


University of Warwick

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 the University of Warwick at <https://warwick.ac.uk/study/outreach/wpatwarwick/app/>

Key points

**See pages 1 to 7
of the full plan**

By 2030, Warwick will be regarded as one of the UK universities with the greatest impact on social mobility, through its ability to recognise, inspire, and enrich talented students from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds.


Our data shows that a key priority for our plan is to improve access to the University of Warwick from:

- Students who come from a neighbourhood where not many people go on to higher education (referred to as a low participation neighbourhood)
- Black and Minority Ethnic students who come from a neighbourhood where not many people go on to higher education.
- Compared to their peers at the University of Warwick, students are less likely to continue to the next year of their studies if they come from a low participation neighbourhood, have a disability or are a mature student.
- Black and Minority Ethnic students are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above.
- Overall employability and progression rates for our students are good, however we are committed to continuously improve these.

Fees we charge

At the University of Warwick, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,250 for full-time students
- £6,935 for part-time students.
- £6,750 for 2+2 degrees and the Warwick Business School Foundation Year

 You can see a full list of fees for courses at the University of Warwick at <https://warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/studentfunding/course-costs/>

Financial help available

**See pages 17 to 18
of the full plan**

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:

- An **annual bursary** of up to £3,000 for the duration of the course if the student's household income is below £35,001 (including MBChB students for the first year of study only)
- An **annual bursary** of £1,000 for **care leavers**
- An **annual bursary** of £1,000 for students **estranged from their families**

- An **annual maintenance bursary** of up to £9,488 for students seeking asylum in the UK and who are not entitled to receive statutory financial support. This includes a full tuition fee waiver.
- A **hardship fund** to support students who experience financial difficulties during their time at university



You can find more information about our financial support at <https://warwick.ac.uk/study/scholarships-and-bursaries/undergraduate-bursaries>

Information for students

The University ensures that information regarding fee levels and funding support is available to prospective students at the earliest stage possible. Fee levels are referenced in our prospectus, on our website and in offer letters. Additionally, course fee information will be available via UCAS course search and this information is highlighted in workshops and at open days.

- We provide information for care leavers on the [Propel](#) website and for students estranged from their family on the [Stand Alone](#) website.

What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 7 to 9 of the full plan

Our overall aim is to ensure that individual background has no profound impact on the ability to access, succeed in, and progress from higher education through providing equality of opportunity for all students.

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

Access to higher education

- Enhance the **awareness of and support access to higher education** for underrepresented groups- we are working with schools, colleges and charitable organisations to raise student achievement and expectations to study for a higher education qualification.
- By 2025, we will narrow the gap for students entering Warwick from the most and least represented neighbourhoods in higher education from 7.5:1 to 4:1.
- By 2025, we will increase the proportion of [Realising Opportunities](#) students nationally progressing to research intensive universities from 42% to 54%.
- By 2025, we will increase the number of **care leavers** accessing higher education and the University of Warwick.
- By 2025, we will increase access to Warwick for Black and Minority Ethnic students who come from a neighbourhood where not many people go on to higher education from 5.2% to 10%.

Student success at Warwick

- By 2025 we will reduce the good degree awarding (gaining 2:1 or above) gap between Black and White students.
- By 2025, we will improve the continuation rate (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course) for students from low participation neighbourhoods to the same rate as their peers.
- By 2025, we will improve the continuation rate for students with a disability to the same rate as their non-disabled peers.
- By 2025, we will reduce the gap in continuation rates between mature students (aged over 21 years) and young students from 10.2% to 5%.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

See pages 9 to 18
of the full plan

The University of Warwick has identified a range of measures to support the achievement of our aims and targets.

1. Strengthen our **work with schools and colleges** to remove barriers to higher education for underrepresented groups.
2. Engage **with external partners** to collaborate on supporting people from underrepresented group reach their potential.
3. Ensure our **admissions practices** are inclusive and transparent to recognise the academic potential of applicants from underrepresented groups.
4. Enhance our **inclusive education work** to ensure that all students can thrive during their studies.
5. Provide **high quality support for all students** so they can engage effectively with their studies and have an excellent student experience.
6. **Engage students** in their own development of personal and professional skills so they feel empowered to create their own future.
7. Further develop our **flexible pathways to higher education**, including building on our partnerships with further education and employers.
8. **Offer financial support**, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, to remove financial barriers to a Warwick education.
9. Enhance our university **evaluation approach** to show how our work contributes to what works to improve access and participation in higher education.

How students can get involved

Students are represented on our Widening Participation Committee which is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the plan and monitoring the impact of our work on our target groups to ensure we are addressing our aims.

We have formed a Widening Participation Student Advisory Group to engage students from a diverse range of backgrounds to work with the University to support the planning, monitoring and delivery of our access and participation work.



To become involved in this work, [contact our Access and Participation Lead](#).

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

See pages 19 to 21
of the full plan

Our plan is informed by the best available evidence about what works to improve access and participation for underrepresented groups. Our approach focuses on:

- Using an evaluation plan to inform how we measure the impact of our policy and practice outlined above.
- Engaging with national and institutional data that allows us to monitor and benchmark progress.
- Building effective approaches to engage with students from a diverse range of backgrounds to better understand the impact on achieving our overall aim.
- Working with national organisations to improve evaluation and the dissemination of evidence.

We will publish evidence from our evaluations on an annual basis.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Paul Blagburn at p.blagburn@warwick.ac.uk for further information.