

SOLENT UNIVERSITY, A UNIVERSITY OF SANCTUARY

A plan to continue to develop a culture of welcome from 2021/22 to 2023/24

Solent University committed to becoming a University of Sanctuary in its access and participation plan, 2025 Strategy and civic charter. The plan outlines when our key activities and commitments will be implemented over the next three years in continuing to develop a culture of welcome, which will form part of our application to become an officially recognised University of Sanctuary in 2022. The plan was created by the University of Sanctuary working group in consultation with our University of Sanctuary Network, which includes students, staff, alumni and external organisations. The plan aims to ensure the culture of welcome which is created and the associated activities, such as the scholarship scheme, are sustainable and continue to make an impact for the long term.



University of Sanctuary Principles

These three principles underpin the commitment needed to become a University of Sanctuary:

Learn - Learning about what it means to be seeking sanctuary, both in general (for the community in which the university is situated), and specifically (in the context of HE and the campus environment).

Embed - Taking positive action to embed concepts of welcome, safety and inclusion within the institution including, but not limited to, the student body, students' union, departments, faculties, senior management, administrative and campus management staff. To take steps to ensure this progress outlasts the current student population.

Share - Sharing your vision, achievements, what you have learned, and good practice with other universities, the local community and beyond.

Year 1 - 2021/22 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022			
Date	Activity	Principle(s)	Owner(s)
August	Establish a buddy system for Solent Sanctuary Scholars to run every year.	Embed	Student Experience
September onwards	Establish an annual programme of staff training to support staff in working with people seeking sanctuary.	Learn/Embed	External Relations and Student Experience
September onwards	Work with external partners to establish an annual programme of widening participation activities for people seeking sanctuary, including careers advice, campus visits and sit in lecture opportunities.	Embed/Share	External Relations
September onwards	Explore opportunities within existing UoAs for research on the topic of people seeking sanctuary. Consider looking at issues students seeking sanctuary face. This could also look at policies that create multiple barriers and then position University's work/ambitions against it to change things.	Learn/Embed/Share	Faculty/Research and Innovation
October	Ensure inclusion of the University of Sanctuary in welcome week messaging.	Embed	Student Experience
Summer 2022	Partnership with Southampton's Schools of Sanctuary - host an annual meeting for their ambassadors and involving our sanctuary scholars and external partners.	Learn/Share	External Relations

Year 2 - 2022/23 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023			
Date	Activity	Principle(s)	Owner(s)
September onwards	Create own STAR group out of the network or collaboration with the University of Southampton Student Union STAR and other cause lead groups to ensure Solent Students play an active role in campaigning.	Embed/Share	Students' Union
September onwards	Vice-chancellor to be a voice and contribute to the national campaign around people seeking sanctuary, highlight the role Solent University is playing.	Share	External Relations and Vice-Chancellors Office
September onwards	In depth Case Studies (such as ethnographies) of refugees, not necessarily from Southampton, to learn the lived experience of being a refugee.	Learn/Share	Faculty/Research and Innovation
October	Review the scholarship scheme, make enhancements and request additional funding if required.	Learn/Embed	University of Sanctuary Working Group
February	Ensure Solent's University of Sanctuary Network is self-sustainable through its members and create long term plan.	Embed	University of Sanctuary Working Group
June	Run, every year, a series of events as part of refugee week in collaboration with the Students' Union and celebrate the success of our scholars.	Embed/Share	University of Sanctuary Working Group

Year 3 - 2023/24 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024			
Date	Activity	Principle(s)	Owner(s)
June	Celebrate our Sanctuary Scholars as part of graduation ceremonies and raise awareness.	Share	University of Sanctuary Working Group/External Relations
June	Review the last three years of activity and create a new three-year plan.	Embed	University of Sanctuary Working Group