



University of Leicester

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 University of Leicester at <https://le.ac.uk/about/making-a-difference/equality/access-participation>

Key points

See pages 3-10 of the full plan

The focus of our access and participation plan is to create an inclusive environment from matriculation to graduate employment for all our students. The University of Leicester has the highest number of UK Black and Asian students outside of London.

Our data shows that at the University of Leicester some student groups are under-represented and/or have lower outcomes than their peers:

- Students from low participation neighbourhoods are under-represented and do not achieve as high graduate outcomes.
- Mature students are under-represented and are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above.
- Disabled students are under-represented and are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above.

We aim to decrease the gaps in these areas to provide high quality courses with successful participation and graduate outcomes.

Fees we charge

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

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

You can see the course fees on each course page depending on what you could like to study. You can find a list of courses at <https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates>

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students who may benefit from it during their studies. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. This support includes:

- A **Care Leavers Bursary** of £2000 per year



- A **Mature Student Scholarship** of £1000 in the first year
- **The University of Leicester Scholarship** for students from low participation postcodes
- A **hardship fund** for students who experience financial hardship during their time at university.

We usually have scholarships available from Santander and the alumni contributions that are tailored for students from low income or low participation areas.

Information for students

- **Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days and offer holder days, and by email communications.
- We have information for **care leavers, carers, estranged students, mature students, disabled students and refugees and asylum seekers** on our website.
- **Current students** receive information about fees and financial support available through My Student Record, internal communication campaigns, personal tutors and emails.

For the most up to date information see our University website:

<https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/fees-funding>

What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 11-14 of the full plan

Our overall aim is to support students into higher education, support them to be successful throughout their course and into employment or further study.

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

- **Mature students** - by 2024-25 we aim to increase the number of mature students starting, continuing and achieving good degrees.
- **Disabled students** – by 2024-25 we aim to increase the number of disabled students continuing and completing their studies.
- **Black Students** – to reduce the awarding gap between black and white students year-on-year.
- **Students from low participation neighbourhoods** – we aim to close the application and offer gap by 2024/25, particularly in STEM subjects and increase the number of students entering UoL when they are ready.
- **Disabled students** - to continuously improve the progression of disabled students, particularly those with a mental health condition, into further study or highly skilled employment.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

See pages 14-21 of the full plan

We have identified the following actions to meet our goals:

- We are **working strategically with local schools** to provide a sustained programme of engagement with young people introducing them to, supporting them with their learning and providing information on higher education options.



- We are committed to providing **support for students from vulnerable and under-represented groups**. We are a University of Sanctuary, signed up to the StandAlone Pledge and part of the Armed Forces Covenant. By the end of 2023 we hope to achieve quality marks from the Carers' Federation and the National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL).
- We have established the University of Leicester Institute for Inclusivity in Higher Education (ULLIHE) who **support and research work into reducing the race awarding gap**.
- We will be providing **new degree apprenticeships courses** aimed at opening up higher education for under-represented groups of students.
- We have created more work-related modules in most of our courses and increased the information available on these modules to provide students with **significant work experience** prior to graduating.
- Offer **financial support**, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England.

How students can get involved

We worked with the Students' Union to gather student input into the design of the access and participation plan. Students are represented on our committees around inclusive education, projects and other committees that feed into the work of our Student and Education Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team who manage and monitor the plan.

- To provide feedback, students can contact their [Students' Union representative](#).
- To become involved in this work, contact [Education Services](#)

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

See pages 22-24 of the full plan

Our access and student success programmes are informed by evidence from previous programmes and sector best practice. We are always willing to try something new to support our students ensuring we evaluate the impact.

We collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- our programmes and their impact
- If the programme works towards achieving our aims above
- the impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and an inclusive environment.

The Access and Participation Operations Group monitor and report on our activities to the Inclusive Education Sub-Committee which reports to the Education Committee. The Sub-Committee oversee the implementation of our plan, to monitor progress against our annual targets. We regularly monitor our progress and strive to improve our programmes to maintain the best possible outcomes for our students.

We publish evidence from our evaluations on our website as they become available.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Dr Hannah Grosvenor (Student and Education EDI Manager) at edservices@leicester.ac.uk