

University of East London 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 for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

You can see the full [2020-2025 Access and Participation Plan](#) for the University of East London (UEL) on our website. It sets out how UEL strives to eliminate equity gaps for underrepresented groups in Higher Education. We have consulted widely with employers, schools, colleges, students and staff to ensure that UEL students benefit from their journey and experience whilst at the University. The plan applies to all students who will commence their study with us between the 2020-2025 academic years. Our ambition is to support and encourage a broader spectrum of students into higher education as well as to develop their skills, knowledge and social capital so they can access graduate employment and fulfil their life goals.

Key points

Our student body is diverse and represents a wide range of underrepresented groups. However, our data shows:

- We need to do more to encourage people from underrepresented groups to enter Higher Education if:
 - They are from an area where few people go to university
 - They come from a disadvantaged area and are White
 - They have declared a disability
 - They are over 21
- Once at the University of East London, we need to do more to support students to continue and/or get a good degree if:
 - They are from a disadvantaged area
 - They are from an ethnic minority
 - They are over 21 when starting their degree
- We need to do more to support students who completed their degree to get a graduate job if:
 - They are from an ethnic minority
 - They are from a disadvantaged area

Read our [2020-2025 Access and Participation Plan](#).

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving rates of entry to higher education and positive outcomes for these groups.

Fees we charge

At the University of University of East London (UEL), the maximum fees charged are:

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

See pages 1 to 9 of our [Access and Participation plan](#)

Financial help available

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

The following bursaries are available for new undergraduate students starting in the academic year 2022/23 via an application.

You can see a full list of fees for courses at the University of East London on our website [here](#); and [here](#).

For information about available bursaries at UEL, please see: [Undergraduate scholarships and bursaries | University of East London \(uel.ac.uk\)](#)

BURSARY	Who is this aimed for? (eligibility)	AWARD
Young Independent Student Bursary	Aimed at students who previously lived in care or/and whom are estranged from their parents.	Up to £1,500 per year of study
Engagement Bursary	Aimed at supporting students financially to remain in higher education (childcare, travel and Disabled Student Allowance)	Up to £2,000
Progression Bursary	Aimed at supporting student employability, targeting low-income students accessing course costs, graduate interview costs, and reasonable adjustment costs for students with disabilities.	Up to £2,000

Information for students

We provide information about fees and financial to prospective students through open days and by email communications. Current students receive information about fees and financial support through targeted internal campaigns and through TMF. Our student portal. More information is available on our [website](#).

What we are aiming to achieve

Our aim is to improve students' access to transformative higher education. We also want to eliminate gaps in equality of opportunity and enable social mobility in our local area and beyond through a careers first institutional approach. We use insights from data to help support students at every stage of the student lifecycle.

See pages 9-11 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#)

Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas to focus on. We will:

- improve the ratio of students entering higher education from areas of low participation in higher education from 2.4% to 1.4% by 2024-2025.
- increase the percentage of white, full-time students from disadvantaged backgrounds from 15.9% to 20% by 2024-25.
- reduce the gap in participation between students who declare a disability versus those who do not declare a disability from 72.2%pt to 60%pt by 2024-25.
- reduce the gap in participation between young and mature full time undergraduate students from a baseline of 5%pt to 3%pt by 2024-25.
- halve the gap in non-continuation between student from areas of low participation from 2.8%pt to 1.4%pt by 2024-2025
- more than half the attainment gap between White and Black full time undergraduate students from 19%pt to 9%pt by 2024 -2025
- more than halve the attainment gap between White and Asian full time undergraduate students from 24.2%pt to 12%pt by 2024-2025
- eliminate the gap between mature (Over 51) and young full time undergraduate students from 20.8%pt by 2024-2025
- more than halve the gap between white and minority students moving to graduate employment from 11.1%pt to 5%pt by 2024-2025
- more than halve the gap for disadvantaged students moving to graduate employment from 12.5%pt to 5%pt by 2024-2025

What we are doing to achieve our aims

Our 2020 to 2025 Access and Participation Plan describes how we will address and eliminate identified gaps in access, attainment, continuation and progression to ensure positive graduate outcomes. Our activities provide support at every phase of the student journey:

Pages 12 to 18 of the [Access and Participation Plan](#)

To support access to university we work in partnership with schools and colleges to deliver activities across three strands: awareness, skills and knowledge, and attainment. These help to build employability skills and support the development of academic skills and success. We target schools and colleges in areas of low participation or high disadvantage. In 2022-2023 and 2023-24, we will continue to increase our outreach activities in schools and colleges which support attainment pre and post 16. We will increase the number of places available in our New Beginnings programme and use our strategic networks to increase participation amongst White working-class students.

To support student success, we implement targeted interventions during the student journey which improve student attainment, progression and continuation rate of students most at risk of not continuing through the development and enhancement of academic, personal and professional skills. We have streamlined and improved the induction process through the introduction of Track My Future, which provides students with a portal to all services and support across the university as well as providing students with the means to check their own engagement and progress. We continue to prioritise students' mental health and use sector benchmarks to constantly evaluate our practice – for example through our work to gain the University Mental Health Charter accreditation. This demonstrates our commitment to achieving a whole-university approach to mental health and wellbeing, and supports us to create cultural change.

To support student employability, we have developed the Career Zone, our online careers management platform which provides students and alumni with access to the full range of careers services. This includes a comprehensive monthly programme of workshops, work experience, individual career coaching and mentoring sessions, employer events, volunteering and internship opportunities as well as direct links to tailored graduate employment opportunities. We have integrated “The Career passport” as part of Career Zone which provides every student with a personalised record of their career development and competency success. We have also invested heavily in the development of Career Zone Spaces, a network of dedicated campus spaces aligned to distinct industry clusters, each designed with the support of prominent business partners. We are diversifying pathways to higher education through the growth of our apprenticeships scheme and developing institution-wide and flexible, short course programmes. Our aim through these courses is to attract new learners, including those who may never considered a higher education degree but are eager to upskill their abilities and seek new opportunity.

How students can get involved

We work with our students through the Access and Participation Student Advisory Board. Our Student Advisory Board is made up of current students from underrepresented groups who work with us to share ideas on innovative ways to engage and support students from underrepresented groups. They also work with us to implement our Access and Participation plan and to assess our performance. This helps us to incorporate student voice in our work resulting in services and support that meet student needs and improve outcomes for our students.

To join the APP Student Advisory Board, please email us at ofsapp@uel.ac.uk.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our Impact and Evaluation Team supports our efforts to identify ‘What Works’ to help us achieve our 5 Year APP targets. We use a range of evaluation frameworks to evaluate our work including frameworks from [NERUPI](#) and TASO who are evaluation experts. In 2023-24, we will expand our evaluation efforts to help us demonstrate the impact of our work and target further improvements.

Contact details for further information: If you would like more information about our Access and Participation Plan and work, please email us at ofsapp@uel.ac.uk.