



University of St Andrews
Scotland's first university – 1413



Annual Report – Access and Outreach

2018

2016-2017 has been a busy and active year for the Access and Lifelong Learning team at St Andrews. We have engaged in a wide range of activities targeted both locally and nationally to raise the aspirations and attainment of groups under-represented in higher education.

Our strategy has been twofold. Firstly, we have focused our attention on strengthening and developing our core outreach programme to ensure we engage and target learners in the best ways possible. This year, our outreach programme has grown considerably through the inclusion of a new initiative designed to broaden and deepen our contribution to local schools and communities across Fife. First Chances Foundation provides longer-term support for pupils at an early phase in their education and contributes to a growing pipeline of provision beginning in Primary 7 and continuing through to the end of secondary and beyond. As we progress forward, many of our existing initiatives which focus on engaging learners in the primary sector will be consolidated within this cohesive structure.

Secondly, we continued to facilitate and contribute to discussions related to fair access. During 2016-2017 we hosted a number of events, including our 'Embedding equal opportunities in education: unrealistic dream or achievable vision?' conference which brought together over 100 representatives from across the education sector to debate policy and research as well as exploring different approaches to reduce deep-rooted inequalities in the education system. We also sponsored and hosted an awareness raising event to discuss the challenges care experienced young people face when trying to access higher education as part of WhoCares? Scotland's National Care Leavers Week.

Looking ahead, we will officially launch our new Gateway to Arts programme in September 2018. We also look forward to increasing our engagement within Fife and seeing more participants from our developing outreach programme achieve their academic goals.

Partnership working is at the heart of our approach. As a University we continue to invest significant resource into widening access activities supported by a strong network of local and national organisations enabling us to expand our outreach programme in ambitious ways. In 2016-2017, we invested £307,000 in operational spend across access, outreach and lifelong learning activities which included contributions from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), The Robertson Trust and the Sutton Trust. This was complemented by targeted financial support to attract lower-income students and a research based contextual admissions process, to facilitate their entry.

In this, our second annual report, we highlight how we are doing this and the work we will continue to develop to support specific student outcomes.

Detailed information about all our access projects and engagement can be found in our Access brochure and on our website.



Mike Johnson
Director of Access and UK Admissions

Our partners



Contextual admissions

The University is committed to fair, transparent and consistent admissions practices to select students based on academic potential, irrespective of their socio-economic background.

Our admissions process is progressive and uses multiple access markers to ensure we get this right – both in the selection of our projects and to enable us to put into context the achievements of all applicants and assess potential.

Following implementation of our contextual admissions policy in 2011, the percentage of Scottish-domiciled entrants flagged with at least one access marker has increased by 8%, rising to 47% in 2017-2018. During this time, our intake for SIMD20/40 in relation to the total Scottish-domiciled percentage of entrants has more than doubled, rising steadily from 8.6% in 2011-2012 to 19.6% in 2017-2018.

18% of our RUK-domiciled entrants (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) were also flagged with an access marker in 2017-2018, up 3% from 2016-2017 – a figure which was previously in decline.

As a University, we remain committed to using contextualised admissions in our policies and processes and believe that these multiple measures offer a truer picture of our ambitions and achievements in widening access.

Undergraduate entrants with access code (Scottish domiciled only): five-year overview

Access Status	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Access Code	202	231	194	214	267
No Access Code	320	485	301	341	297
Total Intake	522	716	495	555	564
Access Coded	39%	32%	39%	39%	47%

Undergraduate entrants with access code (RUK domiciled only): five-year overview

Access Status	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Access Code	119	119	90	93	100
No Access Code	428	484	448	511	443
Total Intake	547	603	538	604	543
Access Coded	22%	20%	17%	15%	18%

Undergraduate entrants by SIMD quintile (Scottish domiciled only): five-year overview

SIMD Quintile	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1	5.7%	5.0%	5.2%	5.4%	7.4%
2	7.8%	8.3%	10.9%	11.7%	12.2%
1+2	13.5%	13.2%	16.1%	17.1%	19.6%
3	11.8%	15.2%	15.7%	15.3%	14.1%
4	23.6%	27.0%	24.3%	24.8%	24.5%
5	50.2%	42.5%	42.7%	42.3%	40.9%
No Data	1.0%	2.1%	1.2%	0.3%	0.9%
Grand Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Schools Outreach

Primary and early secondary

As part of a Strategic Review of the wide range of short term and standalone projects offered to local primary schools in 2016, we moved to consolidate our offering into a single and more sustainable, long-term project which will become embedded in our key outreach programme. This new strand, First Chances Foundation, not only extends our delivery of outreach in the local area, but also strengthens our partnership with The Robertson Trust. The introduction of First Chances Foundation now offers support in early stage education and introduces long-term engagement spanning across primary and secondary education. First Chances Foundation now encompass pupils in early secondary not previously included within the scope of our short-term projects. Over the last year, our early phase focused initiatives have created engagement with over 790 pupils across 83 primary and 18 secondary schools in Fife. From September 2017, our focus will centre on the continuing development of First Chances Foundation with the aim of rolling out this project to all 12 First Chances cluster groups by 2020. Our aim is to increase the total number of pupils involved to around 500 within a sustained programme of 3 years. Space School and Science Camp will no longer run as distinct projects, but will be embedded within the developing structure of First Chances Foundation.

Pupil participation 2016-2017 (P7 to S2)

Initiative	Age Range	No. of Pupils
First Chances Foundation (pilot year 1) <i>Auchmuty High School and 8 associated cluster primary schools</i>	P7 – S2	65
Space School	P6	151
Space School (Returners)	S1, S3	125
Science Camp	P6 / P7	66
Lego Mindstorm Loan Scheme	P1 – P7	385

“Our school highly values the partnership that exists with St Andrews, and parents of the children who take part in initiatives like Space School are appreciative of the fabulous opportunity that these offer their children. These initiatives give the children an insight into learning at a high level and promote confidence making them more effective in their learning and successful in their studies under the tutelage of a highly respected academic institution.”

Allison Wright, Headteacher

Senior phase

Our senior phase work remains to be predominantly focused within our local community of Fife. Following significant expansion of First Chances in 2015, we have developed a cohesive framework of engagement with positive destinations and a pathway to access higher education incorporating pupils from S3, S4, S5 and S6. Over the last year we engaged with over 380 pupils in eleven local low progression schools; a figure which we expect to rise to approximately 500 by 2019.

First Chances is one of a number of key programmes focused on increasing the number of under-represented groups at St Andrews from across the UK. This year, the number of SFC funded places was extended for our Access for Rural Communities (ARC) project and the SFC confirmed its commitment to extending Reach Scotland, of which we are a partner, to 2020. June 2017 also marked a 16-year partnership with the Sutton Trust and the delivery of summer schools to over 1,600 beneficiaries since 2002.

Working through these collaborative partnerships, we engaged with over 1,170 senior school pupils from under-represented groups in 5 higher education promoting initiatives during 2016-2017. These pupils represented 167 schools across the UK and 40% of all state schools in Scotland.

Pupil participation 2016-2017 (S3 to S6)

Initiative	Age Range	Area Focus	No. of Pupils
Access for Rural Communities (ARC)	S4 - S6	Argyll and Bute, Highlands, Western Isles, Orkney & Shetland Islands	84
First Chances Senior Phase	S3 – S6	Fife	386
Reach Scotland	S4 – S6	Fife	410
St Andrews Information Day	S5 – S6	Scotland	163
Sutton Trust Summer School	S5/Y12	UK	135

“The work of the Widening Participation team at St Andrews is an excellent example of positive and forward-thinking access work. They are committed to improving social mobility and fair access to higher education. The Sutton Trust has for many years worked with St Andrews to run activities for students and teachers. The results have been great and we look forward to continuing our partnership for many years to come.”

Sir Peter Lampl, Sutton Trust



Continued support

We remain committed to ensuring that St Andrews is accessible to all those who have the potential to succeed.

Gateway programmes

Since 2012, we have committed funding to ensure those whose circumstances make it difficult to achieve our minimum academic entry requirements have the opportunity to study at St Andrews. One of the ways in which we do this is through our Gateway programmes which offer a tailored first year (Gateway to Computer Science and Gateway to Physics and Astronomy) or a one-year bridging programme (Gateway to Medicine). During 2016-2017, 47 students were successful in receiving an offer to study at St Andrews through one of these routes.

Programme	Applicants	Offers	Acceptance	Entrants
Gateway to Computer Science	30	14	10	9
Gateway to Physics & Astronomy	49	23	15	10
Gateway to Medicine	14	10	10	10*

* Six continued to Medicine. Three continued in to the second year of a BSc in another subject area.

Care-experienced learners and young carers

We have dedicated significant time, thought and effort to the development of our first Corporate Parenting Plan to outline the ways in which the University will support care-experienced young people. The number of those participating in our core outreach programme has increased significantly over the last 3 years from 2 in 2014-2015 to 43 during 2017.

We also continue to work with local councils and partners to ensure that our policies and processes support the admission and retention of care-experienced young people and young carers to the university.

Scholarships

Together with the support of alumni and donors we offer a wide range of scholarships which continues to increase year on year. We are committed to offering £1,500 per academic year to any UK student with a household income of less than £34,000 per annum. Additionally, we have funds specifically aimed towards the cost of University-managed accommodation and bursaries for part-time students.

The total scholarship funds allocated to students in 2017 was in excess of £3 million, comprising almost 1,500 awards. Our Student Services team also awarded £349,596 in Discretionary Fund payments to current students in financial need, as well as providing £37,419 in Childcare Fund Payments to student parents.

First year mentoring

Our first year mentoring project aims to address the challenges experienced by students from under-represented groups as they transition into post-secondary education. Now in its second year, 44 entrants were paired with a current student during September 2016 – an approachable contact and source of advice and guidance whilst settling into University at St Andrews.

"Gateway to Medicine has had a tremendous impact, not only on my academic life but also on me as a person. It allowed me to pursue my dream field of studies as well as providing me with valuable life experience of independence and a solid basis in the sciences creating an incredible base I plan to build my medical career on."

Jakub Sikora

Lifelong and flexible learning

Working closely with our local further education colleges and community groups we offer designated full-time and part-time degree routes to mature learners from all backgrounds and experiences.

The University has 20 full-time undergraduate places available each year to those applying from further education colleges. These students are admitted to an MA or BSc General Degree pathway.

In the most recent admissions cycle, 104 applicants were selected for interview. 44 of those were made an offer for the General degree and 26 students went on to successfully meet the conditions of entry and matriculate into St Andrews. 6 applicants were also offered a place on a named honours programme, 3 of which commenced their studies in September 2017.

These figures contribute to a growing cohort of adult learners, 93 of which have successfully met the conditions and commenced their studies at St Andrews on the General Degree pathway over the last 5 years. We also saw the first General degree student's graduate from St Andrews with honours in June 2017, indicating that this supported pathway is having a positive impact on applications, entrants, progression and retention of this cohort.

The Lifelong learning team also delivered a range of events and activities focused on raising the aspirations of adult learners and supporting their progression to university level study. In doing so, we engaged with over 750 local HNC, SWAP Access and Certificate of Higher Education students.

In January 2017, we enhanced our evening degree programme by piloting the delivery of a new blended learning approach which offered a small number of students the chance to participate in classes remotely. Following positive feedback from both staff and students, we have expanded our offering to 8 different classes covering 9 modules of varying levels providing students with the flexibility they need to balance their studies, family life and work.

The evening programme has been running since 2000 and have seen over 170 graduates since it first launched.

Working with teachers

Teachers Together combines academic and admissions focussed sessions to encourage discussion of curricular and resource matters including subject-related admissions advice and demonstrations of academic content. In addition to the three-day residential conference, one day 'On the Road' events are provided to ensure we are accessible to all those who wish to attend.

Primarily aimed at teachers and advisers in Scottish state schools, as well as our colleagues in further education colleges, the conference provides an open and relaxed atmosphere in which we can share knowledge and best practice from across the education sector as well as inform colleagues about any changes in our admissions process, entry routes or access initiatives over the last year.

In June 2017, 40 delegates attended one of two conferences representing 34 state schools and further education colleges from across the UK. In the past 5 years we have established contacts with over 140 teachers in 126 Scottish state schools through these initiatives.

"Each year a number of our SWAP students are given a place at St Andrews. I'm especially pleased to see the 1:1 support they give to our widening access students once they take up a place at university. The support and guidance that the University of St Andrews staff give, especially in the first year, is crucial, and SWAP is extremely thankful to have such a great supporter in the SWAP partnership."

Lesley Dunbar, Director, Scottish Wider Access Programme East

Admissions

St Katharine's West
16 The Scores
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9AX
Scotland
UK

T: 01334 462346

E: schools.access@st-andrews.ac.uk



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