

2020 LEAP - Partnership Engagement Grant Scheme

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



MACQUARIE
University

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Programs and Pathways) has allocated \$200,000 for the 2020 LEAP – Partnership Engagement Grant Scheme, under the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP). LEAP PEGS seeks to encourage initiatives that focus on undergraduate low socio economic status (SES) students by encouraging their entry to university or supporting their retention, success and completion.

WIDENING PARTICIPATION (WP)

The term widening participation is used around the world to describe initiatives that support students from groups that have long been under-represented in higher education.

As a university of service and engagement that aspires to be a destination of choice for students who share our values, and who want to contribute towards a better world, widening participation is a core element of Macquarie's strategic direction.

Through widening participation initiatives, the University demonstrates its strategic direction in action, via its commitment to inclusiveness, and to offering experiences that change the lives of students.

WORKING COLLABORATIVELY

The University's Widening Participation Unit seeks to create opportunities for those who have previously been denied opportunity to access and participate in higher education. What matters is where a student finishes, not where they start.

With a strong focus on coordination and building enduring relationships with all stakeholders, we invite expressions of interest for the 2020 LEAP – Partnership Engagement Grant Scheme.

Further to helping achieve a high level of student inclusiveness, the grant will also expand and enhance collaborative networks across the University.

EXAMPLES OF CURRENT PROJECTS

Academic Mentoring

A research informed mentoring program connecting students from three identified equity groups with academic mentors in their chosen area of study. Students from refugee backgrounds (Making Connections, 2018), Pacific Islander backgrounds (Pasifika Connections, 2019) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds (Waranara Mentoring, 2019) engage with mentors to build their academic confidence and preparedness.

Junior Science Academy

An outreach program engaging primary aged students from regional and remote NSW, along with their families, in interactive science based workshops. The program aims to boost scientific confidence, promote discovery of interest and inspire ambition to pursue science university learning.

LEAP into Finance, Business and Economics (FBE)

Empowering high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds with targeted workshops in Commerce, Economics and Business studies to build financial literacy skills. The program complements the school curriculum with university level learning in these areas and aims to encourage students to pursue FBE learning at university.

Science in the city, Australian Museum

A partnership engaging students from low SES schools with immersive science events organised by the Australian Museum during National Science Week. The program aims to broadly connect students with STEAM by offering interactive experiences that build confidence in science literacy and promote learning pathways that can lead to careers in STEAM.



HEPPP FUNDING

The 2020 LEAP – Partnership Engagement Grant Scheme is funded by the Commonwealth Government's Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP). HEPPP funding is available for projects that offer innovative and targeted support for students from low SES backgrounds, to promote their access and participation in higher education.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Staff interested in applying will first need to consult with their Head of Department /Unit to obtain endorsement
- Endorsed project ideas (1 page max) must be submitted via email to stuart.upton@mq.edu.au by no later than February 29th, 2020
- Applicants will pitch their ideas (5 mins max) to a Widening Participation panel on March 6th, 2020
- Panel supported applications will be asked to submit a full application, including itemised budget and project evaluation plan, by March 16th, 2020
- Project budget should be between \$20,000 - \$50,000
- Annual progress and financial reports will be required to meet Commonwealth HEPPP reporting requirements
- All funding given for the 2020 LEAP – Partnership Engagement Grant Scheme must be spent by December 2020

WP 2020 PILOT PRIORITY AREAS

Listed below are areas of priority as identified by the HEPPP guidelines.

- Initiatives that can demonstrate positive influence upon the aspiration, engagement and preparedness of low SES prospective students, who may not otherwise consider university as a viable choice;
- Initiatives that enhance the transition and retention of undergraduate low SES students at Macquarie University; and
- Initiatives that enhance the success rate of undergraduate low SES students at Macquarie University.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Expressions of Interest due
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 29th
stuart.upton@mq.edu.au

FIND OUT MORE

Widening Participation Unit

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