

University of West 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 access and participation plan for the University of West London at [Access and Participation Plan 2020-2025.pdf \(uwl.ac.uk\)](https://www.uwl.ac.uk/access-and-participation-plan-2020-2025.pdf)

Key points

The focus of our plan is on addressing any barriers to student access, success and progression to employment or further study.

See pages 1-7 of the full plan

Overall, our data shows a very good improvement across the student lifecycle. However, we still have further to go with certain groups of students particularly on the area of success. Specifically, we are committed that:

- students with disabilities, specifically those with multiple impairments, continue with their studies, and therefore complete their course; and
- mature students, students coming from the most deprived areas, and ethnic minority students continue with their studies. They graduate with an equal opportunity to achieve a 2:1 or above degree as their fellow students.

Fees we charge

At the University of West London, the maximum course fees charged are:

- £9,250 for full-time students and
- £6,167 for part-time students

See page 22 of the full plan

➡ Information regarding the fees we charge are available on our [Tuition fees](#) webpage.

Financial help available

The university makes considerable investment in bursaries, scholarships, and hardship funds to help students access higher education and continue studying until the completion of their course. Financial support is targeted to students coming from an underrepresented background, and particularly to those in financial need, disabilities, and care leavers.

See pages 22 and 23 of the full plan

We offer two main bursaries/scholarships to all prospective students. These are:

- A **Full-time Undergraduate Bursary** of £1,800 for the duration of a full-time undergraduate course, if the student's household income is below £28,000. We give priority to care leavers and disabled students.
- A **Path to Success Scholarship** of £2,000 is awarded to students on a four-year undergraduate degree with a foundation year. This is available to all Home fee region students.
- A **hardship fund** to support our students who experience financial hardship during their time at our university.

➡ You can see a list of financial support we offer at the university's [scholarships and bursaries](#) webpage.

Information for students

See page 22 of the full plan

Fees and financial support information is clearly and transparently communicated to all prospective students. Information confirming fee levels is sent to students at the point of the offer of admission. All relevant information regarding financial support, eligibility criteria and methods of assessment is provided. The information is accessible at the university's [fees and funding](#) webpage. The [Tuition fee policy](#) is accessible to all students.

What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 8 -12 and 14 -17 of the full plan

Our **overall aim** is to:

- i. inspire and support students to access higher education,
- ii. enable them to succeed by achieving their full potential, and
- iii. ensure a successful progression to employment or further study

Based on the assessment of performance, we have identified areas of the student lifecycle for some groups of students that we are committed in improving by 2024/25. These are presented in Chart 1; however, we will continue support all students regardless their personal or demographic characteristics. By 2024/25 we aim to:

Student lifecycle	Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ POLAR: increase the number of young people aged 18 or 19 years old accessing higher education to be 40% of our intake▪ IMDxEthnicity: improve the participation of White students from the most deprived backgrounds in higher education by 9.4%▪ Raise prior attainment: we are working with Schools to improve pupil's attainment, and encourage and enable them successful access to higher education. During 2022/23, we will enhance our portfolio on this area of work.
	Success (Continuation & Attainment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Disability: improve the continuation rate (i.e., the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course) of students with multiple impairments by 7.2%▪ Age on entry:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- improve the continuation rate of mature students aged from 21 to 30 years old by at least 1% annually- increase the number of mature students gaining a good degree outcome of 2:1 or above by 7.4%▪ IMD:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- improve the continuation rate of people coming from the most deprived areas by 7.6%- increase the number of people coming from the most deprived areas gaining a good degree outcome of 2:1 or above by at least 1% annually▪ Ethnicity:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- improve the continuation rate of people coming from a Black and Mixed background by at least 1% annually- increase the number of people coming from an ethnic minority background gaining a good degree outcome of 2:1 or above by 10%
	Progression	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Disability: increase the number of disabled students progressing to highly skilled employment or further study at the end of their course by 5.4%▪ Ethnicity: increase the number of students coming from an Asian background progressing to highly skilled employment or further study at the end of their course by 7.9%

Chart 1: Areas of improvement at the University of West London by 2024/25

What we are doing to achieve our aims

See pages 14 -
17 of the full plan

We have identified six programmes of activity to support achievement of our aims and targets. These are as follows:

1. Expand our **partnerships with Schools and local organisations to raise attainment** to reach underrepresented groups to successfully progress in higher education.
2. Take a targeted approach to **learning and teaching** for personalised learning, inclusive pedagogy and student support. This focuses mainly on our groups presented in Chart 1.
3. Enhance teaching and learning for all students with access to **academic and personalised support for study** that leads to a more successful participation in higher education.
4. Engage with **external partners and employers** to ensure that the curriculum matches students' expectations and employer's needs. Thus, better prepare them for their future career.
5. Engage students as **active partners** to inform our policies. This gives them an opportunity to develop their own personal and professional skills, and sense of belonging.
6. Offer **financial support**, including bursaries and hardship funding to eligible students, and practical assistance to help them apply to the funding and/or loan opportunities.

You can see the support we offer to our students at [Support for students | University of West London \(uwl.ac.uk\)](https://www.uwl.ac.uk/support-for-students)

How students can get involved

See page 18 of
the full plan

Student engagement in our university is at the core of student experience with students involved as active partners and co-creators for the design of the plan.

We have established the **Equality Champions**¹ to enable a more effective student engagement with our Access and Participation Planning Group.

➡ Our students can contact our [Students' Union](#) to become involved with this work.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

See pages 19 -
22 of the full plan

Our plan is evaluated by the best available evidence about *'what does and does not work'* for students. To ensure that there is an ongoing cycle of review, consideration and revision of the plan, we collect data and feedback to evaluate the:

- design of our programme,
- impact of the programme of activity we are doing to achieve our aims and targets
- the six priorities outlined above, and the
- impact on achieving our overall aim of addressing barriers across the student lifecycle

The overall responsibility of the plan lies with the Strategic Planning department of our university. The Access and Participation Planning Group oversees implementation of actions to ensure an ongoing monitoring and progress against the yearly milestones of our plan.

We monitor and evaluate impact of the targeted activities to ensure we are addressing our aims. Where appropriate, we modify our activities to better focus them to our students' needs. Progress of the plan is presented and discussed in several Committees of the university.

➡ Evidence from our evaluations is available on [our website](#).

Contact details for further information

➡ You can contact Eirini Tatsi at Eirini.Tatsi@uwl.ac.uk for further information.

¹ Previously known as Access and Participation Planning Student Champions. Equality Champions are managed by our Students' Union.