

# University of Surrey

## Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 access and participation plan

### What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans (abbreviated to APP) 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 the University of Surrey at <https://www.surrey.ac.uk/about/governance/access-plans>

### Key points

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving access and outcomes for specific groups of students. Our data shows that outcomes are lower for certain groups of students.

- Students from low socio-economic backgrounds and students from areas where fewer people go to university, are less likely to study at the University of Surrey.
- Students are less likely to complete their studies if they come from an area where not many people go on to higher education.
- Black Students are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above
- Black and Asian students and students from low socio-economic backgrounds are less likely to progress into highly skill employment.

See pages 1 and 2 of the APP

### Fees we charge

At the University of Surrey, the maximum tuition fees charged per year are:

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



Here you can see the full list of the University of Surrey's [fees for courses](#)

### Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes:

- A **travel bursary** for students to attend our open days, applicants days, interviews and auditions and transport to and from our pre-entry outreach activities.
- An annual **University of Surrey Bursary** of £2,500, paid in instalments to eligible students through the year.
- An annual bursary for **care leaver and estranged students** of £3,000 plus an additional £500 on graduation to support with moving on costs.
- A **hardship fund** to support students who are struggling with the cost of living or who have been unexpectedly affected financially can apply.
- An **access to learning fund** which offers eligible students up to £250 to help with the costs of equipment and materials they may need to support their studies.



You can see all of our scholarship and bursaries, the eligibility criteria and how to apply on our [scholarships and bursaries webpages](#)

## Information for students

- **Learners and their supporters** looking for information about education pathways, outreach activities and opportunities to experience University can visit <https://outreach.surrey.ac.uk/>
- **Prospective students and their supporters** receive information about academic and wellbeing support and fees and financial support at our in-person and virtual events, such as our open days and through our email communications and website chat function.
- We regularly update information for **care leavers** on the [Propel](#) website.
- **Current Students** receive information about support, fees and financial support, events and activities through the MySurrey student webpages, internal communications via email and social media.



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

## What we are aiming to achieve

University is committed to providing a diverse and inclusive culture which enables all students, staff and visitors to flourish regardless of their race, religious belief, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, or socio-economic background.

Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas to focus our work:

- **Support attainment at school and access to higher education** – We are working with partner primary and secondary schools, colleges and community organisations to deliver a programme of targeted activity, to support the development of attainment, aspirations and expectations for learners who are less likely to go to university, to increase the number of these learners entering university.
- **Inclusive environment and curriculum that empowers students** – We will continue to work to promote a sense of belonging and community within the University for all students and empower students to take ownership of their Surrey journey.
- **Students from low participation areas** (areas where fewer people go to university) – by 2024/25, we will:
  - Increase the number accessing higher education. For every one student from an area of low participation there will be three or fewer students from areas of high participation.
  - eliminate the 3% difference in continuation rates (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their programme) between students from areas of low participation and high participation.
- By 2024/25, we will increase the number of students accessing higher education from **areas of multiple deprivation** by 5.2%.to 14%.
- **Black and Asian students** – by 2024/25 we will:
  - To reduce the gap in attainment of good degrees between Black students and White students to 6 percentage points.
  - To reduce the gap in progression to highly skilled employment between Black students and White students and between Asian students and White students to 1 percentage point.

See page 9 of  
the APP

## What we are doing to achieve our aims

In order to achieve these aims we will:

1. Formalise current school partnerships to enable us to monitor and review our attainment raising activity more effectively and better understand our local attainment gaps.
2. Increase access to the University from under-represented groups by further developing contextualised admissions.
3. Offer financial support, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England.
4. Continue to progress our ongoing curriculum design review, research into awarding gaps and recommendations made in our Race Equality Charter to enhance the inclusivity of our educational provision and assessments.
5. Engage Students to inform strategy and operational delivery through the Students' Union to collaborate on improving access to higher education, success whilst at university, and progression to employment or further study.
6. Establish and embed success and progression initiatives to improve student outcomes, engage students in their own learning and empower students to succeed.
7. Launch three expert groups to implement and monitor access, success and progression activity to deliver our aims and meet our targets.

## How students can get involved

We have a staff student partnership [manifesto](#). Everything we do, we do it with our students as co-creators. We worked with the Students' Union to gather student input into the design of our access and participation plan. Students are represented at each level of governance for Access and Participation which are responsible for strategic oversight and operational delivery of the plan.

We also use Student Ambassadors in the delivery of our outreach activity which provides students an opportunity to develop professional and employability skills and earn money whilst studying.



To provide feedback, students can use the [MySurrey Voice portal](#)  
To get involved in this work, contact the [Head of Student Experience](#)

## 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 work collaboratively with external organisations and other University's to develop and share good practice.

We will collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- Our programme design
- The impact of the programme of activity we are doing to achieve our aims
- The impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and an inclusive environment.

The Access and Participation work will be lead by three distinct, expert groups: 1. Access Group, 2. Success Group and 3. Progression Group. These groups will implement activity to ensure progress against our access and participation plan aims and targets and will report to the Access and Participation Governance Panel and the University Education Committee.

## Contact details for further information

You can contact Alice McLaren at [alice.mclaren@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:alice.mclaren@surrey.ac.uk) for further information.