



'Making a Mark'

Gold Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

Solent University

Solent has been a university since July 2005, and since then has helped nearly fifty thousand students from all walks of life to make the most of their potential.

We're focused on the practical side of higher education – giving our students the connections, experience and confidence to turn their newfound knowledge into a career with real, meaningful impact. We want Solent graduates to be the passionate, creative professionals of the future, bringing expertise and energy into their communities and workplaces.



We were awarded the Social Enterprise Gold Mark in April 2018, joining a growing network of 'gold standard' social enterprises. The Gold Mark criteria includes a requirement for all applicants and renewing Mark Holders to answer a set of social impact questions, which illustrate how they are striving to meet their social/environmental objectives.

Commitment to improving social mobility

Our mission perfectly encapsulates our focus on supporting students from diverse backgrounds and encouraging social mobility:

"We are dedicated to the pursuit of excellent university education that enables learners from all backgrounds to become enterprising citizens"

Email: ask@solent.ac.uk
Website: www.solent.ac.uk/
Phone: 023 8201 3000



and responsible leaders, while also promoting economic and social prosperity for the communities we serve.”

Our vision is for Solent to be an inclusive university, which is a catalyst for social justice, social mobility and economic prosperity – providing access to top-class university education for all those qualified and able to benefit. This gives purpose to everything that we do as a university; our aim is always to work for the social good and to ensure that we do the right thing for all the stakeholders involved.

Widening access to higher education

The University has an excellent record in widening access to education programmes. We have consistently performed better than UK sector averages for three key performance measures: attracting students from low participation neighbourhoods, lower social classes and state schools.

We open our doors to students who would have previously been excluded from higher education, because of their subject choices or learning styles. 97.3% of our students were educated in a state school and 70% of are the first in their family to come to university.

We offer bursaries and schemes to support students from low incomes, including our 'On Track' student support programme.

Having an impact on local communities

We are committed to being socially conscious in everything we do. Below are examples of how we have a direct social impact on the community around us:

- **Impact through enterprise** – [Solent Creatives](#); our unique in-house creative agency that matches up talented creative students with freelancing opportunities. Many clients are charities for whom we work pro bono or for a much-reduced fee.
- **Impact through Research and Knowledge Exchange Partnerships** – our social innovation group has worked on numerous research projects across urban planning, business enterprise, change management, health and social welfare

Email: ask@solent.ac.uk
Website: www.solent.ac.uk/
Phone: 023 8201 3000

