

NEON Awards 2024 Nominations

Category

NEON Widening Access Initiative (Retention and Progression) Award

Name of project and institution

Lifelong Learning Centre, University of Leeds

Brief Description

The Lifelong Learning Centre (LLC) is a uniquely dedicated resource and School at the University of Leeds which delivers Foundation Year courses and offers bespoke support to students from under-represented groups or who don't have traditional qualifications. This support starts from their current position and acknowledges the broader context of their learning experiences. The aim is to create spaces where support can be provided without students having to request it, helping them feel more comfortable about getting the help they need and ultimately promoting a sense of belonging within the University and the academic community to ensure success.

Why has this project been nominated

The Lifelong Learning Centre (LLC) at the University of Leeds stands as a unique and dedicated resource, providing tailored support to students from under-represented backgrounds or those without traditional qualifications. Their approach begins from the students' current position, recognizing the broader context of their learning experiences. The LLC aims to create spaces where support is seamlessly available, eliminating the need for students to request it explicitly. This approach fosters comfort and ultimately promotes a sense of belonging within the University and the academic community.

Over the past decade, the LLC's Foundation Years (FY) have emerged as a successful pathway into full-time undergraduate degrees for numerous underrepresented students. These FY programs include:

BA Arts and Humanities with Foundation Year

BA Business Studies with Foundation Year

BSc Interdisciplinary Science with Foundation Year

Interdisciplinary Studies Foundation Year (Part-Time) for higher education preparation.

To qualify for an FY program, learners must meet specific criteria, such as residing in neighborhoods with low higher education progression rates, attending schools with below-average GCSE results, or having grown up in public care. These criteria ensure that the LLC effectively reaches those who need support the most.

The LLC's holistic approach to student support, known as the 'wraparound' model, involves collaborative efforts across FY program teams, LLC Student Support, LLC Academic Skills, LLC Student Experience, and the LLC Student Education Service. This comprehensive framework shapes students' learning experiences and environments, and the LLC often continues to be a vital support base for students transitioning into other faculties.

How long has the project been running

10 years

Number of participants for each year of the project's operation

Approx 230 students each year study on the Foundation Years.

More details

<https://www.leeds.ac.uk/lifelong-learning>

