ACCESS, INCLUSION AND SUCCESS
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OUR VISION

Through recognising, supporting, and extending talented students from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds, we’ll be known as the Australian university with the greatest impact on social mobility.

ABOUT US

We understand that the gap between those who attend university and those who don’t is often not about talent. It’s about opportunity.

We lead the University’s strategy for improving the access, inclusion, and success in higher education and beyond for students from under-represented communities. We aim to make a significant and measurable impact to the educational and life outcomes of students from low socio-economic status (low SES) backgrounds.

We’re committed to changing it for the next generation of young people, so they too can create change in our world.
The Widening Participation Strategy is our action plan from 2016 to 2020 to achieve our vision as the university with the greatest impact on social mobility in Australia.

We’re delivering initiatives with focus on:

- Recruiting and graduating more students from low SES communities
- Ensuring access to a wide range of university courses
- Supporting students’ participation in rich experiences to improve employability
- Encouraging students to give something back to the community
- Connecting alumni with low SES students across student life-cycle

These initiatives are underpinned by our strategic priorities to:

- Increase demand from talented low SES students
- Select for talent and equity
- Provide financial and practical support
- Ensure our graduates are expert, engaged, and in-demand
- Promote our commitment to widening participation
STUDENT JOURNEY LIFE-CYCLE

We support students from low SES communities at all stages of their student life-cycle - before university, at university, and pre-graduation from university.

For years, we’ve been delivering a high-impact mentoring program to bridge the gap between secondary school and university. While at university, students can engage as mentor or mentee to further develop their confidence, aspirations, and employability. Students and alumni at later stages in their journey often return as mentors to pay forward what they’ve learnt - a demonstration of the resulting significant social dividends.
ACCESS MONASH MENTORING

Access Monash mentoring program is our flagship initiative to provide intensive mentoring support to secondary school students who aspire to university study.

This program pairs Year 11 and 12 students with an experienced and engaged Monash student mentor, in a one-on-one mentoring relationship in the final years of secondary school. Our aim is to not only assist secondary school students from low SES communities who aspire to university study, but also provide current Monash students with the opportunity to develop their skills and give back to the community.

“I spent a day shadowing my mentor, where I visited campus, sat in his classes, and met other university students. After experiencing university life first-hand, I became more excited. Now I can’t wait to start at university.”

ALI SINA HAIDARI
Access Monash mentee
Year 12
MENTEES
Mentees are secondary school students who have demonstrated commitment to their studies, aspire to pursue university study, and come from families with limited exposure to higher education. They receive tailored support in their decision-making and university preparation from a peer who has walked the same life path as them, as they navigate the end of secondary school. Mentees take a sneak peek into university life not only by learning from the experience of their mentor, but by attending activities at Monash such as Open Day, shadowing activities, workshops and more.

MENTORS
Our mentors are selected through a competitive application process and undergo mentor training. Students who are from under-represented communities including previous mentees of the program are eligible for a Community Leaders Scholarship. This scholarship enables students to work less so that they can fully focus on their studies, develop leadership skills, and experience the value of giving back.

MENTOR LEADERS
Each year, we select a number of mentors who show leadership potential to become Access Monash mentor leaders. We engage them to act as positive role models for mentors and mentees, and support us in delivering programs and activities. As students who have displayed strong leadership skills, they receive further development opportunities, play a key role in training new mentors, and actively represent Access Monash at university and wider community events.

DID YOU KNOW? IN 2019, WE HAD:

- 545 secondary school student mentees
- 394 student mentors
- 47 partner schools
- 321 Community Leaders scholarship recipients
- 17000+ mentor hours volunteered

MENTEES AFTER GRADUATION

- 93% mentees receive university offer
- 92.4% retention rate at Monash (in comparison to 90.33% retention rate for non-mentees from low SES communities)

REVIEW THE FACTS

- 40% Monash University offer
- 53% Other university offer
- 7% TAFE or none
PEER MENTORING

We want our students to have the best start to university life. Our Peer Mentoring programs pair commencing first-year undergraduate students with a senior student to help them settle and succeed.

MENTEES
From the moment our first-year students arrive on-campus, we pair them with an experienced senior student from their faculty to support their transition to university. Mentees participate in workshops, networking activities, and meet regularly with their mentor.

MENTORS
Our mentors are students in their second year or above. They guide new students through their first year by sharing their knowledge and insights into the Monash experience. Mentors have the opportunity to attend professional development events, network with other student mentors, and develop crucial employability skills for their future career.

“Not only have I enjoyed the experience of mentoring others, I’ve also learnt how to communicate effectively and how to actively listen. My mentoring experience has also helped me stand out in job applications, which is how I landed my current job!”

ANKITA SEHGAL
Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Global Studies
PEER ASSISTED STUDY SESSIONS

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) is an academic mentoring program of guided study groups, to help students through difficult units. Led by a high-achieving student experienced in the unit, these sessions aim to promote independent and active learning.

MENTORS
PASS leader mentors are senior students who have successfully completed the relevant unit, and are able guide their peers. They facilitate these guided study sessions to help student mentees find their own answers, make use of university resources, and collaborate with other students. Rather than teach or reteach material in these sessions, PASS leaders deliver them as supplementary sessions to lectures and tutorials.

As facilitators, PASS leaders develop important employability skills such as leadership, communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking. They also receive financial remuneration for this role.

MENTEES
Student mentees are first year students wanting to stay on top of unit content and connect with potential study partners - whether they are a high achiever or nervous about a difficult unit. They receive support in developing study skills and engage with their course through a fun and active approach.

The aim is to help students attending PASS understand the expectation of being an active and independent learner at university, develop confidence in their ability, receive support through a study group and their mentor, and where to go for resources. These are transferable skills students will be able to use throughout their university journey, and beyond.

DID YOU KNOW? STUDENTS WHO ATTEND PASS ACHIEVE BETTER ACADEMIC RESULTS THAN THEIR PEERS:

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DID YOU KNOW? LOW-SES STUDENTS SEE GREATER ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT THAN HIGH-SES STUDENTS:

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BETTY AMSDEN AO ALUMNI MENTORING

The Betty Amsden AO Alumni mentoring program matches mentor leaders from the Access Monash mentoring program with alumni mentors to support their transition from university to industry.

MENTEES
Mentor leaders who demonstrate outstanding commitment to Access Monash and have experienced educational disadvantage are selected to join the Betty Amsden AO mentoring program as mentees. Students are matched with alumni mentors in their chosen industry, who can provide guidance and knowledge about industry, career planning, and professional and personal development. Through this program, we aim to facilitate equitable access to graduate employment for these students, which they otherwise may not have.

MENTORS
Our mentors are Monash alumni dedicated to helping young people reach their full potential. They volunteer their time to support and guide these students through a range of activities such as one-to-one mentoring sessions, workplace experience and shadowing, small group mentoring sessions, and more.

“Coming from an under-represented background, I had barely any knowledge and connections to the profession. The Betty Amsden AO Alumni mentoring program was an extraordinary opportunity for me to immerse myself in learning about industry. I was able to gain insights into the profession through my alumni mentor in the same field, network with teams across Melbourne, and receive advice on career development.”

JACK HUYNH
Graduate engineer, Aurecon
Betty Amsden AO alumni mentee (former)
SCHOOLS ACCESS MONASH

Schools Access Monash (SAM) is a program of in-school and on-campus activities tailored for Year 8 – 12 students to encourage and inform their aspirations to higher education and instill the idea that University education is for them.

Our programs and activities are informed by current research into widening participation in higher education. The aim is to enthuse students with the idea of university. We do this by delivering programs to help prepare them for university life and connecting them with university students.

Working together with our partner schools, we run activities to help students engage in higher education, experience campus life, and make informed decisions for their future. These activities are tailored to each year level. We deliver some of these to full school year levels and some to specific cohorts.

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<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Introduce and enthuse students with the concept of university</th>
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<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Explore interests and link to further study and career options</td>
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<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Deepen connection with university, students, and opportunities</td>
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<td>Year 11</td>
<td>Explore course options, develop VCE study skills, and prepare students for personal development opportunities</td>
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<td>Year 12</td>
<td>Prepare students academically and personally for transition to university</td>
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DID YOU KNOW? IN 2018, WE HAD:

- **194** school events
- **11,300+** student interactions
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) ENGAGEMENT

STRENGTHENING ENGAGEMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

Strengthening Engagement and Achievement in Mathematics and Science (SEAMS) is an exciting opportunity for Year 11 and 12 students to discover the possibilities Maths and Science have to offer.

Conducted in partnership with the University of Melbourne, this program aims to increase equitable participation and attainment in science and math-related disciplines in higher education. SEAMS camps are held overnight at both universities, where students participate in interactive workshops and academic sessions to prepare them for Maths Methods, Chemistry and Physics VCE subjects.

IN2SCIENCE

In2Science is a program that places university students as mentors in low-SES secondary schools, to engage students in the world of STEM.

As a partner university in this program, we’re involved in empowering students to navigate the needs of their future and building their aspirations for developing STEM capabilities. Each semester, mentors visit secondary schools to support students in class with their learning and participate in hands-on activities together with the teacher.

“Our STEM degrees are among the best in the country. There’s nothing quite like a student hearing from an older student who is able to share all that STEM has to offer, but remains young enough to share the enthusiasm and hope of a younger generation.”

SIMON MCKEON AO
Chancellor, Monash University
In2Science Advisory Board Chair (former)
“What Monash has given to me, I cannot put into words. This scholarship has allowed me to experience a fulfilling university life at Monash. I’ve been exposed to entrepreneurship in my studies, gone on an overseas study exchange and participated in work shadowing. It’s amazing how many doors I can now open up for myself, thanks to the skills, knowledge, and confidence I’ve had the chance to gain here.”

ATIFA ASGHARI
Pauline Gandel Scholarship recipient
Bachelor of Science Advanced Global Challenges
Talent is often masked by circumstances. In Australia, young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are much less likely to go on to higher education compared to their peers. We want to change this. We’re committed to breaking down the barriers that hold them back from achieving their full potential.

ENTRY SCHEMES
Our entry schemes consider students’ circumstances as part of their application, creating a level playing field for those who aspire to an exceptional education.

Our Monash Guarantee accepts students into Monash courses at a lower ATAR if they have experienced financial disadvantage, live in a low SES area, are an Indigenous Australian, or attend a Monash under-represented school.

The Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) adjusts a student’s ATAR in recognition of the circumstances that may have affected their education.

PATHWAYS
There’s more than one way to become a Monash student. We have pathway options available for those who do not meet the requirements for direct entry into their chosen Monash degree. These include diplomas and access programs for mature-aged students and Indigenous Australians.

EQUITY SCHOLARSHIPS
Bright minds deserve brilliant opportunities. We guarantee financial support so students have the capacity to achieve their potential.

We have scholarships to support students who are financially disadvantaged, attend an under-represented school, Indigenous Australian, seeking refuge, have a disability, experienced difficult personal circumstances, or live in a low SES area.

ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES
The barriers they face to education are immense. Not only have their lives been disrupted, they also deal with challenges in literacy, cultural and social knowledge, finances, stability, identity and belonging. We support talent irrespective of social or economic circumstances and aim to build a connected diverse community.

Our Monash Humanitarian scholarship supports asylum seeker students and covers the cost of full course fees as well as a yearly allowance of $5000. We waive course application fees and offer support as they apply for entry to Monash. Our goal is to increase the number of scholarships available so we can extend our support even more.

As they commence at Monash, we deliver transition and orientation activities where they learn about on-campus services and how to transition to university life in Australia. We connect them with current students, staff, and community members from similar backgrounds to help them build peer networks.

Students receive ongoing support through peer mentoring, professional and leadership development, and have opportunities to work on-campus.

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS
The diversity of our student body includes many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. From the time they express interest studying here through to graduation, we support them through our Yulendj Indigenous Engagement Unit.

Working with local communities and schools, we organise school visits and camps where Indigenous students learn more about the Monash opportunities available to them. We also have a range of entry schemes, support services, scholarships, and opportunities for Indigenous students to help them access and succeed at Monash.

Learn more about our Indigenous strategy and full support: monash.edu/indigenous-australians

DID YOU KNOW?
$1500 is guaranteed as a scholarship to every commencing undergraduate student who is financially disadvantaged or an Indigenous Australian, with $500 for each subsequent year of study.

$9,000,000+
awarded in equity scholarships

3200+
equity scholarship recipients
“We fled Iran to escape religious persecution. This scholarship was my only chance at university, so to receive it was a miracle for me. Without this, I would not be able to study at Monash and pursue the future I thought I could only dream of.”

POUYA HEIDARI
Monash Humanitarian Scholarship recipient
Bachelor of Science