

University College London (UCL)

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 access and participation plan for UCL at www.ucl.ac.uk/access

Key points

Our Access and participation plan aims to increase the proportion of students at UCL from low income backgrounds, and from areas where fewer people go on to higher education. We also want to improve outcomes for specific groups of students. Data shows that mature students are less likely to complete their degree. Students from ethnic minorities and those from low income backgrounds are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2.1 or above.

Fees we charge

At UCL, the maximum fees for UK undergraduate students are:

- £9,250 for full-time students
- £4,625 for part-time students

You can see a full list of fees for courses at UCL at www.ucl.ac.uk/students/fees/pay-your-fees/schedules

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from low-income backgrounds. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. This support includes:

- An **annual bursary** of between £500 and £2,500 for students whose household income is below £42,875
- An **annual care leaver bursary** of £1,000 for students under 25 who have spent 13 weeks or more in care
- An **annual estranged student bursary** of £1,000 for students under 25 who are estranged from their family
- A **financial assistance fund** to support students who experience financial hardship during their time at UCL.

Information for students

- **Prospective students** receive information about fees and financial support at in-person events, such as open days, through our applicant portal 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, the UCL website, internal communications campaigns and emails.

For the most up-to-date information, see UCL's website: www.ucl.ac.uk/students

What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall aim is to support students from all backgrounds to access UCL, and that all students at UCL can achieve their full potential.

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

- **Pre-entry work with schools and young people** to address the main barriers to higher education:
 - **Supporting attainment** at school
 - **Information, advice and guidance** about higher education
- **Students from low participation neighbourhoods** – by 2024-25, we will improve the access rate (the proportion of students studying at UCL), reducing the ratio of the least advantaged and most advantaged groups to 1:9.
- **Students from low income backgrounds** – by 2024-25, we will improve:
 - The access rate, reducing the ratio of the least advantaged and most advantaged groups to 1:3.
 - The attainment of a good degree. We aim to reduce the gap between the least advantaged and most advantaged groups to 8%.
- **Mature students** – by 2024-25, we will reduce the non-continuation gap (the difference in the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course) between mature and young students to 3%.
- **Black, Asian and minority ethnic students** – by 2024-25 we will:
 - Eliminate the awarding gap between white and BAME students
 - Reduce the awarding gap between black and white students to 9%

What we are doing to achieve our aims

1. Long-term programmes and partnerships with schools to address **attainment at school**.
2. A wide range of events and activity to support young people to get the **information, advice and guidance** they need about university.
3. **Access UCL, a contextual admissions scheme** which allows some students from low income backgrounds and low participation neighbourhoods to receive a lower offer to study at UCL

4. Establishing a **Student Success Office**, looking at student support, teaching and learning, policies and process and cultural change at UCL, to ensure excellent outcomes for:
 - a. students from ethnic minorities
 - b. students from low income backgrounds
 - c. mature students
 - d. care-experienced and estranged students
 - e. disabled students
5. Offering enhanced careers support to students from the above groups, through **Careers Extra**.
6. Offering **financial support**, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students.

How students can get involved

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

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 collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- The design and delivery of our activity
- The impact of the programme of activity on meeting our aims
- The impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and student success.

The Access and Participation Steering Group monitors and reports on these processes to UCL's governing body. The Group oversees implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against yearly milestones in our access and participation plan. We monitor the 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 publish evidence from our evaluations on our website. You can see this here:
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/widening-participation/our-research>

Contact details for further information

You can contact the Director of Social Mobility and Student Success at widening.participation@ucl.ac.uk for further information.