

## University of Bath:

### Summary of 2020-21 to 2023-24 access and participation plan

#### What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans (APPs) set out how Universities ensure everyone, no matter their background, can gain places at and succeed at university as well as getting good employment (or further study) after they leave.

 You can see the full access and participation plan for the University of Bath at <http://go.bath.ac.uk/access-and-participation-plan>

#### Key points

The focus of our Access and Participation plan is on improving the diversity of students getting in (**access**) to the University of Bath and narrowing the degree outcome (**attainment**) gap between specific groups of students.

- Our data shows that students are less likely to access the University if they come from low-income backgrounds or live in neighbourhoods where few people go on to higher education.
- Our data also shows that some groups of students are less likely to achieve the same grades as others. These are:
  - Students with disabilities
  - Students from Black, Asian, and other Ethnic Minority backgrounds.

Our data shows that there are no gaps in our continuation, attainment and progression rates for other underrepresented groups identified by the Office for Students. We will continue to monitor these areas for any changes.

#### Fees we charge

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

- **£9,250** for full time students.

 You can see a full list of fees for courses at the University of Bath at <https://www.bath.ac.uk/topics/tuition-fees/>

See page 44 of the full plan.

#### Financial help available

The key aims of our financial support programme are:

- To provide support to the students with the **greatest additional need** so that they can fully take part in life at university,
- To make sure students who already receive scholarships and bursaries can also receive **additional support and opportunities** to build their skills and expertise, and,
- When necessary, to provide **targeted financial support** to students experiencing specific financial burdens.

See page 34 and pages 42 - 43 of the full plan.

We offer a range of financial support for our students from underrepresented groups, including:

- An annual bursary of **£3,000** for the duration of the course if a student's household income is below £25,000 and if they meet one of our additional widening participation criteria. Or an accommodation bursary of up to **£1,250** for students of household incomes up to £60,000 who meet one of our additional widening participation criteria

- An annual bursary of **£1,000** for the duration of the course, plus **£1,000** for start-up costs and a further **£1,000** on graduation for care leavers, refugee students and students who are irreconcilably estranged from their parents or guardians.
- **A hardship fund** to support students experiencing financial difficulties during their studies.



For the most up to date information, see

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/topics/undergraduate-scholarships-bursaries-and-other-funding/>

## Information for students

- **Future students** receive information on fees and financial support via our website and at in-person events, such as our open days or school visits.
- **Current students** receive information about fees and financial support available to them through our student portal, from our dedicated Student Money Advice team, or via internal communications and campaigns.
- We regularly update our information for care leavers on the [Propel](#) website.

See page 42 of the full plan



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

## What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall aims and targets focus on providing support for specific groups of students so that they can access higher education. We are also striving to create an environment where all students at the University of Bath will achieve their full potential. Based on an assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

See pages 15 - 23 of the full plan

- **Support attainment at school and access to higher education**
  - We are working with schools to raise pupil attainment and expectations to study for a higher education qualification. We have a dedicated outreach team who works with target schools to support our attainment raising goals.
- **Diversifying our provision.**
  - We will review our current degree apprenticeships offer during 2022 – 23. We will also review the feasibility of offering a Foundation Year programme or working with local Further Education colleges to offer more flexible courses.
- **Reducing the gap in access to the University between:**
  - Students from areas with low participation in higher education, and students from areas with high participation.
  - Students from low-income and high-income backgrounds
- **Tackling the attainment gap**
  - By 2023 – 24, we will narrow the degree attainment gap between White students and students from Black, Asian, and other Ethnic Minority backgrounds.
  - By 2023-24, we will close completely the degree attainment gap between students with and without disabilities.

## What we are doing to achieve our aims

### Access

Our aims and targets to improve our access rates for students from low participation neighbourhoods and low-income backgrounds are ambitious. To achieve these aims by 2023-24, we will:

See pages 23 - 34 of the full plan.

- Continue to consider a student's circumstances when deciding what offer to make them (our Contextual Admissions system)
- Increase the number of students from our target groups on our outreach programmes
- Continue working with external partners who support underrepresented communities, including IntoUniversity and the Brilliant Club.
- Continue to offer bursaries for low-income students to counter the high cost of living in Bath.

## Attainment

To achieve our aims and targets to support attainment for students from underrepresented groups, we will:


- Transform and decolonise our curriculum so that all of our learning and teaching approaches are inclusive and create an institution wide culture of inclusion and belonging.
- Enhance the support available through the Student Union led Peer mentoring & Peer Assisted Learning Programmes.
- Strengthen our support provision for students with disabilities and increase access to student Health and Wellbeing services for all students. This will include specific provisions for students with mental health issues.
- Review our curriculum and assessment methodologies to improve the learning experiences of students with disabilities.

## How students can get involved

We worked closely with the Student's Union throughout the process of writing this APP and gathered student feedback via an online survey, interviews, and a focus group. This feedback was used to inform our APP strategy.

See pages 34 - 38 of the full plan.

Today, representatives from the Students' Union sit on our APP Oversight Group, which monitors progress towards our targets.

-  To provide **feedback on the APP**, students can [contact their student union representative](#).
- To **get involved**, students can [contact our Access and Participation Impact Manager](#)

## Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved


We aim maintain a strong culture of evaluating our progress towards APP targets, and we are always working to meet high standards with our evaluation work. Our evaluation commitments are to:

See pages 38 - 42 of the full plan.

- Ensure that all work and projects throughout the University which contribute to us meeting our APP targets are correctly evaluated
- Improve staff confidence with evaluation through training and support,
- Continue to develop our Programme and Evaluation Framework, including adapting to work delivered on-course.
- Share our evaluation findings with schools and colleges

Our Access and Participation Oversight Group will report on our progress towards our targets and our evaluation activities to the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education) and the University Executive Board.

## Contact details for further information

-  You can contact Dr Andrew Ross at [accessandparticipation@bath.ac.uk](mailto:accessandparticipation@bath.ac.uk) for further information.