

NEON Awards 2024 Nominations

Category

NEON Widening Access Initiative (Outreach) Award

Name of project and institution

UNIQ, the University of Oxford

Brief Description

UNIQ is the University of Oxford's access programme for UK state school students. Places for students with good grades from backgrounds that are under-represented at Oxford are prioritised. Every year more students from diverse backgrounds get offered places at Oxford with help from UNIQ. The UNIQ residential summer school started in 2010 and we continually make changes to improve the support we provide to UNIQ students. Since the pandemic, UNIQ has been a hybrid programme, offering students both an academic residential in Oxford and a sustained online admissions support programme.

Why has this project been nominated

UNIQ is the largest outreach project that the University of Oxford delivers across the centralised university, colleges, and departments. The team that runs UNIQ (UAO – Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach) are incredibly proud of the scope and magnitude of UNIQ; we have students apply from every corner of England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland and love seeing the transformation that students undergo from when they start to when they finish. Over the 14 years that UNIQ has been running it has enabled the University to attract students from disadvantaged backgrounds or who were underrepresented at Oxford. As a result of the UNIQ programme each year between 250-350 start at Oxford and undertake an undergraduate degree. UNIQ provides an in person academic programme for every undergraduate subject, which are taught by current Oxford academics. The participants get to stay in an Oxford college so they get to experience life as an undergraduate at the University. The sheer size of the programme needs incredible levels of organisation and commitment from the team to deliver 5 weeks of back to back residentials each year and I would like to have the opportunity for the team to get the recognition they deserve on the quality of programme they deliver and the opportunities given to prospective students.

How long has the project been running

2010

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

2010 - 507 / 2011 - 657 / 2012 - 749 / 2013 - 1048 / 2014 - 1001 / 2015 - 875 / 2016 - 874 /
2017 - 963 / 2018 - 969 / 2019 - 1313 / 2020 - 1335 / 2021 - 2129 / 2022 - 1457 / 2023 -
1513 / 2024 - 1337 / Total - 16,727

More details

<https://www.uniq.ox.ac.uk/>

