Widening access and retention strategy

1. Vision

We will attract, recruit and retain the most able students from the most diverse backgrounds and enable them to maximise their potential.

2. Values and principles

- we have a culture based on dignity, respect and courtesy
- we have a strong commitment to equality and diversity
- we enable students to become independent and lifelong learners.

3. Priorities

Attracting increased numbers of students from Communities First areas and Low Participation Neighbourhoods, implementing Contextual Admissions and providing easily accessible academic support.

4. Objectives

4.1 Raising aspirations

Overcoming real or perceived barriers to higher education

- working in partnership to deliver Reaching Wider objectives
- developing sustained relationships with students/schools in low participation areas
- focusing particularly in Communities First areas.

4.2 Fair recruitment and admissions

Being as attractive and accessible to those from widening access backgrounds as we are to others

- developing further our fair admissions process
- increasing the number of students from Communities First and groups under-represented in higher education
- providing financial support through tailored bursaries and scholarships

4.3 Developing access routes

Encouraging access from those who would not have considered studying at the University
• ensuring fair access to the Professions
• expanding progression routes from lifelong learning provision
• developing part-time postgraduate taught/CPPD opportunities.

4.4 Supporting our students

Enabling students’ academic, professional and personal development

• supporting students, particularly in the early stages of university life
• providing financial support throughout the student journey
• providing easily accessible academic and pastoral care.

5. Enablers

5.1 Research and evaluation

• take an evidence-based approach to future development
• improve management information
• maintain a culture of continuous improvement

5.2 Partnerships

• work in collaboration with other institutions in our region, avoiding unnecessary duplication
• participate fully with our Reaching Wider partners on First Campus initiatives
• work with our Regional partners to develop progression routes into the Professions
• participate in the Russell Group Association for Widening Participation

5.3 Organisation and process

• implement and evaluate Contextual Admissions pilot
• ensure that all students have access to academic support through a Skills Centre
• seek to make infrastructure efficiencies
• work to ensure that School-specific initiatives are sustainable and embedded across the University

5.4 Financial support

• provide a package of scholarships and bursaries attractive to students from Communities First and Low Participation backgrounds
• ensure adequate financial support to Academic Schools and Administrative Divisions

5.5 Communication

• promote Cardiff University as open to the most able students from diverse backgrounds
• ensure that students have easy access to information about the University and the support available
• ensure that all staff are aware of the strategy and their role in its delivery