

Sam Bailey

Outreach Evaluation & Research Manager, Imperial College London

Sam oversees evaluation, research, systems and data within Imperial's central Outreach Team, who work with over 1,000 young people a year on sustained or intensive programmes. Having come from a practitioner background, Sam uses this experience to encourage evidence-led development of programmes and a 'small steps' approach to assessing long-term impact in widening access.

Anna Blackett

Lecturer in Education and Widening Participation Academic Officer, University of East Anglia

Prior to her current role, Anna was Programme Lead for Early Years, Childhood and Additional Needs at City College Norwich. Her earlier career includes primary head teacher in Singapore, after teaching in West London.

Anna's recent research includes analysing staff and student perceptions of what makes good Higher Education, and she is a consultant for the Department for Education exploring the impact of Norwich and Ipswich Opportunity Areas. Anna is currently working with Libraries Connected exploring digital inclusion, well-being, and early years literacy. Involved with Aurora, exploring the Higher Education experience for GRT students across Europe. Anna has led the Make It Count project from January 2022, which places tutors in local Outreach schools to support pupils' studies and build confidence and aspirations.

Jane Dickinson

Educational Engagement Lead Officer, University of Leeds

Jane is responsible for leading on recruitment and widening participation activities for the Faculty of the Environment, working across the Social Sciences and STEM outreach teams at the University of Leeds. As part of her role, Jane works in collaboration with academics and student volunteers across the School of Geography, the School of Earth & Environment, and the School of Food Science & Nutrition to provide a range of outreach activities and taster sessions. Jane runs a number of targeted programmes and projects aimed at supporting students from underrepresented groups access and succeed in Environment, Food Science and Geosciences related courses. She also helps contribute to the range of academic taster sessions that form part of the Reach for Excellence programme and collaborate on projects with local schools and colleges.

Scott Knight

Head of Outreach, University of East Anglia

Scott's role at the University of East Anglia is to develop and lead the strategic direction of our outreach work, overseeing its implementation and how it contributes to our Access and Participation plan targets and commitments. The University of East Anglia is committed to a whole institutional approach to widening access and participation that spans all aspects of the student journey, including academic, personal, social, and professional development; engaging with all staff and services to address systemic issues to ensure equality of opportunity. An example of this in practice is our collaboration with our School of Education & Lifelong Learning to develop direct attainment raising interventions for students in years 8-13 from underrepresented and/or disadvantaged groups.

Dr Janna Michael

Postdoctoral Researcher, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Janna is a cultural sociologist with an interest in social inequality, education, and consumption. In her PhD dissertation, she investigated inequality in cultural lifestyles and explored how boundaries are drawn based on cultural preferences. Since then, Janna has worked in an interdisciplinary project on inclusion and innovation in classical music, gained experience as a project manager and taught at Dutch universities. In June 2022, she joined the Diversity and Inclusion Office of the Erasmus University Rotterdam as a postdoctoral researcher. Here, she is researching within the newly developed Outreach Programme 'Connecting our Future'.

Dr Hugh Rayment-Pickard

Chief Strategy Officer, IntoUniversity

Hugh has over 20 years' experience in the not-for-profit sector and is a co-founder of IntoUniversity.

Dr Amina Razak

Research Associate, Newcastle University

Amina is a Research Associate in the Inclusive Newcastle Knowledge Centre, University of Newcastle. Her research interests are in gender, ethnicity and racism. Amina's doctoral thesis focused on masculinities and South Asian young men, in particular Bangladeshi and Pakistani men, their masculinities and experiences of racism. Amina is currently working on a co-creation pilot project designed to tackle degree awarding inequities at Newcastle University (NU) through empowering and enabling student voice.

Claire Rodgerson

Community Organiser, Tyne & Wear Citizens, Citizens UK

Claire organises a broad-based alliance of civil society institutions to make change for social justice, strengthening civil society institutions and developing leaders along the way.

Claire is embedded in Newcastle University 1.5 days a week, exploring how organising methodology can support the life, work and culture of the institution. Her professional background ranges from youth work to international policy. Though community organising, Claire seeks to bridge these worlds, connecting the recipients of policy and practice with those who make them, in order to win justice.