



## University of Nottingham

### 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 Nottingham [here](#).

#### Key points

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving access, continuation, and outcomes for specific groups of students. Data shows that, compared to their peers at the University of Nottingham, access, continuation and outcomes are lower for certain groups of students.

- Students are less likely to get into the University of Nottingham if they come from a neighbourhood where not many people go on to higher education.
- Students are also less likely to access the University if they come from a neighbourhood that is considered to be deprived based on local measures such as household income, health, employment and crime.
- Students are less likely to progress from their first year to second year if they are older than 21 years of age when they start their studies.
- The following groups of students are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above:
  - Black students
  - Disabled students

*See page 8-11 for more information about the targets*

#### Fees we charge

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

- £9,250 for full-time students
- £6,935 for part-time students. Part time students will normally pay a fee that is proportional to the amount of study they are undertaking.

You can see a full list of fees for courses at the University of Nottingham on our website:

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/fees/tuitionfees/202223/index.aspx>

*See page 25 for more information*

#### Financial help available

A **Core Bursary** is available to all UK undergraduate students with a household income of less than £35,000. This is £1000 per year of study.



The **Nottingham Potential Bursary** is also available which is bursary available to care-experienced students, mature students, part-time students, refugees and young carers. This is £1000 per year of study.

Some students may find that they are eligible for both bursaries.

The **Student Hardship fund** is also available to undergraduate students. Students can apply for financial aid if they are struggling with living costs. *See page 15 for more information*

### **Information for students**

**Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support at in person events, such as our open days, our website and social media and through individual communication by post, email and phone calls. Financial support staff can also provide pre-admission financial advice.

**Current students** receive information about fees and the financial support available on our website and from the Student Services Team.

The most up to date information is available on [our website](#)

*See page 20 for more information*

### **What we are aiming to achieve**

We aim to improve **access** to the University for:

- Students from low participation neighbourhoods and low-income backgrounds.

We aim to improve the entry rate ratios that compare those from neighbourhoods with the highest participation with the lowest participation. By 2025, for every 4.3 students from a high participation neighbourhood that studies with us, there will also be at least 1 student from a low participation neighbourhood.

- Students from deprived areas

We aim to reduce the percentage point gap between the number of students from the least deprived area compared to the most deprived areas to a 34.8% point difference.

We aim to improve **continuation from first year to second year** for:

- Students over 21 years old

We aim to reduce the percentage point gap between the number of students who don't continue into their second year when comparing mature students (those over 21) to young students (those under 21) to 5 percentage points difference.

We aim to improve **good degree outcomes** for:

- Black students

We aim to reduce the percentage point difference in good degree outcomes (2:1 or above) between Black and White students to 9 percentage points by 2025.

- Disabled students

We aim to reduce the percentage point difference in good degree outcomes (2:1 or above) between Disabled students and non-disabled students to 3 percentage points by 2025.



We will also contribute to national improvement of the number of students from under-represented groups at higher tariff research intensive Universities through our collaboration with Realising Opportunities. More information can be found at <https://www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk/>

## **What we are doing to achieve our aims**

The University of Nottingham is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all students.

- We will continue to develop our contextual admissions policy to offer personalised entry requirements to those from under-represented groups. This means applicants being able to access the University with lower grades than are usually expected due to their personal circumstances.
- We will continue to work with schools to support more pupils from underrepresented groups to attain good grades and progress to higher education.
- We will complete regular reviews of our degree courses to ensure that they are supporting all students to succeed and progress including reviewing the curriculum.
- We will further develop our management of data to enhance our understanding of the student experience.
- We will work with the University Students' Union to develop more opportunities for students from under-represented groups
- We will ensure there is substantial financial support including bursaries and hardship funds available to target students.

## **How students can get involved**

We worked with the **Students' Union** and the **Widening Participation Advisory Panel** to ensure students are involved with the plans. The panel consists of twenty current undergraduate and postgraduate students who are from groups that are typically under-represented in higher education. The panel reviewed different versions of the plan up until it was submitted to the Office for Students.

Students are represented on the **Access and Participation Plan (APP) Steering Group** by the SU Education Officer and the SU Liberation Officer, ensuring the student voice is heard in all stages (planning, monitoring, evaluation and delivery). The APP Steering Group holds meetings five times per year to review the progress on the work we are doing.

To provide feedback, students can [contact the SU Liberation Officer](#) or the [SU Education Officer](#)

*See page 17 for more information*



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

Our activities are informed by the best available evidence about what works for students to ensure the greatest possible impact for our students. We collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- The activities we deliver
- The impact on our targets
- The outcomes of our activities

The Access and Participation Plan Steering Group monitors and reports on these processes to the University Executive Board. The group oversees implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against yearly milestones in our access and participation plan. We monitor impact on our target groups, to ensure we are addressing our aims. Where appropriate, we will adjust our activities in the best interests of our students.

*See page 17 for more information*

## **Contact details for further information**

You can contact Grace Patterson-Mik at [Grace.Patterson-Mik@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Grace.Patterson-Mik@nottingham.ac.uk) for more information.