Despite significant developments in opening up access to higher education to a diverse student body, participation in higher education across England continues to be unequally distributed for different socio-economic, ethnic and cultural groups. Widening participation and fair access work attempts to address this. However, despite substantial investment and sector-wide agreement, the evidence base as to the most effective interventions is still underdeveloped.

Dr Ilie’s talk makes the case for an evidence-led approach, and presents a series of programmes which have been shown to be effective for improving higher education access. It discusses the extent to which such programmes can be adapted across national and educational contexts, and also where the need for evidence remains most stringent.

**Talk 1: Evidence-Driven Interventions to Improve Access to Higher Education**

Dr Sonia Ilie  
Senior Research Fellow, Faculty of Education  
University of Cambridge

**Talk 2: Developing a Progressive Framework to Improve Higher Education Access in East Anglia**

Dr Michael Englard  
Director of Research & Innovation, HE Access Network (HEAN)

The National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP) was launched by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in 2016 to re-focus efforts on improving the progression into higher education for the most disadvantaged young people, in a manner that builds on local synergies and helps generate new robust evidence on effective mechanisms of progression.

HEAN have been collaborating with the Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach (NEACO) to develop a framework of activity that promotes the progressive development of, a) the understanding of higher education options, and a preparedness to progress to a desired option, and b) the passion and ambition of pupils for learning in general, and their subjects in particular.

Dr England's talk introduces the progressive framework, the principles which guide it, and the manner in which it has been developed, in response to the needs of the local area, as well as the evidence upon which it is based.

Wednesday 1st November 2017  
1:00–3:00pm  
All seminars in this series are free to attend, and take place at UCL’s central London campus.

[Details of the upcoming seminars in this series can be found on our website](#)