

Widening Participation

Kirsty Allen – WP Manager (Pre-16)



Meet the team



Kirsty Allen – Pre-16 Manager

- Responsible for pre-16 WP work
- Science Stars
- Primary Practice
- Brilliant Club
- The Armitage Foundation



Alice Long – Post-16 Manager

- Responsible for post-16 work
- Insight to General Practice
- London Med Summer School
- Travel Bursary
- Tailored visits



Vacant – Head of WP & Outreach

- Oversees all strategy and WP targets
- Contextual admissions policy
- Healthcare Dissected

What is Widening Participation?

Widening Participation is:

“providing the opportunity of higher education to all students who can benefit from it, regardless of circumstance and background.”

This looks like:

- Running a range of activities for students from Years 6-12
- Working with and engaging groups of underrepresented students
- Commitment to supporting students through our Access and Participation Plan (APP)
- Presenting the opportunity of higher education through a variety of sessions, supported by student ambassadors

Widening Participation is not:

- Steering or influencing decisions students make about their futures
- Presenting university as the *only* option



Barriers to university:

There are lots of people out there who could be great students and great healthcare professionals but who don't apply to university. There are many barriers to people's entry into higher education, which can include:

- **Awareness** – Not having insight or understanding about university, or how they can start their HE journey
- **Finance** - Concerns around student finance and being able to afford to study
- **Academic barriers** – For example, attending an underperforming school
- **Lack of guidance** – Students might not have support or insight from family, friends or tutors at school
- **Imposter Syndrome** – They may feel they won't fit in or lack confidence in taking those steps to HE



Underrepresented Groups:

There are lots of groups who are underrepresented at university and who we aim to support. Emphasis is placed on supporting the following groups, in line with our contextual admissions policy:

- Care experienced students
- Students with care responsibilities
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Estranged students
- Students from identified state schools
- Students from areas where few students go to HE, or with high levels of deprivation
- Students who receive free school meals
- Service children*
- Students from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities*
- Mature students*

*These groups are eligible for pre/post application support, but not contextual admissions



Types of WP work

Types of WP Work

- Supporting aspirations
- Attainment raising
- Fair and equal access
- Supporting students whilst at university e.g., bursaries

Working with

- State schools (both in London and further afield for virtual events)
- Primary schools, secondary schools and colleges/sixth forms

Project Examples

- Science Stars
- Primary Practice
- Insight into General Practice
- London Med Summer School
- Subject diverse webinars e.g., Preparing for your Healthcare MMI
- Tailored campus tours
- School visits/talks

Ambassadors are integral to all our work and there is lots of variety in the projects and the commitment required

Contextual Offers for 2023 Entry

Eligible applicants could be made an offer two grades lower than our standard conditional offer e.g., AAA → ABB

In order to be eligible applicants need to meet either one of our Priority Group 1 criteria OR two of our Priority Group 2 criteria

Priority Group 1:

- Care experienced students
- Young carers
- Estranged students
- Refugee/asylum seekers

Priority Group 2:

- Go to a school with an average A Level grade of C- or below
- Go to a school with low progression to higher education
- Live in an area where very few people go onto to higher education (POLAR4)
- Live in an area with higher levels of deprivation (IMD)

You can find out more here:

<https://www.sgul.ac.uk/study/widening-participation/contextual-admissions>



Why get involved with WP work?

Working with the Widening Participation Team allows you to:

- Have a positive impact on the lives of the young people you're working with
- Develop a variety of skills e.g., communication, presentation skills, creativity, being proactive
- Experience diverse and engaging work
- Have variety in your role, as no two WP sessions or activities are ever the same
- Support and inspire the next generation of aspiring healthcare students



Top tips for working on Widening Participation events

- Having an open mind
- Not making assumptions about knowledge, background or experience
- Being inclusive (e.g., disability, cultural and religious beliefs)
- Sensitivity and tact
- Awareness of equality and diversity
- Passionate about equality of opportunity



We look forward to working with you!

Coming Up:

Insight to General Practice

- Applications now open
- Programme takes place from May to June
- Opportunity to support 1 or more sessions
- Online and in-person

London Med Summer School

- Applications open in April/May
- Takes place from 17th – 21st July, all days attendance required
- There are wrap around events you may be asked to support
- Fully online



Any questions?

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