

Deliverers or beneficiaries? A revolving cycle of widening participation opportunities for undergraduate students

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Abstract

Undergraduate student ambassadors have a critical role supporting the widening participation agenda, assisting in the delivery of outreach activities designed to raise aspiration, awareness and attainment, such as summer residentials, mentoring, homework clubs and campus visits (Gartland, 2015 and Ylonen, 2012). Many student ambassadors are simultaneously engaged in delivering outreach or peer mentoring activities and participating in training to enable them to fulfil their role as a student ambassador.

This paper explores the revolving cycle of activities in which student ambassadors engage. We consider if, and how their training positions them as both deliverers and beneficiaries. The paper draws upon observations of training, student focus groups, student and staff interviews and 'conversations with a purpose' (Burgess, 1984). Using evaluation as a tool for development and accountability supports discussion of the practical implications for the university and students on this revolving cycle.

Reference

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Project:

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For further information including project report [Access Agreement Evaluation Project Outputs](#)