

**A world where talent and potential  
can define a young person's future**



## The world is losing out on potential

**Every year, thousands of students from underprivileged backgrounds who want to go to a top university often end up doing one of the following:**

### **Not applying**

- Because they may possibly have no role models who would be inspiring and motivating them to apply.

### **Not receiving any offers**

- Because they might lack the intensive application support that some more fortunate students are receiving.

### **Dropping out from education**

- Because they could be lacking a more supportive community around them.

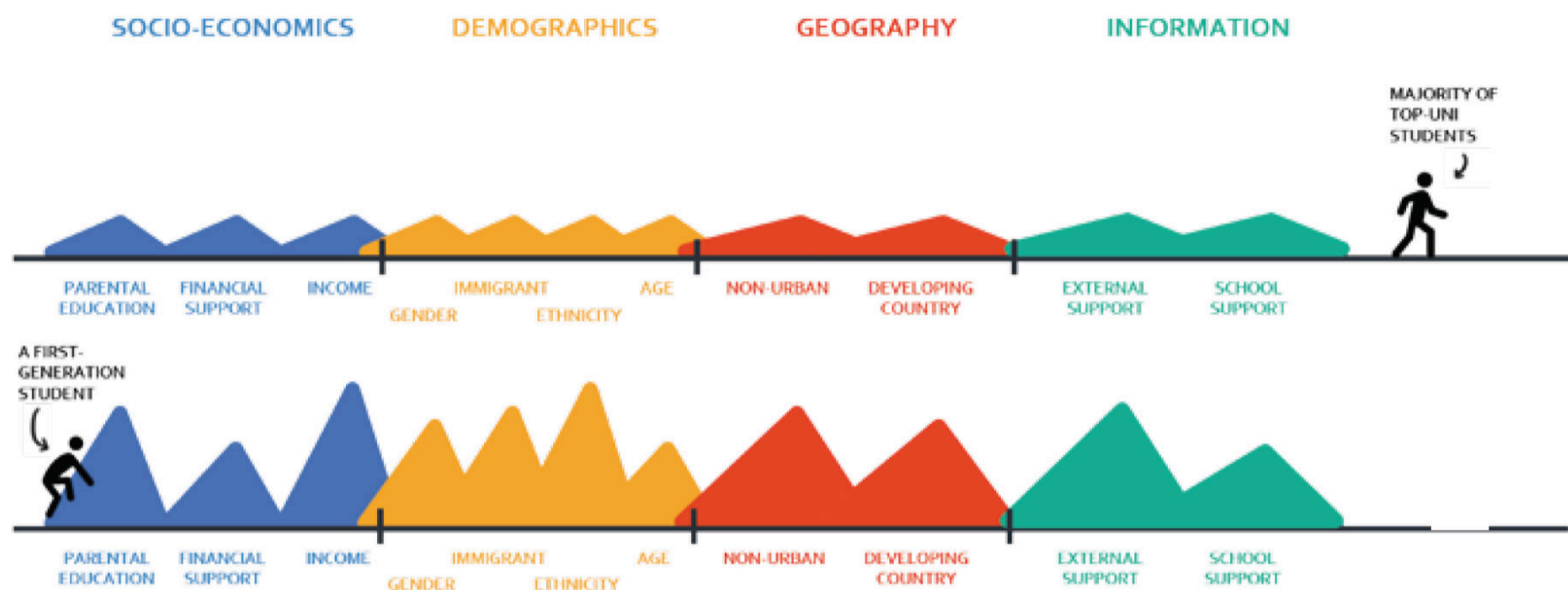
This translates into a massive loss of potential for top universities – and the world at large!

### **Our mission statement:**

Levelling the playing field in higher education by supporting students from less privileged backgrounds in applying to, gaining admissions to, and then succeeding at top universities.



## Barriers which play an important role for a student applying to top universities



The Project Access Model of Inequality is based on the UN Layers of Inequality and the 2019 Goalkeepers Report of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

With our model, we aim to recognise the barriers that are holding students back from higher education differ greatly and often compound. We have based our program eligibility criteria on the four areas of inequality reflected in the model above.

Through this holistic approach, we are able to recognise inequalities across and within the countries we operate in and ensure our program support the students who need it the most.

In the UK, around 3,000 students from state-funded schools receive the grades to get into a top university, but instead choose not to go.

The Sutton Trust (2018)

In the US, between 25,000 and 35,000 low-income students score in the 90th percentile or above on the SAT each year, but never apply to selective universities

The Sutton Trust (2018)

## Who we are



Project Access is a non-profit organization that launched in 2016 to tackle the inequalities in accessing top universities for underprivileged students.

We always seek to help aspiring students across the world who have the means and abilities to get into a top university, but face certain disadvantages when applying.

Project Access matches mentees with one of our trained mentors. The mentor helps to guide the mentee through the given application process and will answer any questions the mentee might have.

As of September 2020, over **2,000 mentors** have are all committed to making an impact on the lives of young students.



Project Access has over 170 volunteers around the world, that empowers 2,000 volunteering mentors to guide prospective students.



We strongly believe in building communities and are very proud of our ever-growing network of more than **2,000 mentors** and successful mentees which are spread across the **13 UK and US universities** where we have teams based today.

Our Campus Teams work to recruit and train mentors, while gathering our community for events, workshops and socials to strengthen the community. Understanding inequalities across the countries we operate in is paramount and we strongly believe in having team members from each country where we do outreach.

As of today, we have **more than 20 dedicated Outreach Teams**. This ensures that we target our communications to the right communities and thereby support the right students.

Since launching in 2016, Project Access has made a remarkable impact:



**Changing futures at scale:**  
3,300+ students are supported.



**Strong impact record:**  
Over 60% received an offer from their top three choices.



**Powerful community:**  
2,000+ active mentors.



**Powered by:**  
54,000+ annual volunteer hours.



**Truly global:**  
Operations in over 20 countries and 8 regions.

Project Access Impact Survey data yields a 77.4% success rate in 2019 (following the previous 72% in 2018 and 70% in 2017)<sup>1</sup>

Estimating a 60% success rate to counteract potential selection-bias.

## Three success stories from our work

### **Fleury, Burundi**

Fleury grew up in the Mahama Refugee Camp in Rwanda. In the national state exam, he scored 100%, yielding the highest result in all of Rwanda and even got an appearance in a newspaper.

Despite the amazing result, he didn't know how to translate this into a university degree, so we matched him with our mentor Nina at Columbia University who helped him apply to Columbia and ALU.

*Fleury is now a student at the African Leadership University, Africa's fastest rising university!*



### **Bianca, Austria**

Bianca joined our application bootcamp in Vienna in 2019 and was subsequently matched with a mentor at UCL.

This is what she said about our program:

"Learning from the experiences of my mentor made me feel more confident in my application. The amount of support I received exceeded my expectations and contributed to my success!"

*Bianca is now a student at UCL and became a mentor through Project Access herself!*



### **Selina, Singapore**

Selina had always dreamed about going to Harvard but had no idea where how to start before she applied.

Her school in Singapore had offered little support with applications. Here's what she got out of our program:

"My mentor gave really thought-provoking feedback on my Common Application essay and also gave first-hand insight into US college life from the perspective of an international student."

*Selina is now studying at Harvard University and recently became a mentor through Project Access herself!*



**Together we can level the playing field  
in higher education by supporting  
students from disadvantaged  
backgrounds in applying to, gaining  
admissions to, and succeeding at their  
desired top university.**

Join us at:

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