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## **OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT ACCESS AND ENGAGEMENT AT BIRKBECK**

The work of Birkbeck's Access and Engagement Department addresses the discrepancies in the take-up and outcome of higher education opportunities between different social groups and our work takes us out and about to local communities, education providers and workplaces across London.

To this end, there are a number of ways in which Birkbeck's academic community can support the work of the Department:

### **a) One-off Engagement Opportunities**

We are often invited to showcase the research and teaching of Birkbeck academics through our work, and opportunities to participate in one-off opportunities range from delivering a free talk at a community venue or a learning activity in the workplace for a group of trade union members, to a guest lecture for a group of BTEC students or forced migrants visiting the College.

### **b) Developing and Delivering Interventions**

We are also keen to work with academics, PhD researchers and ECRs from different disciplines across the College, in particular those with previous community engagement experience or whose research which would be of interest to the communities we work with, to contribute to our outreach programme in more depth.

We are asking academic colleagues for proposals to develop and deliver interventions aimed at those facing increased barriers to social mobility as a result of structural inequality. These will build on existing partnerships, priorities and relationships and meet the needs identified by local communities and target groups.

Interventions will target prospective students who meet one or more of the following:

- no first degree
- no friends and family with experience of university
- out of education for 5+ years,

and who are from at least one of the following groups:

- East London residents; (particularly the borough of Newham)
- Trade union members whose job is at risk of change
- Underemployed or unemployed graduates
- Attending a London FE or adult education college

Interventions will support our work around the following aims:

- supporting those who are facing change to make informed decisions about university;
- challenging inequalities;
- navigating university and developing social capital;
- as a community resource, delivering work which meets the needs and priorities of local communities as defined by community members;
- developing free learning activities within the workplace or a community group
- offering free and high quality learning opportunities which are open access and offer an experience of university learning.

To register interest: <https://bbk.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/open-house-register-of-interest>