



SCOTTISH WIDER ACCESS PROGRAMME

Synopsis

SWAP (Scottish Wider Access Programme), which provides independent advice to adults who may have missed out on higher or further education first time round and which provides them with access courses which can lead to guaranteed places in colleges or universities

Scottish Wider Access Programme

The Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP) is a partnership approach to the recruitment and progression of adults with few or no qualifications into access programmes which provide guaranteed entry into higher education.

For 21 years, the SWAP consortia, comprising universities, colleges and Local Authorities in Scotland, have been promoting and actively recruiting adults with few or no qualifications into access programmes which provide guaranteed entry into higher education.

SWAP specifically targets:

- adults over 21;
- the unemployed;
- those with a disability;
- black minority ethnic students;
- women returners; and
- those resident in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation - zone 5

SWAP facilitate a broad range of access programmes covering a range of courses including Humanities, Information Technology, Education, Nursing, Science, Arts and Health related studies.

SWAP oversee student progress on these programmes and provide guidance to students through presentations, interviews and guidance materials. In particular the Scottish Wider Access Programme is made up of three elements:

- **the academic content** (as agreed by the further and higher education partners);
- **preparation for higher education** (a specially devised unit to help students understand and prepare for higher education); and
- **the student profile** (a guidance document which enables both student and tutor to monitor student progress and make informed decisions about progression).

Perhaps most significantly, SWAP programmes have flexible assessment, additional student support and provide guaranteed progression across a wide range of courses. To support these courses, SWAP's core work consists of marketing and recruitment; programme enhancement and review; programme quality assurance; and facilitating guaranteed progression options for students.