

# University of X: Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 access and participation plan

## What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans set out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity. This supports underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.



You can see the full access and participation plan for the University of X at [www.universityofx.ac.uk/access](http://www.universityofx.ac.uk/access)

## Key points

See pages 1 to 4 of the full plan

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes for specific groups of students. Data shows that, compared to their peers at the University of X, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students.

- Students are less likely to complete their studies if they come from a neighbourhood where not many people go on to higher education.
- The following groups of students are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above:
  - Students from low-income backgrounds
  - White students underrepresented in higher education
  - Ethnic minority students
- The same groups of students are less likely to progress to highly skilled employment or further study.

Overall employability rates for our students have improved. However, we still have further to go.

## Fees we charge

See pages 17 and 18 of the full plan

At the University of X, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,250 for full-time students
- £6,935 for part-time students.



You can see a full list of fees for courses at the University of X at [www.universityofx.ac.uk/fees](http://www.universityofx.ac.uk/fees)

## Financial help available

See page 15 of the full plan

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes:

- A **travel bursary** for students from low-income households to attend our open days and interviews
- An **annual bursary** of £1,000 for the duration of the course if the student's household income is below £25,000
- A **hardship fund** to support students from households with an income below £40,000 who experience financial hardship during their time at university

- An **annual transition from care bursary** of £1,500 for students:
  - who have been in local authority care at any time since the age of 14 years and
  - who are under 25 years at the time they start undergraduate study.

## Information for students

See page 22 of the full plan

- **Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, and by email communications.
- We regularly update our information for **care leavers** on the [Propel](#) website.
- **Current students** receive information about fees and the financial support available through our student portal, internal communications campaigns and emails.



For the most up-to-date information, see our [university website](#).

## What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 12 to 14 of the full plan

**Our overall aim** is to support students to access higher education. We also want to create an environment where students at the University of X can achieve their full potential.

Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

- **Support attainment at school and access to higher education** – We are working with schools to raise pupil attainment and expectations to study for a higher education qualification. During 2022-23, we will identify other local schools from where fewer pupils access higher education. We will develop a programme of work to start in 2023-24.
- **Diversifying our provision** – We will review our current [degree apprenticeships](#) during 2022-23. We would like to extend these and other opportunities such as [accelerated degrees](#) and [vocational education](#).
- **Students from low participation neighbourhoods and low income backgrounds** – By 2024-25, we will improve:
  - the continuation rate (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course) by 14%
  - attainment of a good degree by 10%
  - progression to highly skilled employment or further study by 12%.
- **Care experienced students** – By 2024-25, we will increase the number of students with experience of the care system accessing higher education by 10%.
- **Mature students** – By 2024-25, we will improve the continuation rate for mature students (aged over 21 years) by 15%.
- **Ethnic minority students** – By 2024-25, we will increase the number of ethnic minority students gaining a good degree outcome of 2:1 or above by 10%.
- **Disabled students** – By 2024-25, we will increase the number of disabled students progressing to highly skilled employment or further study at the end of their course by 12%.

## What we are doing to achieve our aims

See pages 12 to 14 of the full plan

We have identified seven programmes of activity to support achievement of our aims and targets.

1. Extend our **programme of work with schools** – this supports more pupils from underrepresented groups to attain good grades and progress to study for a higher education qualification.
2. Take a targeted approach to **learning and teaching** – this focuses on our five target groups and is informed by student representatives on our Learning and Teaching Committee.
3. Establish and embed **flexible modes of learning** to give students a choice in how they learn.
4. Enhance **support for study** throughout the institution so all students can access tailored support.
5. **Engage external partners** to collaborate on improving access to higher education, success in the chosen course of study, and progression to employment or further study.
6. **Engage students** in their own development of personal, social and professional skills.
7. Offer **financial support**, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to [Student Finance England](#).

## How students can get involved

See page 19 of the full plan

We worked with the Students' Union to gather student input into the design of our access and participation plan. Students are represented on our Access and Participation Plan Working Group which is responsible for overseeing implementation of the plan.



To provide feedback, students can [contact their student union representative](#). To become involved in this work, [contact our Access and Participation Lead](#).

## Evaluation: how we will measure what we have achieved

See page 20 of the full plan

Our programmes of activity are informed by the best available evidence about what works for students. We will collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- our programme design
- the impact of the programme of activity we are doing to achieve our aims
- the seven actions outlined above
- the impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and an inclusive environment.

The Access and Participation Plan Working Group will monitor and report on these processes to the Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee. The Committee will oversee implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against yearly milestones in our access and participation plan. We will monitor impact on our target groups, to ensure we are addressing our aims. Where appropriate, we will adjust our interventions in the best interests of our students.

We will publish evidence from our evaluations on [our website](#) by January 2024.

## Contact for further information



You can contact Jane Smith at [access.lead@universityofx.ac.uk](mailto:access.lead@universityofx.ac.uk) for further information.