Kate Kirk worked in adult education and community development for many years. She has developed inclusive learning and teaching strategies for supporting and developing the learning of first year undergraduates at Manchester Metropolitan University in the North-west of England in the UK.

Kate became a Senior Learning and Teaching Fellow in 2000. A National Teaching Fellowship award in 2004 enabled her to develop her interest in the experiences of non-traditional entry adult students and to establish the ‘Diversity and Achievement’ research project. Kate has recently led the development of the university’s Higher Education Academy (HEA) accredited Continuing Professional Development. She is now Project Director for the university’s Retention and Student Success Project.

The Diversity and Achievement research Project involves a series of longitudinal studies with groups of students who have entered Higher Education (HE) through non-standard entry routes. The aim of the Project is to provide documented evidence on the successes of such students, showing how they access and use a range of sources to support and develop their learning and how they meet, and manage, a variety of challenges during their undergraduate years. The National Teaching Fellowship award enabled the project to expand to include a study of the experience of students of African Caribbean and African heritage and the opportunity to develop international comparative research with colleagues in Australia.
Travelling By Car
From Sydney CBD, take the M5 South West Motorway and take the Henry Lawson Drive exit. Note that the M5 is a tollway. Turn right onto Henry Lawson Drive. Turn right into Bullecourt Avenue to enter the campus. On-campus parking is available, and a valid or annual parking permit must be displayed at all times.

Travelling By Train
Take the Bankstown line to Bankstown railway station, which is within 20 minutes’ travel time by bus to campus. Information about the Sydney rail system and timetables are available from the Cityrail website.

Travelling By Bus
Transit First Routes 860 and 900 operate between Bankstown and Liverpool railway stations and the campus.