

University of Gloucestershire, Outreach and Widening Participation – Evidence base

To widen participation, we aim to offer the most impactful outreach to improve opportunities for underrepresented students to access higher education.

Here is what we suggest based on current evidence:

What we did and when	Participants	What we found	So, we recommend
1. Analysed self-reported survey data (2019).	Outreach participants in 2015-2018 (n = 23,175, 55% response rate)	A greater number of students said they would choose university after having a subject specific activity on campus delivered by either outreach practitioners or academics. Students 16 and younger (up to Year Group 11) may consider <i>whether</i> to study at university, whereas older students (Year 12 and 13) may decide <i>where</i> to study.	On-campus activity Subject-specific activity Aspiration Days for pre-16
2. Analysed Residential Pre-Post Surveys (2019)	Summer 2018 (53 Year 10 and 59 Year 12)	Residential participants demonstrated reduced barriers, increased familiarity with applying, and a greater understanding of higher education in order to make informed decisions about their futures.	WP Learners attend Residential
3. Analysed Residential Pre-Post Surveys (2020)	Summer 2019 (53 Year 10 and 57 Year 12 students)	Participants developed higher education knowledge and understanding of university life, increased their sense of belonging, and felt more informed about deciding about their future as well as how to apply to university.	Prioritise WP learners for residential participation
4. Tracked UoG Outreach participants to applications and enrolments to our university (2020)	Participants (n = 6,401) who were eligible to enrol at university in 2017/18 and 2018/19	Students more likely to apply to our university when they had outreach on campus. Students from Black, Asian, Mixed or Other ethnicities were even more likely to apply to us after an on-campus outreach experience.	On-campus activity BAME students experience on-campus Outreach
5. Tracked UoG Outreach participants to higher education enrolment nationally (2020)	UoG Outreach students (n = 4,975) who were ready for higher education between 2015/16 and 2018/19.	UoG outreach participants had a higher HE progression rate on average (57% compared to 41% nationally). Reduced gap between students from the lowest and highest HE Participation Areas (POLAR4) with UoG outreach participation (17.5% versus 29.9% nationally). At our institution, outreach participants from the lowest HE participation areas (POLAR4 Q1) performed better than students from the highest HE participation areas (POLAR4 Q5). Outreach participants with a disability performed better than the non-disabled group at our institution.	Outreach participation

Recommendations by Age Range

Both pre and post 16	Pre-16 (Years 7-11)	Post-16 (Years 12 and 13 or equivalent)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach activity for whole school • WP learners participate in Residential • Multiple progressive activities based on age and stage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HE Information sessions • Aspiration Days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-campus experiences • Subject-specific sessions