The White Paper identifies two key values that underpin our work: first, ‘engaged enquiry’ which has direct relevance to our teaching and learning activities and 'mutual accountability' which addresses our working relationships within the University.

The diverse composition and work of the Education Portfolio is united by these key values and the overarching aim of improving the student experience.
There are three key themes with which the Portfolio is providing a framework for the education, and the student experience more broadly, within the University:

- Enhancing Teaching and Supporting Learning through the learning experience of engaged enquiry
- Improving the Quality of the Student Experience
- Social Inclusion, Widening Participation and Community Engagement
1. ENHANCING TEACHING AND SUPPORTING LEARNING THROUGH THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE OF ENGAGED ENQUIRY
University of Sydney Strategic Plan 2011-2015: Strategy Three: Initiate a University wide program of curriculum renewal

- **Aim:** Support the University and the Faculties in developing and implementing a sustainable and coherent curriculum renewal strategy.

- **Scope:** Curriculum Renewal Working Party of the SEG Curriculum and Course Planning Committee (CCPC) established in 2011 to support and inform the development of the CCPC Curriculum Renewal Strategy.

- **Key initiatives are:**
  1. Review all new course proposals in terms of strategic fit with University and Faculty plans.
  2. Faculty-led Curriculum Renewal Strategy enables Faculties to negotiate the ‘terms of reference’ for their Curriculum Reviews with CCPC to support the inclusion of relevant University priorities in their reviews.
  3. Establish process and schedule for CCPC-initiated Strategic Institutional Review of Current Course Offerings.

- **Next stages:** Developing new institutional data collection tools and data sets to inform curriculum planning and review. Building on the reports of the first cycle of reviews and resources to develop continuing processes for curriculum renewal.
University of Sydney Strategic Plan 2011-2015: *Strategy Seven: Develop our capacity to identify and promulgate excellence in teaching*

**Aim:** Establish and support achievement of agreed University standards for teaching and student learning.

**Scope:** Encompasses supporting achievement of standards related to: students' (UG PG RHD) learning experience; learning support; learning outcomes; teachers' teaching experience; teaching support. Links teaching and learning renewal with Curriculum renewal and Infrastructure renewal.

**Activity:** Initial work in 2012 around setting standards for quality of learners’ experience and outcomes in units of study through the Faculty USE T&L standards compacts and the first stage implementation of the standards based assessment policy. Pilot of Quality Verification Scheme. Developing data sets to support teacher and teacher experience standards.

**Next stages:**

(i) link to emerging Faculty curriculum renewal priorities and the development of curriculum standards.

(ii) Incorporate emerging TEQSA Learning & Teaching standards

(iii) Learning support standards.
University of Sydney Strategic Plan 2011-2015: *Strategy Four: Enrich the experience of University life for all our students*

**Aim:** Develop a coherent learning and teaching space (both physical and virtual), to improve the quality of the student and teaching experience.

**Scope:** The strategy is in three parts; a) learning space metrics dissemination, b) standards for learning and teaching space, c) joint learning space projects with Faculties.

**Activity:**

a) *Metrics dissemination:* A review report of all University Teaching and Learning Space was presented and endorsed by SEG in November 2011. Currently, we are putting together a description of all teaching and learning space, from which the Portfolio will systematically provide learning space provision and use statistics so that rationale decision making and strategic planning for holistic learning space can occur from 2013.

b) *Standards:* the Education Portfolio has led the governance and business case for the TLC over the last 3 years. The outcomes of the project are new standards for formal, informal and virtual learning space.

c) *Collaborative projects:* the Education Portfolio works with Faculties annually on learning space projects to improve the student experience and disseminate examples of integrated learning space through effective use of our physical and virtual infrastructure. Each project has a sponsor and the oversight of all project work in Faculties is provided to the Faculty eLearning representative, who is nominated by the Dean.
University of Sydney Strategic Plan 2011-2015: Strategy Nine: Agree coordinating strategies for identifying, developing and supporting research talent from undergraduate students to research leaders.

**Aim:** To enhance an individually–tailored training regime for HDR students to increase their international competitiveness, and to meet their career and research project-related needs.

**Scope:** Review the PhD program to provide scope for broadening methodological and generic skills training. Develop clearer pathways to the PhD from Honours and alternate prior programs. Establish discipline-specific guidelines and training for supervisors, including provision for co-supervisors. To further build the capacity of experienced RHD supervisors.

**Activity:** Training Needs Analysis form for use in the semester 2, 2012 trial for new HDR students in Arts and Engineering with a view to wider roll-out across the University in 2013.
2. IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE
The objective for 2012 is to develop a strategy for the overall transformation of the Student Experience. The strategy is being implemented through the Student Wellbeing and Development (SWD) Project team and draws upon agreed prioritisation of recommendations from the Phillips KPA Report and the Schreuder Report to inform the work of the Student Wellbeing and Development Project.

The Strategy for overall Transformation of the Student Experience will be informed by the work of the five strategic initiatives:

- Disability Action Plan
- Student Services for International Student - Phase 3
- English Language Support
- Sydney Student Co-curricular Experience (Student Life)
- Building Mental Health Capacity
University Strategic Plan 2011-2015 Strategy Seventeen: Systematically review arrangements for the provision of administrative and professional services

Aim: Service Excellence in:

- Student Administration – model of future delivery of student administrative services
- International Student Administration – process review
- Student Services Review – reorganisation of Student Services into the four thematic areas of:
  - Student Induction / Orientation
  - Student Wellbeing
  - Financial Support
  - Equity
- Student Recruitment (Strategy and Services) Review
University of Sydney Strategic Plan 2011-2015: Strategy Four: Enrich the experience of University life for all our students

**Aim:** The Sydney Student Program (SSP) will deliver a new student management system and approach to student service delivery across the University offering students a simplified, seamless relationship with the University from first enquiry through to alumni engagement.

**Activities:** Preparation for the Pilot in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to redesign processes to support online enrolment midyear. The change provides the University with an opportunity to do better in a range of areas for example by providing more comprehensive and navigable online course information to assist student decision making, more efficient and responsive student enquiry arrangements and clearer roles and responsibilities. The success of the pilot will be measured by student satisfaction and staff experience and efficiencies.
3. SOCIAL INCLUSION, WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
University of Sydney Strategic Plan 2011-2015: *Strategy Eleven: Attract and support promising students from a diversity of social and cultural backgrounds*

**Aim:** To develop policy and programs to implement the University’s Social Inclusion strategy.

**Activities include the Compass Program, Admissions Pathways and Supporting Transition**
The Social Inclusion Unit has secured three more years of funding of the Compass Program as part of the $21 million Bridges to Higher Education collaboration.

Compass was launched into five new schools in 2012 bringing the total number of Sydney-based schools to 25.

The Program also started working with schools in Broken Hill, Dubbo and Port Macquarie.

Evaluation of the pilot was completed in March this year.

Over 16,000 contacts with students, their parents and teachers since the launch of the program.
A review of admissions criteria, pathways, special admissions programs and ATAR bonuses was undertaken through consultation with Faculties and Divisions.

In 2012 the Broadway Program was extended to automatically include students from identified LSES Schools, the UNE pathway program commenced and a Principal's Recommendation Program for intake in 2013 is being implemented. Agreement with the NSW Board of Studies to establish an early conditional offer program with year 10 students.

Targets were agreed by each Faculty in 2011 for LSES students. An incentive program utilising HEPPPP funds was also established to support Faculties that have enrolled more students from LSES backgrounds.

There are 129 more students from LSES backgrounds enrolled at the University now as compared to this time last year.
Supporting Transition

- Student Support Services have undertaken increased activity in this area to ensure appropriate support for the retention and achievement of students from underrepresented groups.
- Scholarships have also been extended to LSES students through the First Year Bursary.
University of Sydney Strategic Plan 2011-2015: Strategy Fourteen: Develop and implement a coordinated University-wide framework for local and rural community engagement


Activity:

- Rural Education Strategy Group set up as sub-committee of SEG Education
- MOU signed between the University and the Broken Hill City Council leading to establishment of a joint Steering Committee.
- Expansion of community engaged learning in Broken Hill, Dubbo, Port Macquarie to include students from Business and Social Work.
- Extension of school engagement in Broken Hill and Port Macquarie through Compass.