The University is joining the celebrations of National Inclusion Week for the third consecutive year to raise awareness of the wide range of initiatives we have on offer and to celebrate our distinctively international and diverse staff and student community.

This year’s theme is “Everyday Inclusion – Celebrate and Inspire”. It’s your opportunity to step away from your familiar environment and meet other colleagues or students with the different experiences and perspectives that add to our rich campus environment. It’s also a chance to reflect on your own experiences and how your everyday work can enhance equality and inclusion.

Our vision is that the University is ‘a beacon of excellence for Equality and Inclusion in the higher education sector.’ We value your support in making this week a success.
23 September 14:00-16:00
STUDYING WITHOUT FAMILY SUPPORT
Are you studying at University without support from your family? Or maybe you teach or support estranged students and want to find out more about the challenges they face and the help that is available? Drop in to meet Lisa – our main contact for estranged students – for an informal chat about the difficulties of studying without parental support and the advice and assistance that’s available. You can also feed your ideas into our ongoing discussions about how the University might improve and extend the support it offers to estranged or unsupported students in the future. Refreshments will be available.

24 September 12:00-13:00
REVERSE MENTORING
In an international law school, socially ingrained understandings of the ‘teacher-student’ relationship can significantly impact on attempts to create an internationally inclusive learning community. Some international students may be less likely to have experienced the collaborative yet independent learning culture often encouraged in UK universities. This discussion will focus on a pilot project in the School of Law, designed to assess whether engagement in reverse mentoring between international students and academic staff can positively impact on international students’ sense of belonging and community, as well as changing staff perceptions about and/or understandings of international students. The discussion will focus on existing literature on international student experiences, considerations in designing a pilot reverse mentoring scheme, and the aims of the project.

24 September 13:00-13:45
MAKING SOCIAL MEDIA MORE ACCESSIBLE
Tips and tricks from the University’s Social Media Manager, Martin Carter, on how to make your social channels more inclusive, with guidance covering all the major social media accounts. Suitable for colleagues running social media accounts at the University, or for those who just want to make their own social media more inclusive.

24 September 14:00-15:30
TRANS AWARENESS: THE BASICS
With an estimated 1% of the population falling somewhere on the broad ‘trans’ spectrum, public-facing organisations are likely to encounter a range of diverse trans people in the course of their professional work. Employers, too, need to be ready and able to welcome, include and support trans people as part of their workforce. This 90-minutes session run by Gendered Intelligence, explores what ‘trans’ means and the diversity of those who might use the term, introducing key concepts crucial to understanding trans people. It will give an overview of the main legislation relating to trans identities and outline ways an organisation can work towards being trans-inclusive.

25 September 11:00-12:00
ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES OF OFFICE 365
Microsoft provides a range of accessibility tools that can help everyone make better use of their products. This session is a short presentation introducing some of these features in Windows and Office 365, followed by time to try them out yourself.

25 September 12:00-13:30
SPEED NETWORKING WITH AN INTERNATIONAL FOCUS
With a rich and diverse staff body encompassing colleagues from over 90 countries, the University of Leeds has a lot to offer, but how much do you really know about your colleagues or indeed your own cultural heritage? This highly interactive and innovative session will ignite your cultural curiosity, helping you really tap into the fantastic breadth of knowledge and experience we have right here on campus, in a fun and non-judgemental context!

25 September 13:30-14:00
LUNCH AND LEARN – SUPPORTING WORKING CARERS
Did you know that 1 in 9 workers in the UK are also unpaid carers of parents or friends? These working carers are often continually juggling work and caring commitments, meaning some may struggle to stay in work. Line managers have a critical role in recognising the needs of working carers and supporting them where they can. This session is a chance to find out more about how you can help to support working carers, either as a line manager or as a colleague. Carers Leeds will explain who working carers are, explore the issues they face, explain why it’s important the University supports working carers and how we can do this. They will also advise on the sources of help available to managers and colleagues. Being a working carer is a growing trend and all are invited to this lunchtime presentation to find out more. The presentation begins at 13.00 and will be followed by lunch and networking at 13.45.

25 September 14:00-15:00
FEELING INCLUDED AS AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOW
A presentation by Dr Natalie Van der Wal (Management Division, LUBS) on what it is like to be an international Marie Sklodowska-Curie Research Fellow. She will be sharing her positive feelings about inclusivity here at the University and how she found settling into a new environment as an international member of staff. Natalie will also be discussing her research into fire evacuation, terrorist attacks, and other threats that require emergency evacuations.

Wednesday 25th September 11:00-12:30
Thursday 26th September 13:00-14:30
NIW EVERYDAY INCLUSION IN EVERYDAY TEACHING
This free interactive 90min workshop is open to staff, postgraduate researchers and members of the public, who are involved in teaching and/or supporting adult learners. The workshop is running twice, to ensure more people can attend and share practice. Members of the University’s Inclusive Learning and Teaching Group will facilitate the workshop. The University has recently committed to a baseline of inclusion in learning and teaching. This interactive workshop will help you reflect on and share your existing practice. Participation is welcomed from student education and supporting roles, as well as those currently involved in teaching.

26 September 11:20-12:30
ATTRACT, RETAIN AND GROW DIVERSE RESEARCHERS
A roundtable discussion looking at the key challenges and opportunities for early career researchers from underrepresented groups. The session will include contributions from Dr Vania Dimitrova from the School of Computing, Dr Emilio Garcia-Taengua from the School of Civil Engineering and other colleagues from across the University. It is open to all and PhDs/Post Doctorates are particularly welcomed.

26 September 13:00-14:00
PROJECT INCLUSIVE EDUCATION: LET’S EMPLOY LEARNING DISABLED PEOPLE AS EDUCATIONAL SPECIALISTS!
Leeds University Business School and human rights organisation CHANGE are delighted to invite all staff and students from across the University to a talk on ‘Project inclusive education’ which works to employ learning disabled people as educational specialists. The guest speaker is Fabian van Essen from the Institute of Education in London. Fabian will share insights from this innovative German project and his plans to develop something similar here in the UK.

26 September 14:00-15:00
CHINESE NAME PRONUNCIATION
Have you ever wondered what the correct pronunciation of the last name Zhang is? You may be surprised to learn that the “zh” sound is actually more like a “j” sound (as in the word John). Join us and learn tips and strategies that will help you better pronounce the names of the Chinese students and colleagues. The workshop is led by a native Chinese-speaker Joyce Cai who works at the University Language Centre. Participants will leave this one-hour session able to comfortably pronounce the names of students and colleagues from mainland China.

27 September 12:00-14:00
CLIMBING WALL TASTER SESSIONS
Would you like to try climbing? The Edge are offering free 30-minute tasters. The idea behind these individual sessions is to provide an opportunity for you to experience climbing at your own pace, and discuss with the instructor how you can take it further if you wish, or just come along for a new experience! You are very welcome to bring someone with you, or come on your own and enjoy 30 minutes private coaching.
If you would like to discuss anything beforehand such as access issues or anything you think may affect your experience or prevent you from taking part, please call Helen Pepper, Climbing Coordinator on 07917 141810 or email H.J.Pepper@leeds.ac.uk

27 September 14:30-16:00
EMPOWERING POTENTIAL: MICROSOFT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES
Delivered by Arran Smith, Microsoft’s UK Special educational needs and disability (SEND) & Dyslexia Consultant, this session will look at Assistive Technology, which enables teachers, students and dyslexic people of all ages to access the inbuilt assistive technology anytime, anywhere. Arran will talk about the functionality that has been added to Office 365 and Windows 10 that can help to support its dyslexic users. He will also be looking at how it can support the needs of students with dyslexia and SEND.

27 September 14:30-16:00
CAREER PATHS: BACK TO GRADUATION
This session will provide an overview of the journey from graduation to your current employment. We will discuss the importance of maintaining connections with your University and how to make the most out of your alumni network.

Click here to book your place on one or more of these events