**Widening Access Policy**

As part of the 5\* Scheme this year, VP Activities alongside the Activities department have introduced a new requirement that aims to incorporate the wider student body with clubs, societies and networks.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **5 Star Requirement** | |
| Term 1 | Submit a widening access policy breaking down barriers to participation in your events or activities for your society with the support of the Activities team and the VP Activities, using our template. |
| Term 2 | Submit an update to this plan regarding how it’s been implemented and areas for continued growth, using our template and with support from the Activities Team. |

**What is Widening Access and Participation (WP)?**

Widening Access and Participation is all about trying to change Higher Education based on equality of access and opportunity. The aim is to offer opportunities to groups who are under-represented in Higher Education (HE).

**Who are WP students?**

This includes, but is not restricted to;

* Students from working class backgrounds
* Students with disabilities
* Mature students
* Students with caring responsibilities
* BME (Black minority ethnic) students

Students from these backgrounds have always found it difficult to enter and succeed in HE. SUBU believes that once they’re here the Students Union has a role to play to ensure these students are supported to help them to stay on their course, complete successfully and then be prepared to progress on to graduate employment.

**How is this relevant to clubs and societies?**

Clubs and Societies can play a vital role in creating a sense of belonging, friendship, community and support that allows students from all backgrounds to flourish at university. We want the committees of clubs and societies to also play their part and to proactively think about what they can do to work with SUBU in fulfilling our Widening Participation aims.

**Widening Access Policy Template**

Think, how could this link to WP?

|  |
| --- |
| Aims and objectives of your club/society/network |
|  |
| How can your club/society/network become more inclusive to students  from WP backgrounds? |
|  |
| What potential barriers could students from WP background encounter in accessing your club/society/network? |
|  |
| What can your club/society/network do to overcome/reduce these barriers? |
|  |
| What support do you need to execute this? (from SUBU, Students, Activities department etc.) |
|  |
| Other comments, thoughts and ideas |
|  |