

Manchester Metropolitan University

Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan sets out provisions that will be meaningful and effective in promoting equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups, as determined by the Office for Students.

You can see the full access and participation plan for Manchester Metropolitan University at <https://www.mmu.ac.uk/student-life/finance/access-and-participation-plans>

Key points

Manchester Metropolitan University is one of the largest and most diverse universities in the UK, with a strong connection to our local area. Over 11,000 of our students come from Greater Manchester.

We recruit and support large numbers of students from groups that are under-represented in higher education, including those from low income backgrounds, those who have previously studied vocational qualifications, and those whose parents have not been to university.

We provide an education which places an emphasis on personalised learning and support and inclusion. However we recognise that some groups of students are currently less likely to achieve the outcomes they would wish, and our access and participation plan outlines the approach we will take to ensure equality of opportunity for all our students.

See pages 1-2 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

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

- £9,250 for full-time students
- £6,935 for part-time students

These fees may increase each academic year in line with inflation or UK government policy for both new and continuing students. Further details can be found on page 51 of our Access and Participation Plan and in our on-line prospectus www.mmu.ac.uk/study/undergraduate

Financial help available

The Manchester Metropolitan University Success Fund will be available to those who start their course at the University in 2025/26 or later.

Applicants to the fund must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Undergraduate, UK enrolled student at Manchester Metropolitan University;

- A household income £42,875 or below (as verified by student finance);
- Demonstrate a need for the support (through an assessment of evidence provided as part of the application process);
- Belong to at least one key student group listed below:
 - Students with household income of £25,000 or less
 - Care leavers
 - Care experienced
 - Estranged students
 - Carers
 - Disabled students (including those with mental health conditions)
 - Lone parents with children under 18
 - Students from the 20% most deprived postcode areas in England
 - Students whose parent/s are in the military (service children)
 - Students with refugee status

Students who meet the eligibility criteria for the Fund will receive an award up to a maximum of £1,500 per student. In 2025/26 we will provide up to £4.5M in financial support and we will grow this fund further by 2028/29 in line with our students' needs.

See pages 34-36 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our Open Days, 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: mmu.ac.uk

See page 33 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

Through our Plan we aim to:

- Work with local schools and colleges, to support targeted learners through their education journey
- Enhance the transitional support into the institution to support students from different backgrounds to progress equally
- Increase the proportion of those students declaring a mental health condition who engage with our disability and mental health services, in order to support improvements in their continuation rates.
- Improve the degree outcomes for our Black and Asian students, and those who have studied BTEC qualifications, so their outcomes are similar to other students at the University.
- Increase the proportion of our Asian students who progress to graduate employment or further study after leaving the University.

See pages 2 and 3 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

In the Plan we commit to:

- Work with school pupils to help them gain the knowledge and skills needed to succeed at university, and support schools in raising the attainment of their pupils.
- Support the transition into the University of target learners to reduce anxiety and provide increased support as they start their degree.
- Provide support for students experiencing financial difficulties through a new Manchester Metropolitan University Success Fund.
- Increase the proportion of students who complete a Personal Learning Plan to ensure they have support in place to help them succeed in their studies.
- Identify those programmes and units which have the most significant award gaps for students, and work to make changes to curriculum, teaching and/or assessment to ensure different groups of learners have comparable results.
- Develop and target employability support at those groups least likely to gain a graduate job or progress to further study, to improve the outcomes for these groups.

See pages 4-28 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

There are student representatives on the Board of Governors, and the University's committees that develop, approve, and monitor this plan. Faculty Education Committees, which will scrutinise faculty level performance, also include student representation. Several of the interventions around student success will be developed and delivered in partnership with the Students' Union. In addition students can engage in this agenda through being course reps, student ambassadors, peer supporters or undertaking other student roles which form part of the activities outlined in the plan.

See pages 30-31 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

In our plan we outline how we will evaluate the activities we undertake to demonstrate their impact. We will evaluate continuously, looking for early evidence that our activities are having the impact we would hope, and adjusting them where necessary. We will compare the performance of those who engage with our interventions with similar students who have not to identify the impact they have on the participants.

We have also set clear targets we expect to achieve through the plan, and we will monitor our performance against these on an annual basis and refine our approach where targets are not being met. We will also publish the findings of our evaluations on our website to show which are most effective in meeting our aims.

See pages 31-33 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact Peter Riley, p.riley@mmu.ac.uk, 0161-247-1967 for more information.