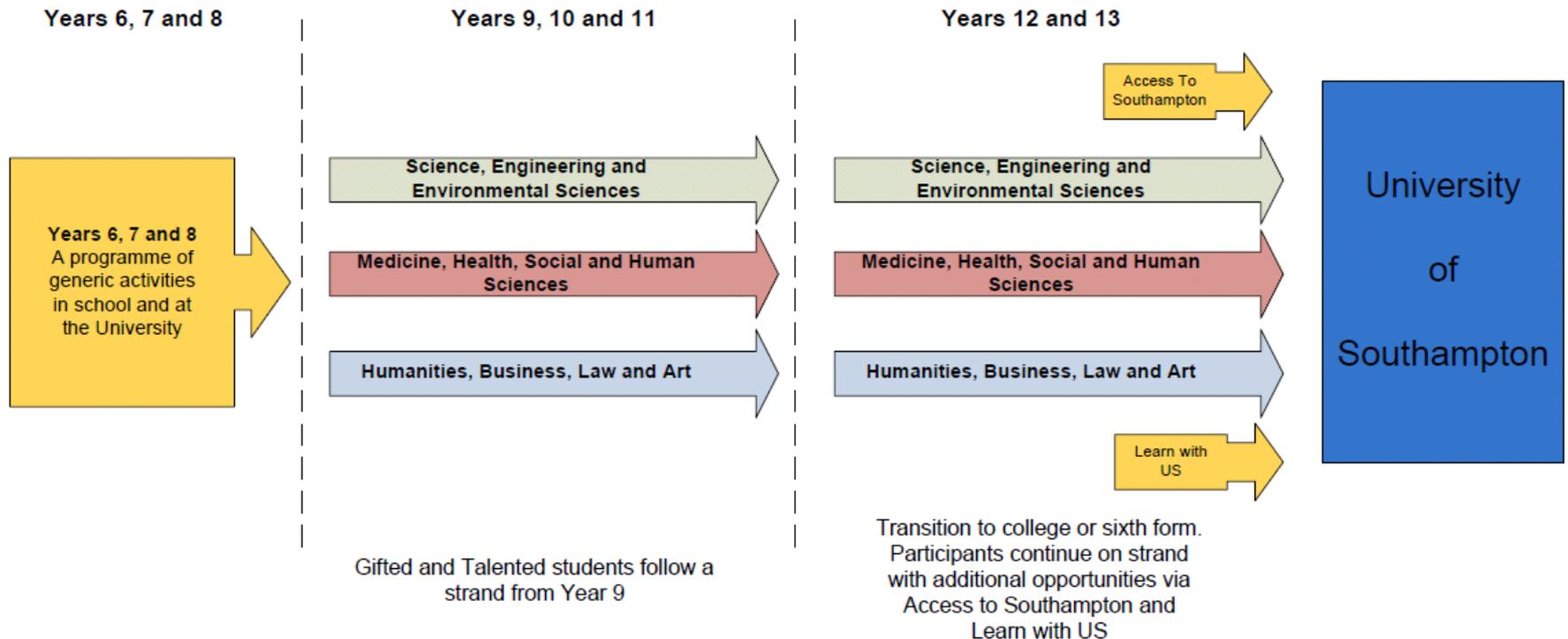# Diverse Students – Diverse Needs

Kirsten Wythe
Community Outreach Strand Leader - Recruitment, Outreach and Admissions

Learn with US

Subject Strands on the Learn with US Programme

Years 6, 7 and 8 | **Years 9, 10 and 11** | **Years 12 and 13**

Years 6, 7 and 8 A programme of generic activities in school and at the University

Access To Southampton

Science, Engineering and Environmental Sciences

Medicine, Health, Social and Human Sciences

Humanities, Business, Law and Art

Learn with US

University of Southampton

Gifted and Talented students follow a strand from Year 9

Transition to college or sixth form. Participants continue on strand with additional opportunities via Access to Southampton and Learn with US

Community Outreach

Particular focus on the following groups who are under represented in higher education:

- Care leavers

- Black and minority ethnic students

- Mature students

- Disabled students

Community Outreach

- Work with staff and students across the University, and in collaboration with external organisations to:

- promote Higher Education through a range of activities and events for target groups.

- maximise the quality of opportunities and experiences.

- develop print and online materials/resources for specific target groups.

- Work with colleagues in professional services and faculties to enhance existing support programmes/activities

Care Leavers

- Pre-application visits and e-mentoring support available

- Potential entrance through the University's Access to Southampton scheme

- A £1,000 care leavers bursary for each year of course

- An additional £1000 Access to Learning Fund bursary also available.

- £3,000 fee waiver if income is under £25,000

- University accommodation available 365 days a year.

- Designated Support from a member of Financial Information and Assistance and Wellbeing teams.

Mature Students

- Tailored talks for mature/access students at local colleges

- Attending information events for mature students

- Working with Health Sciences to set up visit day for local access students.

BME Students

- Working in partnership with:

  - third sector organisations working with BME students, i.e. Generating Genius and Social Mobility Foundation

  - Sixth forms/colleges with high proportion of BME students

Disabled Students

- Working in partnership with Enabling Services.

- Currently focusing on developing links with learning support staff in sixth forms and colleges

- Inclusive Education: Making it Happen Conference – Wednesday 11th July

Encouraging Diversity - Access to Southampton

Access to Southampton (A2S) is an alternative admissions scheme designed to provide financial assistance and special consideration to students who meet 2 of the following criteria:

- In receipt of a 16-19 Bursary or similar grant

- In the first generation of immediate family to apply to Higher Education (excluding brothers/sisters)

- Attend a secondary school which achieved less than 53% 5 A to C passes (including English and Maths) at GCSE in 2010

- Only option is to attend a local University

- Studies disrupted by circumstances in personal or domestic life

- Living or grew up in public care

Why are we running A2S?

- We realise that not all students can show their talent and potential through grades alone. A2S is a way for us to see a students achievements in context.

- Access Agreement – the University is committed to widening participation, to ensure that we recruit students from a wide range of backgrounds.

What do students get by applying through A2S?

Successful A2S applicants receive an **alternative offer** which is normally two grades below the standard offer, as well as a **£1000 A2S Bursary** in their first year of study.

During the application process students also get the chance to visit the University of Southampton and work with academic tutors as part of our **Summer School** programme.

Access to Southampton - Programme

- 3 main interactions:

  - Summer School, during the summer of their year 12 studies.

    - A chance to visit the University and have academic contact time.

  - Academic Assignment, which they complete over the summer.

    - This allows admissions tutors to see what the students can do and gives them a chance to see what an undergraduate piece of work is like.

  - Easter Transition event, for those who successfully receive an A2S offer from us.

    - Skills session to prepare them for University in the Autumn

Future developments – what we can do to support you and how you can work with us

- What challenges face students from these groups?

- Transition and retention - does more need to be done?

- Are you currently working on a project supporting any of these groups?

- Have you identified a need for support within your faculty/academic unit?

Any questions?

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