

# Senior Widening Access Outreach Officer

Department	Access, Equality & Inclusion Service		
Directorate	Student Experience		
Staff Category	Administrative and Professional	Reference No	531196
Reports To	Widening Access Manager (Student & Community Engagement)	Grade:	7
Salary Range:	£35308 - £43155	Contract Type:	Fixed Term (Until August 2026)
FTE	1 (35 hours/week)	Closing Date	06/06/2023

## Job Advert

The University of Strathclyde is a socially progressive and people-oriented Higher Education institution, which values and celebrates the diversity of its student and staff community. We are committed to delivering an inclusive and welcoming environment, which promotes safety, security, good health and wellbeing for our entire campus community of staff, students and visitors. We are committed to supporting talent development in our learning and working environments and fostering an accessible and inclusive professional environment in which all can thrive and fulfil their individual and collective potential.

The Access, Equality and Inclusion Service leads that work through a whole-institution approach to address under-representation and advance equality of opportunity for all students and staff. We seek a dynamic and committed Senior Widening Access Outreach Officer to work within the Widening Access Team of the AEI Service. The post holder will design, develop and deliver a range of widening access outreach programmes, for primary and secondary pupils, and will lead on the S2 element of the University's flagship Young Strathclyder programme.

The successful candidate will be educated to degree/equivalent level. You will demonstrate a high level of competency and knowledge in widening access to tertiary education and have a demonstrable track record of running successful programmes in support of pupils/students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

## Job Description

### Brief Outline of Job:

The Senior Widening Access Outreach Officer will coordinate the development, delivery, management and evaluation of a range of widening access programmes to enhance learning and improve social mobility amongst disadvantaged young people, both in primary and secondary school. The role holder will liaise with departments, faculties and external activity providers to create a range of stimulating and impactful learning opportunities for young people, harnessing the University's public engagement and outreach expertise and knowledge to impact upon under-served and under-represented groups and further the institution's widening access objectives. The role holder will recruit, train and manage teams of student mentors and will develop and maintain key working relationships with external stakeholders, including relevant local authorities and schools, developing policies and processes related to schools engagement and outreach. In particular, the Senior Widening Access Outreach Officer will lead the development, implementation and management of the new S2 element of the University's flagship Young Strathclyder outreach programme and will help manage and support other elements of the programme, both for primary and secondary pupils.

## Main Activities/Responsibilities:

1.	Manage the development and delivery of a range of widening access outreach programmes, including the development, monitoring and evaluation of a range of learning activities and opportunities, liaising with schools and external organisations and developing strategies for attainment of credit for programme completion.
2.	Provide specialist/professional knowledge, advice and recommendations to a range of internal colleagues and external stakeholders on issues such as contextual admissions, strategic access targets and SFC Outcome Agreement guidance related to under-represented groups.
3.	Contribute to the communication and promotion of the University's work on widening access.
4.	Design and deliver a diverse range of outreach and support mechanisms and interventions that can be extended and flexibly repurposed for the growth in groups of learners and applicants in alignment with internal and external strategic targets such as the 2025 and 2030 vision, Scottish Government, Scottish Funding Council and Commissioner for Fair Access recommendations, Outcome Agreement guidance and access scholarships strategy.
5.	Lead the development of systems to monitor and maintain records to meet internal and external reporting requirements in relation to disadvantaged groups and produce complex written documentation such as learning materials and promotional materials to engage directly with learners and staff supporting them and to potential applicants, parents/carers, teachers and guidance staff.
6.	Develop, implement, monitor and evaluate policies, processes and operating procedures in relation to the delivery of a range of outreach programmes.
7.	Represent the Service and institution at a national and international level through participation in networks and committees and promote the work of the team at conferences and external engagement events.
8.	Persuade, influence and engage with senior management e.g. in promoting understanding of, and support mechanisms for, under-represented learners amongst departments, faculties and the Executive Team and contribute to the international reputation for innovative access strategies of the University in support of Strathclyde's socially progressive mission.
9.	Recruit, train and manage teams of undergraduate and postgraduate student mentors. Design and implement processes and procedures for the evaluation of mentor performance.
10.	Undertake other duties as appropriate to the grade and content of the post, as directed by the Widening Access Manager (Student and Community Engagement). This list of duties is therefore not exhaustive.

## Person Specification

<b>Educational and/or Professional Qualifications</b> (E=Essential, i.e. a candidate must meet all essential criteria to be considered for selection, D=Desirable)		<b>Essential/ Desirable</b>	<b>Assessment Method</b>
E1	A professional qualification and/or degree or significant equivalent relevant experience in a similar or related role.	Essential	App/CV/ Interview
<b>Experience</b>			
E2	Experience of working in a role based around widening access to education.	Essential	App/CV/ Interview
D1	Experience of successfully working in an HE widening access role within either an FE or HE setting.	Desirable	App/CV/ Interview
<b>Job Related Skills and Achievements</b>			
E3	Proven ability to manage multiple deadline-driven projects and to think and act strategically.	Essential	App/CV/ Interview
E4	Knowledge of the Higher Education sector and current issues around widening access.	Essential	App/CV/ Interview
E5	Experience of designing and delivering educational programmes.	Essential	App/CV/ Interview
E6	Ability to use initiative and judgement to resolve complex issues.	Essential	App/CV/ Interview
E7	Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.	Essential	App/CV/ Interview
E8	Ability to effectively network and develop successful working relationships with a wide range of people.	Essential	App/CV/ Interview
<b>Personal Attributes</b>			
E9	Personal commitment to advancing opportunity and widening access to higher education.	Essential	App/CV/ Interview

Other Relevant Factors		
E10 UK Driving licence.	Essential	Application/CV

## Application Procedure

Applicants are required to complete an application form including the name of three referees who will be contacted after interview without further permission, unless you indicate that you would prefer otherwise. Applicants should also submit a Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter detailing the knowledge, skills and experience you think make you the right candidate for the job. Applicants should also complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form.

## Other Information

Further information on the application process and working at Strathclyde can be found on our website (<http://www.strath.ac.uk/hr/workforus>).

Informal enquiries about the post can be directed to Iain Mitchell, Widening Access Manager (Student & Community Engagement), Access, Equality and Inclusion Service ([i.mitchell@strath.ac.uk](mailto:i.mitchell@strath.ac.uk)).

### Conditions of Employment

Conditions of employment relating to the Administrative and Professional staff category can be found at: [Conditions of Employment](#).

### Rewards and Benefits

Our staff have access to a wide range of outstanding benefits that include financial rewards, family friendly and wellbeing benefits and career development opportunities, details of which can be found [here](#).

### PVG Check

This position involves regulated work, making it a legislative requirement that the successful candidate becomes a member of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme. If appointed, employment with the University will not be confirmed, until membership of the Scheme has been received. The successful applicant will be precluded from working with protected groups until that time.

### Probation

Where applicable, the successful applicant will be required to serve a 9 month probationary period.

### Pension

The successful applicant will be eligible to join the Universities' Superannuation Scheme. Further information regarding this scheme is available from [Payroll and Pensions](#).

### Relocation

Where applicable, the University offers a relocation package to support new employees who meet the eligibility criteria. The relocation package is offered as a contribution towards costs incurred, and is designed to be flexible, allowing staff to use the financial support available in the way that will be most helpful to them. Further details are outlined in the Relocation Policy.

### Interviews

Formal interviews for this post will be held on 26/06/2023.

### Equality and Diversity

The University of Strathclyde is a socially progressive institution that strives to ensure equality of opportunity and celebrates the diversity of its student and staff community. Strathclyde is people-oriented and collaborative, offering a supportive and flexible working culture with a deep commitment to our equality, diversity and inclusion charters, initiatives, groups and networks.

We strongly encourage applications from Black, Asian and minority ethnicity, women, LGBT+, and disabled candidates and candidates from lower socio-economic groups and care-experienced backgrounds.

### University Values

The University's Values capture what we're all about: who we are, what we believe in and what we stand for. [Our Values](#) have been derived from how we act and how we expect to be treated as part of Strathclyde.



The University of Strathclyde is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, number



# Conditions of Employment

## Administrative and Professional Services Staff Grades 6 and above

### 1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

Members of staff are subject to the Charter and Statutes and the Ordinances and Regulations of the University, published in the Calendar, and to any amendments or additions thereto approved by the University Court and, in the case of the Charter and Statutes, the Privy Council. Staff are also expected to familiarise themselves with, and adhere to, general University policies and procedures, as published on University web pages.

The University Court recognises Strathclyde University and College Union (SUCU) as the sole body with which it will negotiate and consult on all collective issues concerned with the terms and conditions of employment of Administrative and Professional Services staff in Grades 6 and above. Such terms and conditions may be varied by the University Court after negotiation and consultation with SUCU.

Each member of staff is responsible for the proper performance of allocated duties to the person or persons specified in the member of staff's letter of appointment and any accompanying papers.

The University is committed to ensuring that its business is conducted in an open and transparent manner and will take all appropriate steps to address risks of bribery or corruption. Members of staff are required at all times to act honestly and with integrity and to safeguard the resources for which they are responsible. The University has in place a robust Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policy to enable concerns to be brought to its attention. This is available at [www.strath.ac.uk/publicinterestdisclosure](http://www.strath.ac.uk/publicinterestdisclosure). Other relevant policies, e.g. Fraud Prevention and Conflicts of Interests, can also be found on the University's website.

Any member of staff may at any time be exposed to commercially sensitive information, information related to potentially valuable intellectual property or information which may otherwise be of a confidential nature. This information, which could be found anywhere in the University, may be written or disclosed orally, can include information of a commercial or technical nature, and may be owned by the University or by third parties. The University requires all employees to keep any such information confidential in the first instance and not disclose, publish or otherwise disseminate it without prior consent of the University. Such confidentiality obligations are commonplace and in the commercial interests of the University. When in doubt advice should always be sought from Research and Knowledge Exchange Services prior to disclosure.

The University operates probationary periods for new staff, the duration of which will be specified in individual letters of appointment. The normal probation period for posts in this staff category is 9 months for those at grades 6 and 7, and 12 months for grades 8 and above. Further guidance on probationary procedures is published at [www.strath.ac.uk/hr](http://www.strath.ac.uk/hr).

Further information on the terms and conditions specified in this document and other staffing policies and procedures can also be found at [www.strath.ac.uk/hr](http://www.strath.ac.uk/hr).

### 2. SALARY

Appointments are made at an appropriate salary point on the University's grading structure, with initial placing determined according to qualifications and experience. Increments are paid to staff on 1 April each year, when the employee has a minimum of 6 full months of service at the appointed grade, allowing progression to the next point on the salary scale until the top guaranteed point of the scale is reached.

Arrangements in relation to overtime, additional hours, non-standards and on-call working are published at [www.strath.ac.uk/staff/policies/hr](http://www.strath.ac.uk/staff/policies/hr)

Salaries are paid directly to staff members nominated bank account, normally on the second last working day of the month.

### 3. HOURS OF WORK

The normal working week is 35 hours. Unless otherwise indicated in an individual's letter of appointment, the normal hours are 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday with a one hour lunch break. Certain members of staff may be required to work some hours outwith this normal pattern and this should be agreed locally.

Overtime rates do not apply to staff grades 6 and above. Where a Head of Department/School/equivalent requests additional work, above the standard working week to meet the particular requirements of the Department, equivalent time off in lieu may be granted by prior agreement.

### 4. HOLIDAYS

Annual leave entitlement is 31 days per year to be taken by agreement with the line manager. For staff members working on a part-time basis, holidays will be calculated on a pro-rata basis.

In addition to annual leave there is an entitlement to eleven public holidays per year which should be taken on days that the University is closed for this purpose. The University presently closes for four additional days over the Christmas and New Year period. **These additional days count against the annual leave entitlement.**

For staff members working on a part-time basis, public holiday entitlement will be calculated on a pro-rata basis.

Annual leave and public holiday entitlements should be taken in the leave year to which they relate. Up to five days leave can be carried forward into the new leave year subject to line management agreement. In exceptional circumstances, Heads of Department/School/equivalent may approve carry forward of accrued annual leave in excess of five days.

The University's expectation is that staff take all accrued holidays prior to their termination date. If staff have exceeded their entitlement the University will deduct an equivalent number of days pay from final salary payments.

## 5. SICKNESS ABSENCE

During any period of absence through illness or injury provided the appropriate notification and certification procedures have been followed the University will pay a member of staff (having taken account of the aggregate of all periods of absence due to illness during the twelve months immediately preceding the first day of the current absence) as follows:

Period of Continuous Employment at start of absence from work	Full Pay	Half Pay
Less than 1 year	1 month	1 month
1 year but less than 2 years	2 months	2 months
2 years but less than 3 years	4 months	4 months
3 years but less than 5 years	5 months	5 months
5 years or more	6 months	6 months

In order to manage the University's sick pay scheme the University requires to maintain sickness absence records on individual members of staff. When making payments after the expiry of statutory sick pay the University will deduct an amount equivalent to any benefit normally payable by the Department of Work and Pensions. For full details on the general University policy in this area please refer to the Sickness Absence Management Policy at [www.strath.ac.uk/staff/policies/hr](http://www.strath.ac.uk/staff/policies/hr).

## 6. PENSIONS

If you are under age 75 at the date your appointment commences you will automatically become a member of the pension scheme operated by the University — the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS). You will be admitted to the career revalued benefits scheme called the USS Retirement Income Builder; the contribution rate that currently applies is 9.8% of pensionable salary. A threshold applies to the maximum salary that counts towards the USS Retirement Income Builder. The current threshold from 1 April 2023 is £41,004 per year. Contributions based on salary above the monthly equivalent rate of the threshold are paid to the defined contribution section of the scheme called the USS Investment Builder. Please use the following link to access information, including the USS Member Guide: <https://www.uss.co.uk/for-members/youre-a-new-joiner>. The scheme booklet is called 'Your Guide to the Universities Superannuation Scheme'.

The University operates a salary exchange arrangement, Pensions Plus, for members of the USS. Pensions Plus enables pension contributions to be made in a manner so that both employees and the University can benefit from available National Insurance Contribution savings. You will be automatically included in Pensions Plus, provided it does not adversely affect your take-home pay or your ability to claim certain state benefits. If your earnings fall below the Pension Plus pay protection limit you will be opted out of Pension Plus. This will not affect your membership of the USS.

New members of staff may opt out of USS within three months of taking up appointment and will then be treated as if they had never been a member of the scheme. After three months members of staff who wish to withdraw from USS during their employment will be required to give a minimum of 28 days' notice in writing to the University. Any member of staff who wishes to opt out should contact the Pensions Section, Finance, in the first instance ([pensions@strath.ac.uk](mailto:pensions@strath.ac.uk)). Please note that if you are a member of Pensions Plus and withdraw from USS with less than two years of membership, or cease employment with the University and have less than two years of USS membership, the option of a refund of pension contributions will not be available to you. Instead, USS must provide you with a pension benefit that is payable from your Normal Pension Age. Regardless of whether you participate in Pensions Plus, if you are a member of the pension scheme for two years or more you are not entitled to a refund of pension contributions on leaving the scheme, you will be entitled to a pension benefit.

The University reserves the right to alter or withdraw Pensions Plus as it sees fit or as required to comply with legislative changes. Withdrawal or amendment of Pensions Plus will not affect your membership of USS. If you do not wish to participate in Pensions Plus but wish to remain in

the pension scheme please contact the Pensions Team who will provide you with a non-participation form.

Information regarding pension scheme membership can be found on the Pensions pages of the University's website. Full information regarding USS can be found on the USS website – [www.uss.co.uk](http://www.uss.co.uk)

## 7. PLACE OF WORK AND RESIDENCE

Members of staff will be based on the John Anderson Campus, unless otherwise stated in the letter of appointment. The Department/School in which the post is initially placed will be specified in the letter of appointment although there will be an expectation to work at such other places as required in the course of employment.

If the need arises for members of staff to work outside the UK for a period (or periods) of more than one month then such arrangements will be subject to mutual agreement. Members of staff would then be provided with a statement in advance setting out the terms covering such periods of employment.

The University does not normally place specific restrictions upon the place of residence of members of staff. All staff are, however, expected to reside in a location which is compatible with the satisfactory fulfilment of all the duties associated with their appointment.

## 8. CONSULTANCY/FURTHER ACTIVITIES

To support the strategic objectives of the University and to facilitate individual professional development, the University encourages staff to engage in professional activities with outside bodies related to their field of work. In many cases, such activity will be approved on the basis that it represents University knowledge exchange activity and should therefore be treated as part of the individual's overall workload and managed through the University's systems. It is also recognised that there will be some cases where an activity is entirely separate from the University and should thus be notified/approved as a personal business activity. For further information please refer to the "University Procedure in relation to Work for Outside Bodies including Consultancies", which forms part of the employment contract and can be accessed at [www.strath.ac.uk/hr](http://www.strath.ac.uk/hr).

## 9. DISCIPLINARY AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Further information on the University's disciplinary and grievance procedure can also be found at [www.strath.ac.uk/policies/hr](http://www.strath.ac.uk/policies/hr) or on request from Human Resources.

## 10. NOTICE AND TERMINATION

The employment of a member of staff is terminable by at least three months in writing, on either side; except during probationary period when the notice period is one month. If notice is being given by a member of staff earlier release may be granted if this can be arranged without detriment to the work of the department or area. If the appointment is for a fixed term it will expire at the end of the period without the necessity for notice. Fixed term contracts may be terminated by either party short of the expiry date by the serving of one months' notice in writing. The University is not obliged to continue a fixed term appointment beyond the employment period. For employees appointed above Grade 10, the notice period for both the employer and employee will be 6 months, except during the probationary period when a one month's notice period will apply. One month's notice will also apply for fixed term contracts terminated short of the expiry date.

Revised April 2023