

The University of Greenwich

Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans (APPs) set out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity and ensure students from disadvantaged and underrepresented groups have access to courses, and are able to succeed in their studies at University, and progress to good jobs afterwards.

➡ The full access and participation plan is on the university [website](#). Changes to fees for 2023-24 are subject to approval.

Key points

The focus of our APP is on improving outcomes for key groups of students. Data show that the University attracts many students from disadvantaged and underrepresented groups, with over 50% of our students from ethnic minorities, 35% mature, and almost 25% from deprived areas. However, outcomes are lower for these students.

See pages 3 to 10 of full plan

- Students are less likely to complete their studies if they come from a neighbourhood where not many people go to higher education, or if they have a disability or mental health issues.

The following groups of students are less likely to achieve a good degree (award of 2.1 or above):

- Full and part time ethnic minority students
- Full time students from the most economically deprived neighbourhoods

Ethnic minority students are also less likely to progress to highly skilled employment or further study.

Fees we charge

The standard fees for home students studying a full-time undergraduate degree on a main campus at the University of Greenwich is £9,250 per year. For most HNC, HND and Foundation courses the fee is £6,165 per year. For students studying part-time the fee is £6,935, for most HNC, HND and Foundation courses the fee is £4,625.

See pages 25 to 26 of full plan

➡ The full list of fees is available at the university website [here](#)

Financial help available

With the support of Greenwich Students' Union the University offers a package of financial support to our widening participation students

See page 19 of full plan

- Students with family income of less than £25,000 are automatically eligible for the **Greenwich Bursary** of £700 credit to support costs of equipment, book, and other essential resources.
- Commuter students receive a **Commuter Bursary** that supports up to 50% of costs.
- The **Care Leaver Bursary** provides £1,500 per year for 3 years and £200 for graduation.
- Students who participate in the university's GREat Skills outreach programme before joining are eligible to apply for a **GREat Skills Scholarship** worth £2,000 in cash.
- The University provides a **Hardship Fund** for students who encounter unexpected financial difficulties during their studies.
- Students with low household incomes can access grants of up to £1000 to support the costs of **attending Global Summer Programmes**.

Information for students

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

See pages 19 to 20 and 23 to 24 of full plan

➡ You can see a full list of bursaries by visiting the university website [here](#).

What we are aiming to achieve

Our aim is to continue our success in widening access to higher education, and to support our diverse student body through their journey, ensuring all our students achieve their full potential because of, rather than despite, their backgrounds.

See page 12 of full plan

➡ Our commitment to social mobility is outlined in our new 'This is our time' strategy 2022-2030, which promotes 'Education without boundaries', accessed [here](#).

Based on our assessment of prior performance, in the 2020/1 -2024/5 access and participation plan we set a number of key targets to improve outcomes for our students:

Improving access even more: While we are successful in ensuring good levels of access from many disadvantaged and underrepresented groups, we have the aim of increasing the recruitment of level 3 care leavers into the University to 1.6% percentage points by 2023/4.

Improving continuation (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course): We intend to remove continuation gaps by 2030 and by 2024-5 we aim to reduce these gaps:

- By 8 percentage points, to zero, for full time students with disclosed mental health conditions
- By 3 percentage points, to zero, for full time students with a disability
- By 3 percentage points, to zero, for students from low participation areas (POLAR4 Q1vQ5)

Improving attainment for our diverse student body (students gaining a good degree outcome of 2:1 or above): To ensure the best outcomes for our diverse student body we are focussing on eliminating all attainment gaps by 2030 and by 2024-5 we aim to reduce these gaps:

- By 8 percentage points between full time Black and White students
- By 13 percentage points between part time BAME and White students
- By 8 percentage points between full time Asian and White students
- By 5 percentage points for full time students from high deprivation areas (IMD Q1vQ5)

Improving progression into employment: we also aim to improve progression gaps for our diverse students and by 2024-5 we aim to reduce these gaps:

- by 6 percentage points between full time BAME and White students
- by 6 percentage points between full time Asian and White students
- by 6 percentage points between full time students of Mixed Ethnicity and White students

What we are doing to achieve our aims

In our APP we have outlined four areas of work supporting disadvantaged & underrepresented groups:

See pages 15 to 21 of full plan

1. **Enhancing our culture of inclusive teaching and learning** to ensure equality in student learning experience, and enhanced academic attainment outcomes. Focussing on:
 - Targeted initiatives to decrease BAME and other attainment gaps
 - Enhanced personal tutor support and learning analytics to ensure students are supported.
 - Improving Students' Union Advice Service to provide an independent advisory service
 - An enhanced Academic Communities project to engage students with extra-curricular activities and improve their learning experience.

2. **Enhancing our supportive learning environment** and support services to meet the academic and pastoral needs of our students to support their continuation. Focusing on:
 - Investing in ‘Transition to University’ skills workshops (LevelUp) to aid the transition into HE.
 - Investing in a digital academic writing support service to improve writing skills (Studiosity)
 - Enhancing student mental health services to improve continuation
 - Working with the Students’ Union (GSU) to focus support on key groups of students
 - Providing financial support to improve continuation, with regular review of bursary packages
 - Monitoring engagement of our students and making proactive interventions to reduce the risk of disengagement, interruption or withdrawal
3. **Developing graduates’ employability and networking skills**, to ensure that all students have improved access to work opportunities and progression into employment. Focussing on:
 - Investing in the Greenwich Employability Passport, an online tool enabling students to record, and get rewards for, extracurricular activities that enhance their employability.
 - The development of targeted career mentoring for students from ethnic minorities.
 - Developing a BAME female employability network.
4. **Further enhancing our approach to access** so that it supports attainment and encourages all groups in society to participate in higher education. Focussing on:
 - Enhancing support for care leavers with enhanced bursaries and mentoring
 - Extending the range of our partnerships and collaboration with schools, colleges and community groups
 - Engaging with the Kent and Medway Collaborative Outreach Programme

Extending our work with Schools for 2022/3 to 2024/5: Our priority has always been to develop extensive links with our school partners and many initiatives that we already deliver are fully aligned with the new access and participation priorities. Our plans are to enhance this work over the years ahead including raising knowledge and awareness of HE in schools, developing soft study skills, outreach with pre-16s, continued engagement with Uni Connect, working with schools to support teaching of the national curriculum and engaging in school governance.

Diversifying our provision for 2022/3 to 2024/5: We plan to expand our already flexible provision. We have multiple start dates, accelerated degrees and higher and degree apprenticeships and are developing technical routes at levels 4 and 5. We work closely with employers and professional bodies to co-create programmes to develop a range of new CPD and micro-credential courses.

How students can get involved

See page 21 of full plan

We worked with the Greenwich Students’ Union to gather student input into the design of our access and participation plan. Students are represented on our Widening Participation Strategy Impact Group, responsible for overseeing implementation of the plan.

➡ To provide feedback, students can contact their students’ union representative - greenichsu@gre.ac.uk

➡ To become involved in this work, contact our Access and Participation Lead - Colum Mackey – Head of Advocacy and Policy – c.mackey@gre.ac.uk

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

See page 21 to 23 of 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 key project design and delivery
- the short- and long-term impact of key projects outlined above
- the developing impact of our work in schools
- the impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and an inclusive environment.

Our Widening Participation Strategy Impact Group will monitor and report on these processes to the Student Success Committee, which 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 and adjust our interventions in the best interests of our students.

➡ We will publish evidence for our evaluations on our website by Jan 2024

Contact details for further information

➡ You can contact Rebecca Gee at R.Gee@gre.ac.uk for further information