

Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-24 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 access and participation plan (APP) for University of Winchester at <https://www.winchester.ac.uk/access-and-participation-statement/>

Key points

See page 14-17 of the full plan

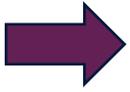
The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving access and outcomes for specific groups of students. Data shows that, compared to their peers at the University of Winchester, access and outcomes are lower for certain groups of students:

- Until recently under our plan, mature students (those aged 21 or over on entry) were less likely to enrol at the University of Winchester.
 - The following groups of students are less likely to enrol or achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above at the University of Winchester:
 - o Students from the most deprived neighbourhoods
 - o Students from low-participation neighbourhoods
 - o Ethnic minority students
- Students who declare a mental health are somewhat less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above.
- Improving employability rates across our students is an institutional priority for us. However, we have seen larger gaps amongst males from the most disadvantaged backgrounds, disabled students and UK Asian students.
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Fees we charge

At the University of Winchester, the maximum fees charged for home (UK-domicile) students are:

- £9,250 for full-time students (for entry in September 2022)
- £6,935 for part-time students (for entry in September 2022).



You can see a full list of fees for courses at the University of Winchester at <https://www.winchester.ac.uk/accommodation-and-winchester-life/students-and-money/undergraduate-financial-information/>

Financial help available

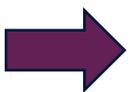
See pages 24-26 of the full plan

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.
- A **student support fund** to support students who experience financial hardship during their time at university.
- In 2022/23 we will be launching the **BECOME Scholarship for students from ethnic minority backgrounds** studying on courses with pathways into health, education and social care.
- Additional disability funding to meet the shortfall left as a result of the changes made to the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA).
- Financial support for eligible students to access study-abroad and employability opportunities through the **Winchester Employability Fund (WEF)**.
- As a University of Sanctuary, annually we offer up to two **Sanctuary Scholarships** to support refugees and asylum seekers access higher education.
- The following APP-countable bursary awards (amounts as revised for September 2022 entry):
 - **King Alfred Bursary for care leavers** (£2,000 per year and £1,000 upon graduation)
 - **Stand Alone Bursary for estranged students** (£2,000 per year and £1,000 upon graduation)
 - **Lady Mary Bursary for young adult carers** (£500 per year and £500 upon graduation)

GTRSB into HE Bursary for Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showman and Boaters (£500 per year and £500 upon graduation)

*NB. Our current **annual household income bursary** is under review following student consultations and we hope to realise a more attractive and accessible income bursary for students joining us in September 2023.*



You can see a full list of current financial support packages at <https://www.winchester.ac.uk/accommodation-and-winchester-life/scholarships-bursaries-and-awards/undergraduate-scholarships-bursaries-and-awards/>

Information for students

See page 29 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, including as part of an offer letter.

In addition:

- We regularly update our information for care leavers on the [Propel website](#), and for estranged students on the [Stand Alone website](#).
- Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available through our student intranet, internal communications campaigns and emails.



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

What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 14-17 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 Winchester can achieve their full potential.

Based on assessment of our performance, in order to meet this aim we have identified four key objectives and associated targets:

- **To work with local schools and communities to increase pre-16 attainment and the progression of target learners into higher education** – By 2025, we will increase the young participation rate of target learners by 26% and increase the GCSE attainment (5+ GCSEs grade 4 or above including English and Maths) of learners from our tracked cohort by 10%.
- **To increase the diversity of our student body and close gaps in participation in higher education for students from underrepresented groups** – we will:
 - By 2025:
 - Reduce the ratio in entry rates between the most and least represented groups from 2.0:1 to 1.4:1
 - Reduce the ratio in entry rates between white and ethnic minority students from 8.7:1 to 7.6:1
 - Increase the proportion of black students at the university by 1%.
 - Maintain the mature student entry rates of 20%+.
 - By 2040, close the gap in entry rates between the most and least disadvantaged groups, reducing the gap by 10% by 2025;
- **To create an inclusive learning and teaching environment in which all students, whatever their background, are able to flourish:** - we will:
 - By 2025, close the awarding gap between:
 - Students with a mental health difficulty and those without.
 - By 2030, close the awarding gap between:
 - the most and least disadvantaged, reducing the gap by 11% by 2025.
 - white and black UK students, reducing the gap by 10% by 2025.
 - white and Asian UK students, reducing the gap by 16% by 2025.
- **To improve progression rates into further study or graduate employment** – we will:
 - By 2025, close the progression gap between:
 - Males and females from the most disadvantaged backgrounds to 0%.
 - Disabled and non-disabled students to 0%
 - White and Asian UK students by 12.4%.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

See pages 17-25 of the full plan

We have identified strategic activity against the four phases of the student lifecycle to support achievement of our aims and targets.

1. **Access (outreach)** – working with schools, colleges and community groups through evidence-based targeted activity to improve the educational attainment and progression of young people. The activity includes supporting teachers and practitioners through training and resources; subject-specific attainment raising initiatives facilitated by university staff and students; leadership of schools under our academy trust; access and transition programmes tailored to students from different under-represented backgrounds (e.g. care leavers, young carers, refugees and asylum seekers, and children from military service families). All of this work is underpinned by our guiding principles, to:
 - a. Foster and embed a culture of high expectations
 - b. Support all learners to have a positive sense of self
 - c. Support all learners to have the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions and succeed beyond school
2. **Access (recruitment)** – data-informed targeted recruitment for students from under-represented backgrounds; tailored support packages, contextualised admissions and compact partnerships; provision of a diverse portfolio including degree apprenticeships and foundation years.
3. **Student Success** – an evidence-based approach to improving student experience and outcomes under the 'Flourishing Students' theory of change. Activity includes research to better understand individual student experience to target activity; enhanced cultural understanding and awareness across our staff and training to enable them to support those with specific needs; embedding an inclusive curriculum framework; and developing and enhancing student engagement initiatives; developing transition and academic support programmes. This activity is underpinned by our guiding principles to:
 - a. Develop our knowledge and understanding of gaps in student outcomes
 - b. Take a student-centred approach
 - c. Create an inclusive learning environment
4. **Progression** – activity under our employability action plans includes (but is not limited to) mentoring, careers workshops and appointments, faculty employability advisors, guest speakers, work placements, students volunteering and study abroad. We have developed the **Winchester Employability Fund** to support eligible students access these opportunities where finances may be deemed a barrier.

How students can get involved

See pages 26 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 Action Groups which are responsible for overseeing implementation of the plan. We also regularly consult with students via the

Student Academic Council, tailored surveys and focus groups, and via our large network of Student Ambassadors.



To provide feedback, students can contact their student union representative via SU_Admin@winchester.ac.uk. To become involved in this work, contact our Access and Participation Lead via email to wp@winchester.ac.uk

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

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

See pages 27-29 of the full plan

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

The Access and Participation Plan Action Groups will monitor and report on these processes to the Student Experience 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.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Sarah Harder-Collins (Head of Participation and Success) at wp@winchester.ac.uk for further information