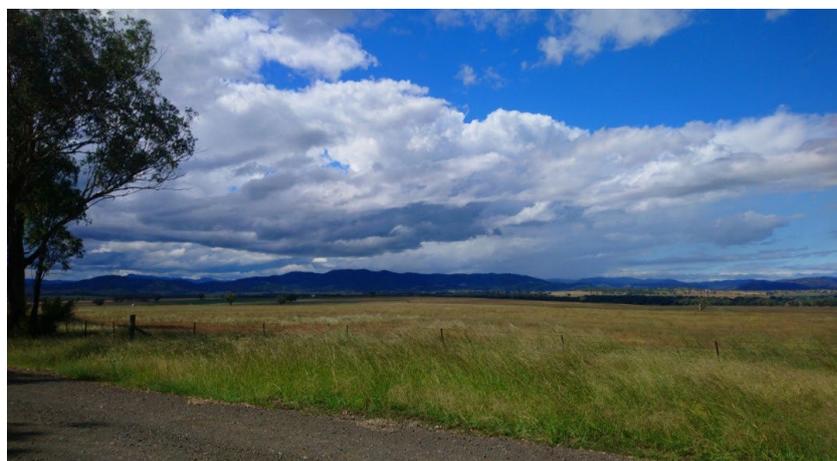
The stories of our *My Town* students will resonate with audiences from RRR areas, providing them with inspiring points of reference and empowering them to consider their own future possibilities. Other audiences will also connect with *My Town* and gain a deeper appreciation of the opportunities and challenges faced by students from RRR areas. Using the power of storytelling, *My Town* shapes meaning for individuals and illustrates the maps and pathways to assist other RRR students in navigating their own educational journeys.



Visit mq.edu.au/about/leap/mytown for podcasts and short films.

2020 Engagement

- Personal narratives from 20 MQ student from RRR backgrounds
- 5 MQ Media students and PACE interns curated the stories and shared their experiences
- Collaboration with MQ's resident community radio station – 2SER
- 6 Podcasts & 5 short films



2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

Everyone Belongs



An initiative exploring themes of community and belonging as perceived by members of Macquarie University’s learning community during the closure of the campus in 2020. Everyone Belongs is a collection of over 100 auto-photographic entries and perspectives from university students, alumni, and professionals. Collectively, they create a rich array of experiences that celebrate and affirm our sense of belonging and reflect on what we can do better as a community.

2020 Engagement

- 62 MQ students/alumni
- 46 MQ staff
- 7 PACE student interns

“Our individual well-being is intimately connected both with that of all others and with the environment within which we live”

Dalai Lama

Library of Belonging



MQ Students / Alumni



MQ Professionals

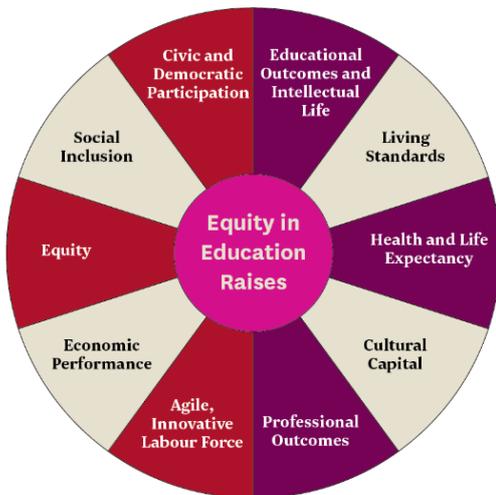


MQ Academics

2020 Highlights

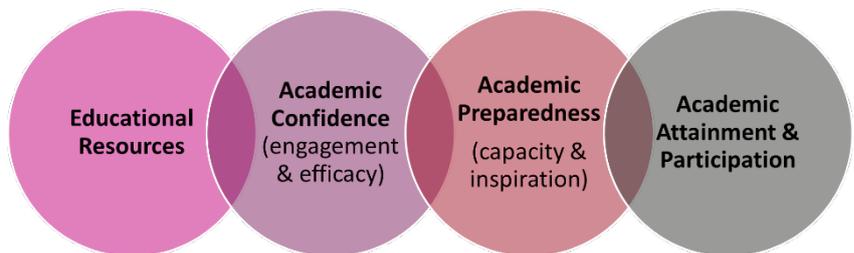
Widening Participation Unit

Community of Practice



The WPU is committed to enhancing awareness of issues surrounding equity and equitable practice in education, for students from underrepresented or disadvantaged backgrounds. Building the community of practice with a diverse range of partners and stakeholders is a key objective of widening participation.

Our community of practice works to enable students disadvantaged by low socioeconomic circumstances to access educational resources can lead to higher participation in lifelong learning



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Working with our network of partners, WPU hosted and co-hosted the following workshops to:

- Enhance awareness around equity and diversity
- Promote discussion and collective approaches to improve the challenges faced by disadvantaged students.
- Encourage a broader and embedded practice of equity across the institution and community
- Build community of practice

HEPPP Community Forum

- Engaged the equity-focused community and university stakeholders
- Aimed at promoting connection across the network to better understand impacts of engagement with equity cohorts, best practice for enhancing support services, collaborations, and opportunities

Learning in the Time of COVID-19

- Responses aimed at minimising adverse COVID-19 impacts, and the positive approaches to encouraging community resilience.

Allied Networks for Enhanced Equity

- Support and engagement strategies that developed out of COVID-19
- Spotlight on the importance of allied networks and the role they play in enhancing equity across our community.

Student Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Network (SEID)

- WPU Co-hosted 3 SEID working group meetings with the University's Student Inclusion and Diversity Team
- 70 MQ stakeholders from student-facing support service teams
- Aimed at broadening the community of practice by enhancing awareness of student diversity and how to best respond to their needs, fostering a greater sense of community, inclusion, and participation

2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

ADVOCACY IN ACTION (CONTINUED)

Parent Workshops

- 7 parent workshops delivered in collaboration with Relationships Australia and MQ academic, Associate Professor Penny Van Bergen
- Workshops aimed at engaging parents and caregivers with information surrounding the benefits of higher education learning and supporting their children's current learning and wellbeing development.

ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTION

The following academic posters were created by the WPU.

Everyone Belongs: Understanding what belonging looks and feels like to members of the MQ community.

Claire Flood, Olivia Zen-Aloush, Sarah Conlon, Carolina Morison and Jindri De Silva

Understanding what Belonging looks and feels like to members of the MQ community
Claire Flood, Olivia Zen-Aloush, Sarah Conlon, Carolina Morison and Jindri De Silva
Macquarie University, Widening Participation Unit, Sydney NSW 2109

Exploring belonging
Workshop with the Widening Participation Unit (WPU) was set out in SL 2020 with a quest to understand and conceptualise the sense of belonging within the MQ community by its members.

Program participants

Professional Staff	30%
Students	43%
Alumni	19%
Faculty	8%

What has Covid taught us about belonging?
The Covid-19 pandemic has challenged our experience of belonging within the MQ community. The increased loneliness and isolation experienced through participant responses demonstrated that this time has created new opportunities to engage with others, highlighting a newfound appreciation of belonging within the community.

What we learned from the MQ community
Belonging is a natural human desire (Chatters, 2006), individual long for a deep connection with others that makes them feel safe, comfortable and included. The survey results demonstrated that belonging is an extremely significant factor in individuals' everyday lives in numerous ways as...

1. Creates a sense of comfort and security
2. Builds confidence
3. Keeps us connected
4. Inspires and motivates

What makes us the MQ community
The University is committed to inclusion and the opportunity to participate in transformative learning. Our capacity to welcome and maintain a culture of caring for the wellbeing of all members of the community (our knowledge, a growing of future diversity).

Belonging in 1 word by participants

Kindred-by-Choice, Family, Freedom, Welcoming, Home, Support, Contentment, Acceptance, Bias, Together, Liked, Restorative, Awesome, Warmth, Kindness, Responsibility, Sympathy, Attachment, Empathy, Connection, Inclusive, Understanding, Inclusion, Confidence, Security, Excitement, Love, Trust, Needs, Appreciated, Intercounnected, Community, Teamwork, (Grounded), Safe, Comfortable, People, Wholesome, Happiness.

References
Chatters, C.P. (2006). Study on 'What Belonging is' in SL and Community. Division of Theoretical Psychology, 27(2), 347-357.
Chatters, C.P. (2010). The Psychology of Belonging. In: The Psychology of Belonging.

NCSEHE Grants

The WPU's Evaluations team are collaborative recipients of two NCSEHE grants awarded in 2020.

COVID-19 online learning landscapes and CALDMR students: opportunities and challenges.

- Addresses the challenges and opportunities of remote learning for CALDMR students, their teachers, and other university support staff

University responses to enhancing equity in the post-COVID landscape.

- Explores the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences on the Australian higher education sector, particularly in relation to domestic equity cohorts

2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

COMMITMENT TO HUMANITARIAN VALUES

In line with the University's commitment to inclusivity, the WPU actively continued its support for students from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds. These students are often made to feel vulnerable by their unique and compounding challenges as well as their limited capacity to access resources. To enable these students in their pursuit of learning, the WPU were instrumental in the following initiatives.

Asylum Seeker Sponsorship

- A streamlined process supporting students from humanitarian backgrounds to gain access to undergraduate degrees without the financial burden of international student fees.
- 10 students were successfully supported by the University
- Key MQ stakeholders were engaged in enabling the Asylum Seeker Fee Waiver Scholarship including: the Office of the DVCA, WPU, MUIC, and the scholarships and Prizes Unit

"I'm an asylum seeker and not able to pay university tuition fees. Without this scholarship I was not able to continue my education."

"The Asylum Seekers Fee Waiver Scholarship gave me the opportunity to study at Macquarie university and get more knowledge. I'm grateful and looking forward more opportunities that the scholarship will allow me to assess. It is giving me the opportunity of a life."

- Asylum Seeker Sponsorship Recipients

Financial Needs Grant

- One-off grant payments initiated by the WPU in 2019 to help alleviate acute financial hardship experienced by students from refugee and/or asylum seeker backgrounds
- Grants to the value of \$1000 to assist with costs associated with studies
- Administered by both the WPU and the Scholarships and Prizes Unit
- Funding of the Financial Needs Grant raised through initiatives delivered by the WPU including sales of The Sweetest Memory Merchandise
- 16 students provided with FNG assistance during 2020

"I have no words to describe how grateful I am to receive the Financial Needs Grant. I am not having a regular income at the moment and with the funds I could invest in a better internet connection to be able to access the zoom classes and also buy a printer. With the help of Macquarie University I felt less financially stressed and was able to focus on my studies again."

- 2020 FNG recipient

SECTOR REPRESENTATION

The WPU participated in the following high-level activities in non-government organisations operating in the equity space.

Refugee Education Special Interest Group

- Cross-sectoral advocacy network committed to furthering educational opportunities for people from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds
- WPU represented MQ in the RESIG Steering Committee as the Secretariat

Equity Practitioners in Higher Education Australasia (EPHEA)

- Macquarie University holds institutional membership to EPHEA

2020 Highlights

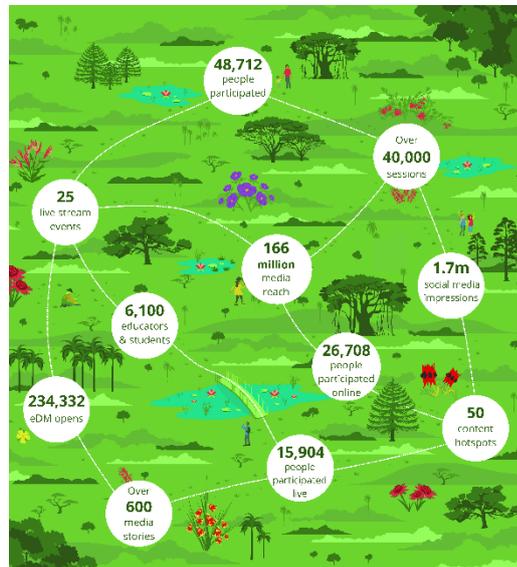
Widening Participation Unit

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Universities are central agents to the national widening participation agenda. Genuine improvements to equity in education for Australia's most underrepresented and disadvantaged students can however only be realised when the commitment to achieve this is shared broadly amongst a community of partners. The WPU values the importance of strong relationships, achieved through close working partnerships, with a community to collectively create meaningful impact and opportunities for students.

In 2020, the WPU's external community of partners included:

- 2SER Radio
- ABC Broken Hill
- Asylum Seeker Centre
- Aurora College
- Australian Museum
- Broken Hill Netball Association
- CareerSeekers
- City of Ryde
- Clontarf Foundation
- Community Migrant Resource Centre
- Country Education Foundation of Australia
- Country University Centres
- Dunmore Lang College
- Equity Practitioners in Higher Education Australasia (EPHEA)
- GIANTS AFL
- Mission Australia
- NSW Department of Education
- NSW TAFE
- Refugee Council of Australia
- Relationships Australia
- Robert Menzies College
- Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARRTS) NSW
- Settlement Services International
- Story Factory
- The Barrier Daily Truth
- The Smith Family



2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

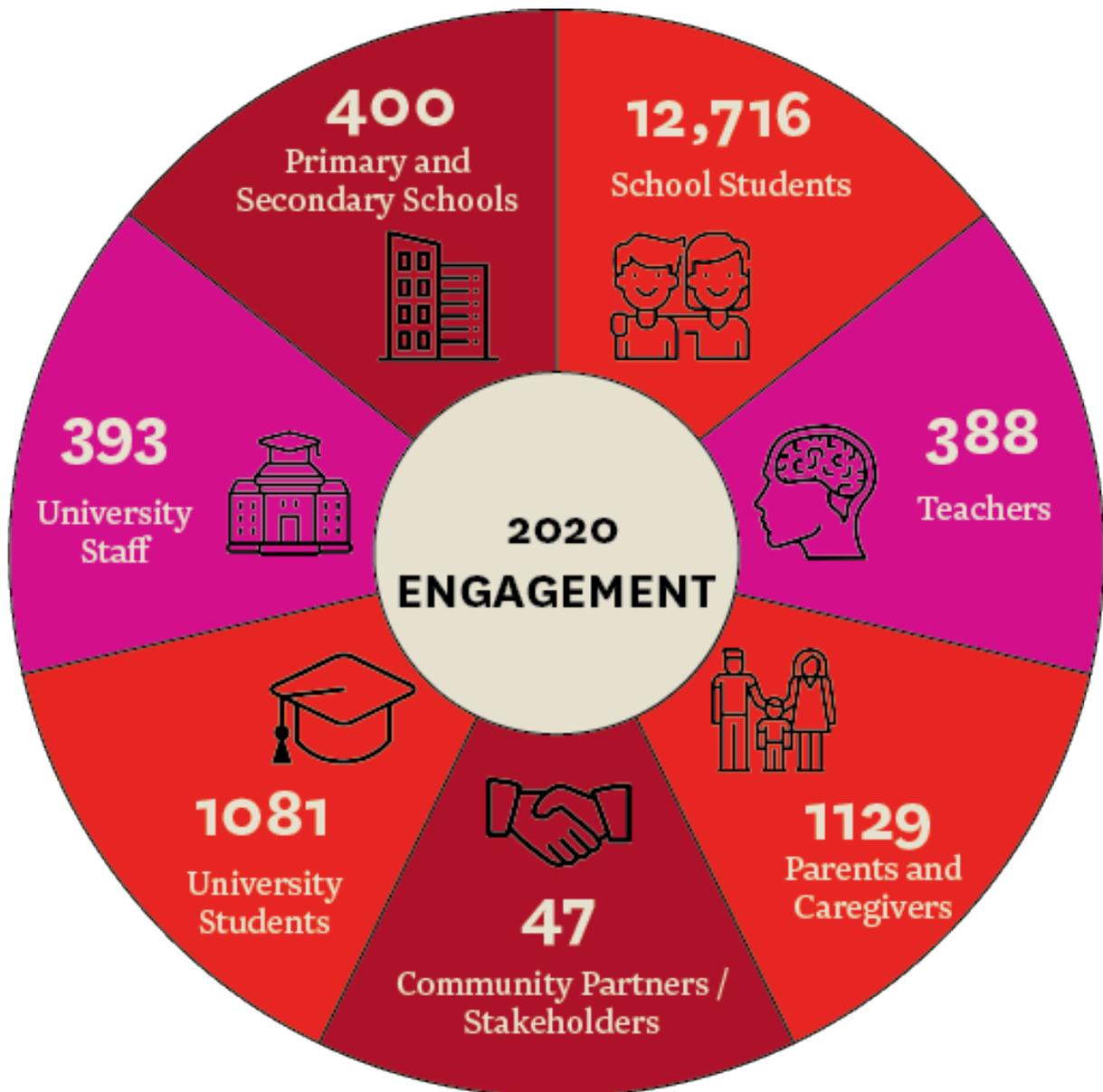
At a Glance

Macquarie University Widening Participation			
Pillar 1	Pillar 2	Pillar 3	Pillar 4
LEAP UP Outreach	LEAP IN Pathways	LEAP THROUGH Participation	LEAP ON Impact
Strengthen the capacity of students from equity groups to participate in higher education.	Increase opportunities for students from equity groups to study at Macquarie University.	Enhance support to students from equity groups, from enrolment through to graduation.	Improve graduate outcomes, employment, and professional opportunities for students from equity groups.
LEAP School Engagement – ROADShow – InROADS	CEF Regional & Remote Student Engagement		Career Seekers Internships
LEAP WORDS	Bridging Grants	Macquarie Undergraduate Research Internship	
5 Refugee Mentoring Suite - LEAP On(line) - LEAP Discover	Success in STEM	Macquarie Media Mentoring	
My Town		Everyone Belongs Project	
Indigenous Outreach Suite			
LEAP Robotics	Accommodation Scholarships		
Ryde Junior Scientists	The Smith Family (Learning for Life)		
NISEP	DLC RRR & Indigenous Student Support Program		
Aurora Masterclasses	LEAP Refugee Transition		
Australian Museum – Sydney Science Trail		Academics for Refugees Making Connections	
LEAP into Genetics		Academics for Indigenous Waranara Mentoring	
		Academics for Pasifika Pasifika Connections	

2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

2020 Macquarie University Widening Participation Engagement and Impact



2020 Highlights

Widening Participation Unit

Demonstrated Impact				
Enhance	Enable	Engage	Encourage	Empower
Awareness around the benefits of pursuing and participating in higher education learning.	Students to discover alternate learning pathways into higher education.	Parents, carers, and community networks with information to guide and support students in their learning.	Student confidence in their capacity to pursue educational goals.	Students to engage in educational opportunities that enhance their learning experience.
Community connection with the University campus as a dynamic environment, promoting familiarity and learning inspiration.	Students to explore a range of learning options that shape their future goals.	Students with information to aid their navigation of the learning environment.	A culturally diverse and welcoming learning community for students to feel a sense of belonging.	Students to evolve their sense of identity as learners belonging to an inclusive learning community.
Students' connection with peers through learning and cocurricular networks.	Academic participation by promoting academic preparedness and supportive transition programs.	Students with a network of affiliated support services, within and external to the university.	Students to participate in co-curricular opportunities that promote positive student experiences.	Students to connect with a network of academics who support their learning journey.
Student learning environments by engaging educators in targeted professional development opportunities.	Students to participate in learning by offering financial and accommodation scholarships that alleviate financial needs.	Academics with the student experience to encourage these perspectives into teaching practice to promote success.	Students to feel supported in their transition to HE studies and connected throughout the lifecycle of their learning journey.	Students to engage in on-campus opportunities that promote leadership and encourage lifelong learning.
Awareness of educational disadvantage and other challenges faced by students from equity backgrounds.	Macquarie University to engage in initiatives that promote inclusivity of all students.	Stakeholders and partners to grow the community of equity practice.	Collaboration across the learning community to dynamically reshape equity discourse, practice, and policy.	Students to develop employability skills, professional experiences and networks that enhance their graduate opportunities.



Macquarie University is a vibrant hub of intellectual thinkers, all working towards a brighter future for our communities and our planet.

A PLACE OF INSPIRATION

Macquarie is uniquely located in the heart of Australia's largest high-tech precinct, a thriving locale which is predicted to double in size in the next 20 years to become the fourth largest CBD in Australia.

Our campus spans 126 hectares, with open green space that gives our community the freedom to think and grow. We are home to fantastic facilities with excellent transport links to the city and suburbs, supported by an on-campus train station.

RENOWNED FOR EXCELLENCE

We are ranked among the top two per cent of universities in the world, and with a 5-star QS rating, we are renowned for producing graduates that are among the most sought after professionals in the world.

A PROUD TRADITION OF DISCOVERY

Our enviable research efforts are brought to life by renowned researchers whose audacious solutions to issues of global significance are benefiting the world we live in.

BUILDING SUCCESSFUL GRADUATES

Our pioneering approach to teaching and learning is built around a connected learning community: our students are considered partners and co-creators in their learning experience.

PHOTOS: Widening Participation Unit Internal, Michael Garanera, AP Joanne Jamie, Ali Asgher Ali, Alora Cantwell, MQ My Town Students – Sophie M., Jessie K., Annelise C., Kodie V

FIND OUT MORE

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