

University of Huddersfield

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

What is an access and participation plan (APP)?

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 access and participation plan for the University of Huddersfield at hud.ac/mg4

Key Points

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes for students from disadvantaged groups, targeting three areas:

1. IMD1/2 student attainment gaps
2. Black student attainment gaps
3. Disabled student continuation gaps

Huddersfield is recognised as one of the most socio-economically deprived areas in the UK, and of our UK domiciled undergraduate population, 64% are from IMD 1&2 households, the majority commuting from the family home to study. There is an ethnically diverse population for example, 24% of our students are from Pakistani heritage, and of those, 69% are categorised as IMD1. Our approach to access and participation is embedded at the heart of the University's overall institutional strategy and reflected in our Strategic Plan.

Significant progress has been made towards our targets since the inception of the APP.

An application to vary the APP has been made which includes:

- commitment to schools' partnerships and collaboration in our local area with Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY), to reduce inequalities in HE access, success and progression. We are investigating how to take a collaborative approach to attainment-raising activity to ensure we do not duplicate or disrupt existing activity. We are also investigating collaboration around evaluative activity. (Priority B)
- continue to focus on recruitment from underrepresented groups (Priority C)
- identify and secure further pathways to apprenticeships in alignment with local industry needs (Priority D)

Fees we charge

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

- £9,250 for full-time students
- £995 per 20 credit module for part-time home undergraduate students

A full list of fees for courses at the University of Huddersfield can be found [on our website](#).

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from low-income households, helping them access higher education and to continue in their studies.

- First year Scholarships of £1000 are available for qualifying students <https://www.hud.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees-and-finance/undergraduate-scholarships/scholarship-programme/>
- We offer a care leaver's bursary of £2000

We also operate a hardship fund which is based on individual circumstances and is not on household income, designed to support students at point of need

Information for students

Prospective students receive information about fees and the financial support available to them through our website, in-person events such as open days and applicant visit days, and by email.

Current students receive information about fees and financial support through our student online hub, internal communications campaigns, emails, and via student guidance officers placed in each School across the University.

What we are aiming to achieve

In line with the University's Strategy Map our objective is to remove statistically significant achievement/progression gaps by the end of the 2024-25 academic year, and no significant difference in continuation for students with disabilities as detailed in our full plan page 12. We take pride in our commitment to supporting our local communities and our civic responsibilities. We are committed to working collaboratively through GHWY to see where we can have a positive impact on local pre-HE educational attainment. This includes sharing good practice and learning and investigating the potential to collaborate on activity delivery where there is wider benefit in doing so.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

The University has implemented a number of institutional initiatives which are implemented at University and School level to address various aspects of the student lifecycle which we have identified impact on attainment and disabled continuation, including:

- Managing the transition to University through a sophisticated range of projects which begin before students arrive, and guide them through intense immersive learning initiatives
- Targeted use of personal academic tutors, academic skills tutors and student guidance teams to support students throughout their time at university
- Revised assessment, feedback and progression strategies to boost attainment
- Specialist welfare and disability support, and the use of targeted funding to support students in digital poverty
- Attendance monitoring and learning engagement tracking
- Developing bespoke interventions at school and course level using detailed analysis of attainment data

How students can get involved

The current plan draws on sustained development projects and initiatives which have included consultation with the Student Union in Huddersfield. Student Union Officers continue to work with the University through working parties and institutional committee structures to shape policy and strategic direction.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

The University uses evidence-based approaches in evaluating all aspects of access and participation as set out in pages 20-22. We have a Planning team which produces and monitors attainment and continuation data across all groups, and a working group which prepares detailed intersectionality reports which are used to design targeted ameliorative actions.

We co-fund the collaborative partnership GHWY as above and over the upcoming 12-month period, we will work with GHWY to investigate the potential for collaborative evaluative activity. This will provide time to take a more strategic, longer-term view and ensure we do not duplicate or disrupt existing activity.

We will publish evidence from our evaluations on our website by January 2024.

Contact details for further information

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