

Admissions, choice and student diversity

- ◆ **10.00** Registration and refreshments
- ◆ **10.30** **The NERUPI Framework and admission to HE**
Annette Hayton, Senior Research Fellow, University of Bath
Annette's session will include a short presentation and activities to consider some of the issues that lead to unequal access to higher education and how these relate to the NERUPI Framework.
- ◆ **11.15** Break
- ◆ **11.30** **Collaborative outreach to support student choice**
Rebecca Harland, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, NCOP York & North Yorks
In the first case study of the day, Rebecca from NCOP York and North Yorkshire will describe how the collaborative approach adopted by the NCOP has provided information and support to school and college students about future education choices. Based on the NERUPI Framework and closely aligned to the Gatsby Benchmarks, this case study will be useful for all those involved in admissions outreach.
- ◆ **12.15** Lunch
- ◆ **12.45** **Promoting fairer access to HE: the case for contextualised admissions**
Professor Vikki Boliver, Director of Research, Sociology, Durham University
In this presentation, Vikki will discuss the findings of her ESRC-funded project that contributes to the evidence base underpinning contextualised approaches to undergraduate admissions in England. She will present clear evidence that academic entry requirements for disadvantaged learners can be reduced without setting these students up to fail at university. Vikki will also consider the most effective metrics for identifying disadvantaged students for contextualised admissions.
- ◆ **1.35** **The Lady Margaret Hall Foundation Year**
Esther Fisher, Foundation Year Project Officer, Oxford University
Esther will present our second case study and explain how the LMH Foundation year attracts and supports students from under-represented groups. Through a combination of academic and personal support the course bridges the gap between students' previous experiences enabling them to progress on to full degree courses at Oxford and other universities.
- ◆ **2.20** **Bristol Scholars**
Doug Jennings, WP and Student Recruitment Manager, University of Bristol
Doug will present the day's third case study, setting out the challenges for Bristol in increasing diversity amongst the student population and explain the key features of this sustained programme that runs across the transition stage of the student lifecycle from Year 12 to first year undergraduate.
- ◆ **3.05** **Next Steps**
- ◆ **3.30** **Close**

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Event Overview

A diverse student body is a benefit for any HEI but gaining a place on an undergraduate programme is a challenge for all students and more so for those without a family tradition of HE study. Choosing and applying for an undergraduate course requires a particular set of skills and knowledge about the range of courses on offer not readily available to all students. Added to this, subject choice at KS4 and KS5 has a significant impact on possibilities for future study at both post-16 and in higher education with some schools less resourced than others to provide their students with curriculum choices and advice. Meanwhile, research into national admissions data reveals serious inequalities in access between socio-economic groups. HEIs have responded in a range of ways from focussing on concerns about students' capacity to study at higher levels if they are accepted with lower grades to making unconditional offers.

Participants at this event will have the opportunity to:

- ◆ Understand how quantitative research can reveal systemic inequalities
- ◆ Consider the implications and benefits for individual HEIs in using contextual factors in admissions
- ◆ Explore a range of strategies for addressing inequalities in access and admissions and consider how best to evaluate their impact

As well as the main presentation by Professor Vikki Boliver, there will be three case study presentations during the day. These will focus on admissions WP work and include workshop activities so participants can explore this important topic.