University of Suffolk: accessible 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. This supports underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

> **You can see the full access and participation plan for the University of Suffolk at:** **https://www.uos.ac.uk/sites/default/files/access-participation-plan-2020-2025.pdf**

Key points

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

See pages 1-8 of the full plan

- The following groups are less likely to go into higher education:
    - students from low income backgrounds,
    - ethnic minority students.

- The following groups are less likely to complete their studies:
    - students from a neighbourhood where not many people go onto higher education,
    - students with a mental health condition.

- The following groups of students are less likely to achieve a degree award of a 2:1 or above:
    - ethnic minority students,
    - students known to have a disability,
    - students from neighbourhoods where not many people go into higher education,
    - students from low income backgrounds.

- The following groups are less likely to highly skilled employment or further study:
    - ethnic minority students,
    - students know to have a disability.

Overall, the proportion of our students in employment or further study post-graduation is 91.5%.

Fees we charge

At the University of Suffolk, the maximum fees we charge are:

- £9,250 for full-time students

- £6,935 for part-time students.

You can find a full list of fees for courses at the University of Suffolk at: https://www.uos.ac.uk/content/undergraduate-tuition-fees

Financial help available

We offer financial help for students from underrepresented groups. This helps students to access higher education, to continue in their studies and to access specialist to digital equipment to facilitate engagement.

In summary, we provide

- The **Ipswich Award** – which is a bursary of £1000 for students starting on specific courses at the Ipswich campus, where grades meet or exceed course entry requirements.

- The **University of Suffolk Bursary** - an annual award of £500 per year for the duration of the programme if the student's household income is below £25,000, and as long as the student is studying for at least 50% of the full-time equivalent of the programme.

- **For students with a known disability –** a bursary of the first £200 for students paid in relation to DSA support.

- For students **from care, or estranged from their families**, an annual bursary of £500.

- The **Digital Technology Support Bursary** – provides students , studying at least 25% of the full time intensity with £300 towards the cost of equipment to enable engagement with learning. Technology support and equipment advice is also published on our website.

In addition, the University provides a Financial Support (hardship) Fund, to which students can apply for financial aid. This is in addition to any other support provided and is tailored to meet the needs of individual students.

Information for students

Information on all of the financial support available through maintenance loans, grants, scholarships and bursaries on our website: https://www.uos.ac.uk/content/undergraduate-fees-and-finance

Prospective students receive information about our financial support at in-person events such as our open days and post-application visit days, and through email communication with us.

Our Financial Support Advisors can be contacted about support and how applications can be made by contacting moneyadvice@uos.ac.uk

What we are doing to achieve our aims

Our overall aim is to increase opportunities for individuals to access and succeed in higher education, enabling students at the University of Suffolk to achieve their potential, and make a difference to the communities they live within.

> See pages 12-19 of the full plan

Through an assessment of our impact of the work we have undertaken so far, on these communities and the futures of our students, we have identified the following areas on which we will focus our work:

- **Student from low participation neighbourhoods and low income backgrounds:** by 2024-2025 we will improve:
    - the proportion of students entering the University of Suffolk by 10%
    - the continuation rate (the proportion of students continuing into their next year of study) by 7%
    - the achievement of a good degree by 7%
    - the progression to highly skilled employment by 4%

- **Ethnic minority students:** by 2024-2025 we will improve:
    - the proportion of 18 year olds at the University by 3.5%
    - the achievement of a good degree by 9%
    - the progression to highly skilled employment by 8%

- **Disabled students:** by 2024-2025 we will improve:
    - the continuation rate (the proportion of students continuing into their next year of study) by 4.5%
    - the achievement of a good degree by 4%
    - the progression to highly skilled employment by 6%

- **Care leavers:** by 2024-2025 we will increase the number of students with experience of the caring system staying in and succeeding in higher education by 10 and 20% respectively.

- **Support attainment at school and access to higher education:** we are working with schools to raise pupil achievement and expectations for further higher study. During 2023-2024 we are building stronger relationships with local schools and will develop a programme of work to be delivered.

- **Diversifying our provision**: during 2023-2024 we are reviewing the degree apprenticeships we offer and working with partners to develop other vocational qualifications including T-Levels and foundation and access to HE programmes.

We have identified nine programmes of work which we are committed to undertaking and delivering to.

1. Extend our work with **schools and colleges and community groups** – this work ensures that pupils and families have access to information when deciding whether to go into further to higher education.

2. Extend our **programme of work with schools** - this supports more pupils from underrepresented groups to achieve good grades and have the opportunity to study for a higher education qualification.

3. Enhance our **financial support offer** including bursaries, and hardship funding – this ensures students have a personalised financial support package which supports their ability to remain in study.

4. Enhance our **support for study** from the point of accepting a place at our university – this supports students through early access to support which is tailored to meet individual need.

5. Establish **flexible and supportive modes of learning** - this gives students a choice in how, where and when they learn.

6. Establish a **targeted approach to learning, teaching and progression** – so that our target groups are actively represented at our committee for Student Experience and for our Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching. This will ensure the University fully understands challenges faced and can develop tailored and flexible approaches to support and learning as needed.

7. Enhance our **tutoring process** – so that students are more engaged in their development of personal, academic, social, and professional skills.

8. Engage **external partners** – so that we can increase access to a range of higher education opportunities, success in study and progression in employment or further study.

9. **Engagement with local schools and colleges,** through workshops, campus visits, summer schools and family awareness events to promote further study.

How students can get involved

We have worked with the Students' Union to design our access and participation plan. Students are represented on our Access and Participation Plan Working Group, who have responsibility for overseeing the plan, and on key university committees with responsibility for student experience and learning and teaching.

To become involved in this work, students can contact the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching who lead the University's Access and Participation work.

To provide feedback, students can contact their [Student Union representative](#).
Evaluation: measuring and understanding what we have achieved

We have worked with the Students' Union to design our access and participation plan. Students are represented on our Access and Participation Plan Working Group, who have responsibility for overseeing the plan, and on key university committees with responsibility for student experience and learning and teaching.

See pages 20-23 of the full plan

We have designed our programmes of activity based on the best evidence available about what works for students, and by looking at our own student population. We will collect data, feedback, and use this to evaluate our success and understand where challenges ad barriers continue to exist. This includes evaluating:

- the programme of activities we have designed

- the impact of the programme we are doing to achieve our aims

- the nine actions outlined above

- the impact of all of these on out overall aim to increase opportunities for individuals to access and succeed in higher education, enabling students at the University of Suffolk to achieve their potential, and make a difference to the communities they live within.

The Access and Participation Plan Working Group will monitor our progress and report these to university committees including the committee for our Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, and the University's Senate. We will monitor the impact of our work on our identified target groups and adjust our activities where needed, in the best interest of our students.

We will publish evidence from our evaluations on [our website](#) by January 2024.

Contact for further information

You can contact Dr Ellen Buck at ellen.buck@uos.ac.uk for further information.