



## 'Making a Mark' Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

### University of St Mark & St John

The University of St Mark & St John (Marjon) is a progressive university where students can (and do) achieve their full potential.

We are recognised as the number-one university in the UK for social mobility, and more than 94% of our students find employment or move into further education within six months of graduating.



We like to give back to our community through our continued commitment to making ethical social and economic decisions. There are many ways in which we honour our commitment to creating benefits for people and the planet, including accreditation from the Fairtrade Foundation and a commitment to responsible recycling.

The Social Enterprise Mark criteria includes a requirement for all applicants and renewing Mark Holders to provide 'social impact statements', which illustrate how they are striving to meet their social/environmental objectives. Below are examples of how **Marjon** is Making a Mark, striving to create a positive impact on people and planet.

### Widening participation in Higher Education

We are committed to our position in respect of widening participation, with over 95% of students attending the University coming from State Sector schools and almost 40% from lower socio-economic groups; making the University one of the most inclusive institutions in England in 2013/14.

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We support the raising of aspiration and attainment through the provision of workshops at feeder schools, mentoring programmes and summer schools, which all aim to increase awareness of the benefits of higher education.

This ensures that those from traditionally low participation neighbourhoods (25%) are made aware of the choices open to them and supported through the decision-making processes.



## Supporting the public and voluntary sector

Most of our students undertake work placements as an integral part of their programme of study, and much of this is in public sector and voluntary organisations, such as schools, youth organisations, the NHS, drama groups and sports clubs. In addition, there is a strong culture of student and staff volunteering activities.

Students also have the opportunity to act as 'student ambassadors', mentors and 'student IT support' workers, working with current students, prospective students and the wider community.

The University will continue to produce graduates whose primary role will be to work within and enhance the output of the public sector, and as an institution, we will continue to provide a broad range of public benefit to our community.

## Creating transformational impact

The transformational impact of the University was highlighted in the [Higher Education as a Tool of Social Mobility](#) report (CentreForum 2014), where the University was identified as the top university for social mobility, reflecting the high percentage of students from poorer backgrounds securing graduate jobs after leaving the University.

The University has retained Matrix accreditation for our student support services, which includes a financial support team, study skills and a strong disability team.

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