



**Abertay
University®**

Civic Engagement Statement

Summary

At [Abertay University](#), we recognise the profound impact that universities can have on the economic, social, cultural, and environmental fabric of their cities and regions. As an anchor institution in the city of Dundee and the surrounding region, we embrace our social responsibility to the community and are deeply committed to [civic engagement](#). Our strategic vision is anchored in the principles of sustainable development, aligning with the core values that underpin our role as a responsible partner in Dundee.

The European Access Network represents a significant opportunity for us to contribute to the just transition, green growth, and sustainable economic development of the Dundee City Region. As we engage with this network, we acknowledge the invaluable role that professional conferences play in the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and best practices. The impact of these events extends far beyond the academic realm, influencing the local economy and fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders. This is true for Abertay University, which is a proud widening participation university.

Economic Impact

Using the Direct Expenditure Benefit (DEB) rates endorsed by the Scottish Government, we estimate that hosting 250 delegates over the two-day conference will inject approximately £227,500 into the Dundee City region. This economic stimulus not only enhances the financial vitality of our community but also reinforces the pivotal role that educational institutions play in driving regional prosperity.

Furthermore, we actively encourage our conference delegates to participate in exclusive offers (Link coming soon) that support local businesses and attractions within the Dundee City Region. By doing so, we promote a relationship between the academic community and the broader local economy, fostering a sense of shared prosperity.

Community Impact

In alignment with our commitment to sustainability, all coffee served on our campus is supplied by [Coffee Conscience](#), a Scottish company that sources fairtrade beans and contributes a percentage of its revenue to UK community projects. This partnership not only ensures a high-quality experience for our conference delegates but also reflects our dedication to ethical business practices and community development.

Moreover, the utilisation of external venues for conference activities further contributes to the cultural growth of the city. [The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum](#), a key venue for our event, is part of Leisure & Culture Dundee, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation dedicated to making the city a vibrant and healthy place to live, work, and visit. This collaboration enhances the cultural landscape of Dundee and aligns with our shared goal of creating a dynamic and inclusive community.

Want to support The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum? *Your generous support will help them care for the City's diverse and wide-ranging collections, reflect the story of Dundee and its hinterland, and evidence its role in the rich history of Scottish art. The collections are held in trust on behalf of the people of Dundee and include objects of national and international significance. You can make a one-off donation to the Just Giving Page: [Support the McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum - JustGiving](#)*

Our engagement with the [Dundee Heritage Trust](#) and Dundee Industrial Heritage Limited, both registered charities committed to preserving and interpreting Dundee's industrial past, further exemplifies our dedication to the community. By safeguarding landmarks like RRS Discovery, Discovery Point, and

Verdant Works, we contribute to the guardianship, preservation, and portrayal of Dundee's heritage, educating and inspiring current and future generations.

Want to support the Dundee Heritage Trust? With your support, the Dundee Heritage Trust can continue to preserve Dundee's outstanding industrial and maritime heritage for future generations and tell the inspiring stories of polar exploration, Antarctic science, textiles, and our city's social history to the world.

It costs around £2 million each year to run RRS Discovery and the Discovery Point and Verdant Works museums, and just 1.3% of this is publicly funded.

You can therefore make a transformational difference in their work by making a one-off gift to Dundee Industrial Heritage:
[Support Us - Dundee Heritage Trust](#)

Summary

In conclusion, Abertay University is proud to be an active participant in the European Access Network, recognising the transformative potential it holds for the Dundee City Region. Through our commitment to civic engagement, sustainable practices, and partnerships with local organisations, we strive to make a lasting and positive impact on our community, contributing to the holistic development of the region we call home.