

NEON Awards 2024 Nominations

Category

NEON Widening Access Initiative (Retention and Progression) Award

Name of project and institution

The Lancaster Success Programme, Lancaster University

Brief Description

The LSP is a social mobility and student initiative. It is a targeted, opt-in intervention that utilises a coaching-led approach to support students from underrepresented backgrounds. The LSP provides a welcoming and inclusive environment, where students are encouraged to develop, explore and celebrate their individual versions of success through a programme of coaching-led opportunities. It also offers a wide range of additional activities, including Action Learning Sets, Social and Networking Events and Peer Support sessions – all of which aim to provide a sense of belonging and enable LSP student to develop peer-to-peer connections and feel part of a community.

Why has this project been nominated

The LSP demonstrates the significant impact that can be achieved with a sustained, longitudinal approach to student support and success. Each LSP student is allocated a Student Success Coach (for the duration of their UG study) and offered up to two one-to-one coaching sessions each term. Alongside this, student can participate in the Prepare for Lancaster transitions event, Action Learning Sets, peer support session, social events and have access to an enrichment fund which students can use to enhance their academic studies or student experience. The overarching mission of the LSP is to provide a space to reflect and develop personalised strategies for success. This mission captures two important facets of the support offered. First, a space for the student to think and reflect on relevant subjects/areas of their life/study, and second, to empower them to pursue positive action toward their personalised vision of success. Whilst highly personalised, the LSP's underpinning rationale is that if a student is supported to be more reflective and goal-orientated, for example, this will be reflected in long term success measured in terms of completion, attainment, and career/postgraduate progression. The lived experience of students from WP backgrounds can vary enormously, making assumptions about what success looks like from their vantage point and the steps needed to achieve it challenging. By placing students in the driving seat and accompanying them on their journey, the LSP's ethos is that a non-directional coaching, student-led longitudinal and targeted programme of support will improve outcomes for WP students.

How long has the project been running

The LSP has been running since the 2019/20 academic year.

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

The numbers engaged on the programme (after withdrawals) have steadily increased from 54 at the end of the pilot year in 2019-20 to a high of 340 in 2023-24. 2019/20 – 54 (total end of year). 2020/21 – 141 (total end of year). 2021/22 – 215 (total end of year). 2022/23 – 260 (total end of year). 2023/24 – 340 (current total as of March 2024).

More details

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/widening-participation/lancaster-success-programme/>

