

## Keele 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 Keele University at <https://www.keele.ac.uk/access-plan/>

#### Key points

The focus of our access and participation plan is to support students from underrepresented groups to access, participate and succeed in higher education. Data shows that, compared to their peers at Keele University, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students.

- Mature students and disabled students are less likely to complete their studies

The following groups of students are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above:

- Students from low-participation backgrounds
- Ethnic minority students
- Mature students
- Disabled students
- Care leavers

#### Fees we charge

At Keele University the maximum fees we charge are

- £9250 for full-time students
- £6935 for part-time students

You can find a full list of fees for courses at Keele University at:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/tuitionfeesandfunding/undergraduatetuitionfees/>

#### Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups. This support aims to help students to access higher education and continue studying until they have completed their course. This support includes:

- **Access and Success Fund** a needs-based support fund, offering eligible students up to £1,500 to mitigate financial issues to accessing the 'university experience'
- **Care Leavers' and Estranged Students' Bursary** which offers all eligible students a cash award of £1000 per year of study and £500 upon graduation
- **Keele Hardship Fund** which provides support for students experiencing severe financial hardship during their time at Keele University
- **Emergency Loans** available to students experiencing urgent financial hardship. If you are experiencing a sudden, unforeseen emergency

Further details can be found at: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/studentfinancialsupport/>

## **Information for students**

**Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support at events, such as our open days, and by email.

**Current students** receive information about fees and the financial support available through our student portal, internal communications campaigns and emails.

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

Our overall aim is to support students to access, participate and succeed in higher education. Based on an assessment of our existing performance, we have identified the following areas in which to focus our work:

**Supporting attainment at school and improving access to higher education** - We are working with schools to raise pupil attainment and expectations to study for a higher education qualification. During 2022-23, we will provide a range of activity to support students and teachers from schools with a high proportion of underrepresented learners in higher education. We will develop a programme of work to start in 2023-24 that builds on and extends this work.

**Diversifying our provision** - We are planning to grow our successful apprenticeship portfolio from 2022-23 onwards to include a range of new programmes. We are also the sole university partner in a new Institute of Technology, to be launched in 2023-24, that will bring together industry, education and research to jointly design and develop education and training opportunities aligned to the skills needed by employers, the local, regional and national economy, and Government priorities for technical education.

**Students from lower participation backgrounds** - by 2024-25 we will:

- Reduce the difference in degree attainment (1st and 2:1) between students from lower participation backgrounds and students from higher participation backgrounds to 2%
- Reduce the difference in progression to employment / further study between students from lower participation backgrounds and students from higher participation backgrounds to 4%

**Ethnic minority students** – by 2024-25 we will reduce the difference in degree attainment (1st and 2:1) between white and BAME students to 6%

**Disabled students** – by 2024-25 we will:

- Reduce the difference in non-continuation rates between non-disabled students and disabled students with a mental health condition to 4%
- Reduce the difference in degree attainment (1st and 2:1) between non-disabled and disabled students to 0%

**Mature students** - by 2024-25 we will:

- Increase the proportion of mature entrants to 16% of all UK full-time undergraduates
- Reduce the difference in non-continuation rates between young and mature students to 2%

- Reduce the difference in degree attainment (1st and 2:1) between young and mature students to 6%

**Care leavers** – by 2024-25 we will Reduce the difference in degree attainment (1st and 2:1) between non-care leavers and care leavers to 8%

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

- Sustaining our excellent track record on improving **access to higher education** by students from underrepresented groups
- Further developing our programme of **work with schools**, supporting more pupils from underrepresented groups to attain good grades and progress to study for a higher education qualification
- Expanding our portfolio of programmes, with a particular focus on providing more **flexible routes for learning**
- Continuing to enhance our **distinctive curriculum**, providing an innovative and engaging learning environment for our students
- Ensuring all our students are provided with effective and tailored **academic support**
- Providing high-quality **employability support** to all students - building on our track record of achieving excellent progression and employability outcomes for our students
- Building further on our existing provision of **high-quality student services**, playing a sector-leading role in the development of best practice in student support
- Providing targeted support for **BAME students** and students with a **disability**
- Evaluating and enhancing our **financial support package**, which includes bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England

### **How students can get involved**

We worked with the Students' Union to gather student input into the design of our access and participation plan. Students are represented on our Access & Participation Strategy Group (APSG) which is responsible for overseeing implementation of our Access & Participation Plan.

To provide feedback, students can contact their [student union representative](#).

To become involved in this work, contact our Access and Participation Lead (see below).

### **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:

- The design and delivery of our programmes
- The impact of the activities we are carrying out to achieve our aims
- The key activities outlined above
- The financial support we provide
- The impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access, participation and success for our student community

The Access and Participation Strategy Group (APSG) will monitor and report on these processes to Education Committee annually. APSG will oversee implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against yearly milestones in our access and participation plan. We will monitor the impact

of interventions on our target groups, to ensure we are addressing our aims. Where appropriate, we will adjust our interventions in the best interests of our students.

### **Contact details for further information**

You can contact the Academic Registrar at [y.macfarlane@keele.ac.uk](mailto:y.macfarlane@keele.ac.uk) for further information.