

Summary

University of Bath: Summary of 2024-25 to 2027-28 Access and Participation Plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan (APP) sets 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. Each university reviews and rewrites their APP every 4 years, to make sure they are up to date and able to tackle the current issues and barriers their students are facing.

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 who **access** the University of Bath, making sure students from specific groups **continue** and **complete** their studies while they are here, and narrowing the **degree outcome** gap which exists 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 if they received Free School Meals at any point.
- Our data also shows that some groups of students might be less likely to continue or complete their studies than others or might have a less satisfying experience while studying at Bath. These student groups are:
 - Students with disabilities
 - Students from Black, Asian, and other Ethnic Minority backgrounds.
- Our data also shows that some groups of students are less likely to achieve the same grades as others. These groups are:
 - Students from low-income backgrounds
 - Students with disabilities
 - Students from Black, Asian, and other Ethnic Minority backgrounds.
- Our data shows that we have some small gaps in progression rates for Black students, and students with a declared Mental Health condition.

See [Annex A](#) of the full access and participation plan for more details

Risks to Equality of Opportunity

To make sure we built a strong plan to tackle the gaps in our data for students from some groups, we carried out a university wide consultation with staff and students. This consultation allowed us to identify key risks to equality of opportunity which we think students from those groups might face at Bath. These nine risks show in our data as gaps between over and under-represented groups and may be the reason behind some of these gaps. Our nine key risks are:

- Sense of Belonging
- Financial Challenges
- Gaps in prior knowledge
- Home circumstances
- Inequity, discrimination, or unconscious bias
- Accessibility
- Lack of appropriate support mechanism
- Lack of role models
- Mental Health & Wellbeing

See [page 3](#) of the full access and participation plan for more details

Fees we charge

The maximum fees charged for a UK undergraduate student at the University of Bath is £9,250.

See <https://www.bath.ac.uk/topics/tuition-fees/> for more information.

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

What we are aiming to achieve

Our plan contains 11 objectives and 4 targets which aim to address and tackle our nine key risks to equality of opportunity. We believe that addressing these risks will reduce the gaps that exist between over and under-represented student groups at Bath. Our targets are:

- Close the gap in access between students from low-socioeconomic backgrounds (**Targets 1 and 2**)
- Close the degree outcome gaps for students from low socio-economic backgrounds and students from minoritised ethnic backgrounds (**Targets 3 and 4**)

See [page 6](#) of the full access and participation plan for more information

What we are doing to address key risks to equality of opportunity

To address our key risks, we have produced four intervention strategies. An intervention strategy is a group of activities or programmes that we will carry out to achieve the aims of our Access and Participation Plan. We have 4 intervention strategies in our plan, and each strategy consists of activities that will support our students who might be facing a risk at different stages of their student journey. Our Intervention strategies are:

- **Access**
 - This strategy covers our activities to support students accessing the University of Bath.
 - It covers the work carried out by our Outreach team, such as School visits, Campus Events, and Summer Schools.
 - It also includes our Contextual Admissions programme.
 - The Access strategy also includes our work with schools, teachers and parents, carers or guardians.
- **Continuation/Completion**
 - This strategy covers our work to support students when they are on-course at Bath, specifically activities or programmes designed to support students continuing and completing their courses.
 - It covers our Mental Health and Wellbeing support, such as our pastoral care for students, our awareness raising campaigns, and our social prescribing programme.
 - It also covers our financial support for students, provided through bursaries and scholarships, so that they can participate fully in university life.
 - It also contains information about how we will create an inclusive and welcoming environment, and how we will support our students with declared disabilities, through programmes such as the Autism&Uni toolkit and our Disability Support services.
- **Degree Outcomes**
 - This strategy covers our work to support students when they are on-course at Bath, specifically activities or programmes designed to support their degree outcomes.
 - It covers activities to support students with their academic skills, such as our Modern/Foreign languages skills provision, and our Mathematics Resource Centre
 - It also contains information about how we will create an inclusive and enriching learning environment and curriculum for students.
 - It also covers targeted financial support we will provide students with so that they can participate fully in their studies, such as our Hardship fund.

➤ Progression

- This strategy covers our work to support students progressing into graduate level study or employment after they complete their time at Bath.
- It contains information about careers and employability information, advice, and guidance we will provide for students through our Careers and Employability Support services.
- It also contains information about placement support for students.
- It also covers how we will embed diversity and inclusivity into our careers and employability support through events or workshops for specific student groups.

See [pages 7-26](#) of the full access and participation plan for more information

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.

For the most up to date information, see <https://www.bath.ac.uk/topics/undergraduate-scholarships-bursaries-and-other-funding/>

How students can get involved

- Students are represented on all levels of governance at Bath through the Student Officers in the Students' Union who represent the voice of the student population.
- Students who want to get involved in the delivery of APP activity can contact the access and participation team to find out about our Student Outreach Ambassador scheme, and our internship placements in the Widening Participation team.
- We are also setting up a new student-led APP Advisory Board, where students can feedback on their experience of being a student at Bath, review APP ideas and projects, or raise issues about the APP.

See [pages 29-30](#) of the full access and participation plan for more information

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We are always working to meet high standards with our evaluation work. Our evaluation commitments are to:

- Make sure that all work and projects which support our APP objectives and targets are fully and correctly evaluated
- Improve staff confidence with evaluation through training and support,
- Share our evaluation findings internally and externally.

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.

See [pages 30-34](#) of the full access and participation plan for more information

Contact details for further information

Please visit our [Widening Participation webpages](#) or contact the Access and Participation Team on accessandparticipation@bath.ac.uk for more information.