

# Eradicating inequity in student achievement: APP Evaluation Framework

Access and Participation Policy, Research and Evaluation team. University of Derby



The University of Derby aspires to eliminate inequities and unexplained gaps in student continuation, attainment and progression. We reject deficit models and acknowledge that structural change is required to eliminate unacceptable disparities in student achievement. Our commitment goes beyond regulatory requirements and demonstrates our moral obligation to secure equity.

This poster showcases the University’s Access and Participation Plan (APP) Evaluation Framework. The Framework aims to support colleagues to achieve a consistent, effective approach to evidence and evaluation. It helps the University to assess the impact of its APP work and establish which activities help to close gaps across the student lifecycle. The Framework promotes the use of Theory of Change (ToC) methodology - an evidence-based approach to designing, planning, and evaluating the impact of activities.

The APP framework consists of the APP Evaluation Tool Kit and guidance and the APP Knowledge Hub. It draws on Office for Students (OfS) guidance, sector best practice, and frameworks and evidence created and gathered by the Network for Evaluating & Researching University Participation Interventions (NERUPI) and the Centre for Transforming Access and Student Outcomes (TASO).

## APP FRAMEWORK TOOLKIT AND GUIDANCE

### WHY EVALUATE?

- Policy context
- Institutional Response

### WHAT IS EVALUATION?

- Summative
- Formative

### WHERE DO I START? THEORY OF CHANGE...

- Situation/context
- Longer-term impact
- Medium term outcomes
- Short term benefits
- Planning
- NERUPI framework – using the NERUPI framework to inform activity, delivery and evaluation
- Outputs
- Inputs

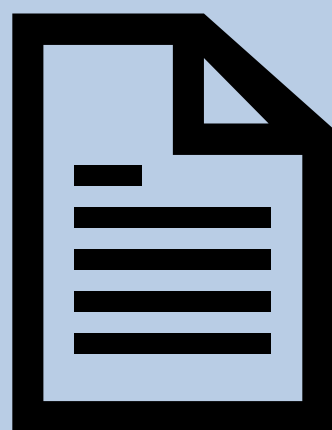
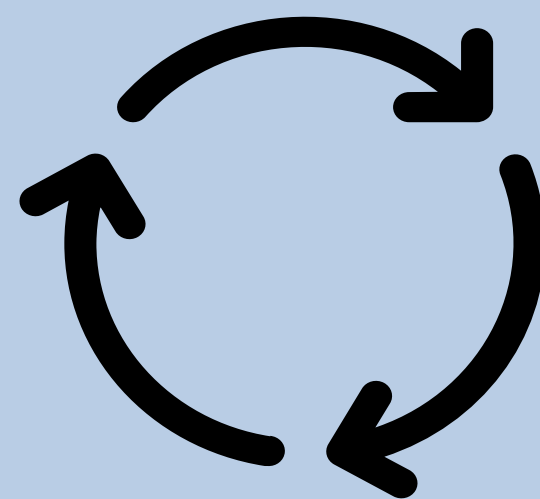
### EVALUATE/MEASURE

- OfS guidance and levels of evidence, and TASO
- Which evaluation method shall I use?
- Quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods, and methodologies
- Guidance, templates and useful resources to support the development of evaluate practice

### ANALYSING YOUR FINDINGS

- Quantitative and qualitative data
- Reporting
- Reflect and respond

GDPR  
Ethics



## APP KNOWLEDGE HUB

### KEY FUNCTIONS

1. A place where colleagues can share existing evidence
2. A platform to support an APP discussion forum
3. A repository for the findings from evaluation activity and research generated across the University

### HUB THEMES

- Access
- Awarding Gaps
- Decolonisation, Race and Equality
- Sense of Belonging
- Employability and Skills Development
- Financial Support
- Learning and Teaching
- Research and Evaluation

### EXISTING EVIDENCE

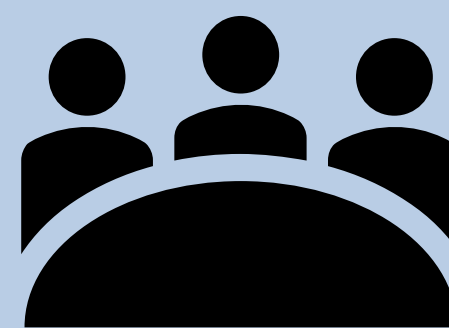
- Articles
- Research
- Sector best practice

### DISCUSSION FORUM

- Bringing together colleagues to share experience, learning and expertise
- Discussing issues and challenges facing colleagues on their journey towards establishing evidence-based practice
- Considering the impact of policy change and regulation on the sector

### UoD RESEARCH EVIDENCE AND EVALUATION REPOSITORY

- Evaluation and research reports
- Literature Reviews



## OUR GAPS

- Continuation, degree outcomes and progression between white and black students
- Continuation and degree outcomes between students from IMD Q1 and Q5
- Degree outcomes between non-disabled and disabled students
- Progression between white and Asian students

## KEY PRINCIPLES

- Creation of an evidence and impact-based culture across the institution
- Co-create evaluation plans with student body
- Create an institutional evidence base and curate learning and sector best practice
- The sharing of our learning with the sector
- Meet the evaluation standards expected by OfS
- Monitor in order to provide evidence for internal and external APP reporting

## CONSULTATION

- Union of Students
- University colleges/academics, Pedagogic Practice team, professional services teams
- Sector networks, TASO, NERUPI

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