

Manchester Metropolitan University

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 Manchester Metropolitan University at mmu.ac.uk/student-life/finance/access-and-participation-plans

Key points

Manchester Metropolitan University has a proud track record in Access and Participation, recruiting high numbers of undergraduate students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The focus of our Access and Participation Plan is on ensuring that the outcomes for different groups of students are comparable. Our data shows that there are significant gaps in the following areas:

- The chances of a student gaining a 1st or 2.1 degree are significantly lower for:
 - Black and Asian students (compared to White students)
 - Those from the most deprived areas of England (compared to the least deprived)
 - Those from the areas of lowest participation in Higher Education
- The chances of progressing to highly skilled employment or further study are lower for the groups above
- Progression from Year 1 to Year 2 for students with a mental health condition is lower than it is for students with no known disability.

We are committed to improving academic and employment outcomes for all our students, and to closing the gaps identified above. See pages 1-16

Fees we charge

At Manchester Metropolitan University, the maximum fees charged for Home students are:

- £9,250 for full-time students on 3 or 4 year degree programmes
- £11,100 for students on 2 year accelerated degrees
- £6,935 for part-time students.

Full details of our fees can be found in our online prospectus www.mmu.ac.uk/study/undergraduate

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups. This helps students access the University and continue studying until they have completed their course. The support includes:

- An annual bursary of £750 for each year of the course for full-time students whose household income is £25,000 or less. Part-time students will receive a proportion of the bursary based on how much of the course they study each year.
- A fee waiver for students on a sandwich year whose household income is £25,000 or less
- A fund to support students who experience financial hardship during their time at University
- An annual Care Leaver bursary of £1,000 for full-time students who are Care Leavers (as defined by the Leaving Care Act) and who are on full-time courses. See pages 26-28

Information for students

- **Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support at events, such as our Open Days, from our online prospectus and by email communications.
- **Current students** receive information about fees and the financial support available through our internal communications campaigns and emails.

For the most up-to-date information, see our University website: www.mmu.ac.uk **See page 33**

What we are aiming to achieve

Our plan focusses on those areas where we recognise improvements can be made and it sets challenging targets which we are committed to meeting. Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas where we will focus our work:

- **Support attainment at school and access to higher education** – During 2022-23, we will work collaboratively with schools to identify where we can best support them to raise the attainment of their pupils. We will develop a programme of activity which we can deliver in partnership with schools to improve attainment. We will also support the work of the Greater Manchester Higher partnership in this area.
- **Diversifying our provision** – We will continue to grow our degree apprenticeships provision, working with local schools and colleges to promote this route into university, and we will support widening participation learners to access apprenticeships, providing support and advice on the application and selection process. **See pages 21-22**
- **Support students from neighbourhoods with lowest participation in higher education, reducing the gap between them and those from areas of highest participation:** By 2024/25 we will:
 - Reduce the gap in good degree outcomes between these groups to 2.5%
 - Reduce the gap in progression to highly skilled employment or further study at a higher level between these groups to 1.5%
- **Support students from the most deprived areas of England, reducing the gap between them and those from the least deprived areas:** By 2024/25 we will:
 - Reduce the gap in good degree outcomes between these groups to 6.9%
 - Reduce the gap in progression to highly skilled employment or further study at a higher level between these groups to 1.2%
- **Support Black and Asian Students:** By 2024/25 we will:
 - Reduce the gap in good degree outcomes between Black and White students to 9.2%, and the gap between Asian and White students to 6%
 - Reduce the gap in progression to highly skilled employment or further study at a higher level between Black and White students to 1.4%, and the gap between Asian and White students to 2.5%
- **Support disabled students:** By 2024/25 we will:
 - Improve the timely progression rate from Year 1 to Year 2 for full-time undergraduate home students with a mental health condition, reducing the gap to those with no disability to 2% **See pages 18-19**

What we are doing to achieve our aims

We have identified a range of activity which we will deliver to meet the targets we have set:

- Develop our work with schools and colleges, working collaboratively with other institutions, to deliver a range of activities which support schools and their learners, and promote alternative routes into higher education such as degree apprenticeships.
- Develop our curriculum, putting students at the centre of it and ensuring we deliver an inclusive curriculum which enables students to personalise their learning experience. We will also develop our BAME ambassador programme, ensuring our Black, Asian and minority ethnic students feel included and can influence change.
- Enhance our support for students with a mental health condition, through increased investment, training, and collaboration with the NHS, to provide students with a service which delivers prevention and early intervention work, through to the most specialist of provision as required.
- Develop our Peer Assisted Learning Scheme (where first year students are supported by second year students) to enhance support and improve progression and student success.
- Improve our Graduate Outcomes and reduce the gaps between different groups through increased opportunities for placements and work experience, mentoring, and support into early careers through opportunities such as internships. We will support students to progress into further study, targeting groups that are currently underrepresented in postgraduate study.
- Grow and develop our First Generation Scholarship Programme, supporting students into and through the University and enhancing their graduate prospects. See pages 19-26

How students can get involved

The Students' Union is represented on the Widening Participation Steering Group that designed and developed the Plan, and suggestions from the Students' Union for changes were incorporated into the final version. Students are also represented on many formal committees of the University that monitor performance against the Plan.

- To provide feedback, students can contact their Student Union representative (www.theunionmmu.org/your-voice-)
- To become involved in this work, students can contact our Access and Participation Lead (Peter Riley: p.riley@mmu.ac.uk) See pages 28-29

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our programmes of activity are informed by the best available evidence about what works for students. We will collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- our programme design and the impact of the activity we are delivering to achieve our aims
- the actions outlined above, and the impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and an inclusive environment

The Widening Participation Steering Group will monitor and report on these processes to the Education Committee. The Committee will oversee implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against the yearly milestones in our plan. We will monitor impact on our target groups, to ensure we are addressing our aims and delivering improvement. Where appropriate, we will adjust our interventions in the best interests of our students. We will publish evidence from our evaluations on our website by January 2024. See pages 29-33

Contact details for further information

You can contact Peter Riley, Head of Widening Participation, at p.riley@mmu.ac.uk for further information