NERUPI network
Evaluating & Researching University Participation Interventions

Annual Convention
14 September 2022

Getting the Grades: Working together to raise attainment

School and college students consistently report that 'getting the grades' is one of their main concerns about progressing to university – and they are not wrong. Research has shown that GCSE grades are a key predictor for accessing higher education. Although this might seem like straightforward common sense, the reasons for differences in attainment between certain groups of students are not straightforward at all. The attainment gap for those eligible for free school meals grows wider at every stage of education indicating that that socio-economic factors are a key predictor of educational success. At this year's Convention we will explore the issues related to differences in attainment between socio–economic groups; share our raising-attainment activities and approaches and develop practical strategies for strengthening our evaluation strategies.

Programme

- **9:00**   **Coffee, registration and poster viewing**
- **9.45**   **Welcome and introduction**
  The Light, Main Hall
  Annette Hayton, NERUPI Convenor

- **10.00**   **Raising attainment in schools and colleges: exploring the issues**
- The Light, Main Hall
  John Blake, Director of Access and Participation, Office for Students
  Professor Nicola Ingram, Director of the Education and Social Research Institute, Manchester Metropolitan University

- **11.00**   **Coffee break and poster viewing**

- **11.30**   **Practice examples from NERUPI Members**

  Ada Salter Suite: Ground Floor
  - **Raising Science Attainment in the Reach Out Lab**
    Sam Bailey, Outreach Evaluation and Research Manager, Imperial College London
  - **The *Connecting Our Future* programme in the Netherlands**
    Dr Janna Michael, Postdoctoral Researcher, Erasmus University Rotterdam
  - **Raising attainment through collaboration**
    Dr Hugh Rayment-Pickard, Chief Strategy Officer and Co-founder IntoUniversity
    Jane Dickinson, Educational Engagement Lead Officer, University of Leeds

  Waldo Williams Suite: Ground Floor
  - **Think, Reflect, Succeed: Developing independent learning skills**
    University of Derby
  - **Make it count: raising KS3 attainment.**
    Scott Knight, Head of Outreach, University of East Anglia
  - **Changes in access and participation and reduced grade offers**
    Krystal Douglas-Dodd, Research Associate, Newcastle University

  Hilda Clarke Suite: First Floor
  - **Co-constructing understandings of summer schools with student researchers**
    Rachel Blackford, Research and Evaluation Officer, Oxford Brookes University
    Dr Samantha Child, Evaluation Manager, Oxford Brookes University
  - **Co-creation and student voice in narrowing the degree awarding gap**
    Dr Amina Razak, Research Associate, Newcastle University
  - **Academic Mentoring: Building Scholarly Partnerships.**
    Dr Akile Ahmet, Head, Inclusive Education, London School of Economics and Political Science

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- **12.15** **Panel Discussion: What works in raising attainment?**
  The Light: Main Hall

  Professor Mary Stuart, Leadership Development Consultant
  Dr Anna Anthony, Senior Analyst, HEAT
  Sheree Palmer, Head of Access & Student Success, Manchester University

- **14:00** **Practical workshops: Exploring evaluation for raising attainment activities:**
  Poppleville: Ada Salter: Ground Floor
  Popplebridge: Hilda Clarke: First Floor
  Popple Uni Connect: Waldo Williams: Ground Floor
  Popple Arts: Waldo Williams: Ground Floor

- **15:15** **Plenary session; Evaluation strategies for raising attainment activities**
  The Light: Main Hall

- **16.00** **Networking and working group meetings**

  Knowledge, Attainment and Pedagogy: Ada Salter: Ground Floor
  Access and Participation Plans: Hilda Clarke: First Floor
  BAME Student Experiences: Waldo Williams: Ground Floor

- **17.00** **Close**

Posters from NERUPI Members

- **The effects of a pre-academic programme on student success, sense of belonging and social, cultural and educational capital.**
  Dr Helen Tibboel, Project Lead Monitoring & Research, Erasmus University Rotterdam

- **Raising attainment: Bath Spa University Primary programme.**
  Ruth Pickles, Insights and Evaluation Analyst; **Claire Edwards,** Access and Participation Officer
  Kimberley Ang, Access and Participation Officer; **Tom Bridges,** Higher Education Engagement Coordinator for Bath College

- **Bristol Scholars Programme: raising attainment pre-and post-entry .**
  Charlie Deeks, Widening Participation Evaluation Coordinator, University of Bristol

- **APP Evaluation framework**
  Katie Alberici, Research Assistant, University of Derby

- **First Campus Reaching Wider Transitions programme in the context of Covid 19.**
  Lynda Gingell, Young People Office, First Campus, University of South Wales

- **Mind the Gap – the impact of peer mentoring.**
  Earle Abrahamson, Learning and Teaching Specialist, University of Hertfordshire

- **Interventions wrestling against COVID: What does the survey data reveal?**
  Helen ZHU, Evaluation and Data Manager Higher Education Progression Partnership South Yorkshire

- **Ditch the Doubt: Evaluating Bespoke Widening Participation Activity.**
  Jessica Whitby, Evaluation and Data Officer Higher Education Progression Partnership South Yorkshire, Sheffield Hallam University

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  Ifeoma Elizabeth Dan-Ogosi, Impact and Evaluation Manager, University of East London