

# Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 Access and Participation Plan

## What is an access and participation plan (APP)?

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.

<p><b>Key points</b></p> <p>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 York, access and outcomes are lower for certain groups of students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students from neighbourhoods where not many people go on to higher education are underrepresented at the University of York.</li> <li>● Students from a Black background are underrepresented at the University of York.</li> <li>● Care-experienced students are underrepresented at the University of York.</li> <li>● Students from a Black background are less likely to complete their studies at the University of York.</li> <li>● The following groups of students are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above at the University of York:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Students from neighbourhoods where not many people go on to higher education</li> <li>○ Mature students (over 21 years of age)</li> <li>○ Students from an Asian background</li> <li>○ Students from a Black background</li> <li>○ Students from areas with the highest deprivation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>► You can see the University of York’s full access and participation plan at:  <a href="https://www.york.ac.uk/media/abouttheuniversity/UniversityOfYork_APP_2020-21_V1_10007167%20(2).pdf">https://www.york.ac.uk/media/abouttheuniversity/UniversityOfYork_APP_2020-21_V1_10007167%20(2).pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Fees we charge</b></p> <p>At the University of York, the maximum fees charged for full-time, undergraduate, UK (home) students are £9,250 per year.</p>	<p>► You can see a full list of the University of York’s fees at:  <a href="https://www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/fees-funding/">https://www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/fees-funding/</a></p>
<p><b>Financial help available</b></p> <p>We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups. This helps students to access higher education and supports them to continue their studies until their course is completed. The support includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The York Bursary</b> is a non-repayable bursary for students with a household income of up to £35,000. Students with a household income of less than £25,000 will receive £2,000 in Year 1 and £1,100 in subsequent years. Students with a household income between £25,001 and £35,000 will receive £2,000 in Year 1 and £1,000 in</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>See pages 19-20 of the full plan</b></p>

<p>subsequent years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The Care Leaver and Estranged Students Bursary</b> is for students aged under 25 who are care-experienced or who are estranged from their parents. Students will receive £3,000 in Year 1, £2,500 in Year 2, and £2,500 in Year 3 plus £1,000 to be paid in term three to assist with graduation and interview costs.</li> <li>● <b>The York Opportunity Scholarships</b> assist students from underrepresented groups who have faced significant barriers to their education. Each scholarship is worth a total of £3,300, paid in annual instalments of £1,100 for three years.</li> </ul>	<p>► Further information about the University of York's financial support can be found at: <a href="https://www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/fees-funding/uk/scholarships/">https://www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/fees-funding/uk/scholarships/</a></p>
<p>Information for students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events in schools and colleges and during on-campus events such as Open Days, Taster Days, residential visits, and at our annual Teachers' Conference. Information is included in our undergraduate prospectus which is available at: <a href="https://www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/prospectus/">https://www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/prospectus/</a></li> <li>● At the point of offer, prospective students receive, as part of their offer letter, the quoted tuition fee cost for their course. In addition, students receive information relating to financial support that is available, including bursaries &amp; scholarships, hardship and emergency funding, as well as more general advice on living costs and budgeting</li> <li>● Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available through our student support and student finance teams, internal communications campaigns, and emails.</li> </ul>	<p>► For the most up-to-date information, see our University website: <a href="https://www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/">https://www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/</a></p>
<p>What we are aiming to achieve</p> <p>The overall aim of our Plan is to support students from all backgrounds to access higher education and to create an environment at the University of York where they can all achieve their full potential. Based on our assessment of performance we have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:</p> <p><b>Access to the University of York</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By 2024/25 we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase the proportion of students from neighbourhoods where the lowest number of people go on to higher education by 2.5 percentage points from 7.8% to 10.3%.</li> <li>○ Increase the proportion of students from a Black background by 1.2 percentage points from 2.4% to 3.6%.</li> <li>○ Increase the proportion of care-experienced students by 0.15 percentage points from 0.15% to 0.3%.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Non-continuation at the University of York</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By 2024/25 we will reduce the non-continuation gap between students from a Black background and White students by 4 percentage points from 8% to 4%.</li> </ul> <p><b>Attainment/Awarding at the University of York</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By 2024/25 we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reduce the attainment/awarding gap between students from neighbourhoods where not many people go on to higher</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>See pages 9-10 of the full plan</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>education and students from neighbourhoods with the highest participation by 2 percentage points from 3.5% to 1.5%.</li> <li>○ Reduce the attainment/awarding gap between Mature students (over 21 years of age) and Young students (under 21) by 6.5 percentage points from 17% to 10.5%.</li> <li>○ Reduce the attainment/awarding gap between students from an Asian background and White students by 7 percentage points from 14% to 7%.</li> <li>○ Reduce the attainment/awarding gap between students from a Black background by 8.5 percentage points from 17% to 8.5%.</li> <li>○ Reduce the attainment/awarding gap between students from areas with the highest deprivation and students from areas with the least deprivation by 5.5 percentage points from 11% to 5.5%.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>What we are doing to achieve our aims</b></p> <p>We will be undertaking the following pieces of work to help us to achieve our access and participation aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Extending and enhancing our existing programmes of work with schools, colleges, and other organisations to support more students to achieve their full potential and access higher education.</li> <li>● Developing our teaching, learning, assessment, and academic support practices to enable all students from all backgrounds to have equal opportunities to succeed in their studies.</li> <li>● Continuing to build student communities for students from underrepresented groups so that they feel fully supported and have a sense of belonging to the University of York.</li> <li>● Providing opportunities for students from all backgrounds to gain relevant and valuable work experience and to develop their employability skills, as well as removing barriers to these types of activities.</li> <li>● Reviewing our student financial support packages to ensure that we are providing the most appropriate levels and forms of funding, to enable our students to succeed at the University of York.</li> <li>● Engage, co-design and co-create all of our work in this space with diverse groups of students.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>How students can get involved</b></p> <p>We worked very closely with students and our Undergraduate Students' Union, YUSU, in particular, to co-create our Access and Participation Plan. We have also created a Student Expert Panel made up of students from underrepresented groups, who are our critical source of advice and challenge around everything we do on access and participation. Students from YUSU and the Student Expert Panel are also represented on the working groups that are responsible for overseeing the delivery of our Plan.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>See page 14 of the full plan</b></p> <p>► For more information about the Student Expert Panel you can visit the website: <a href="https://www.york.ac.uk/about/organisation/governance/student-expert-panel/">https://www.york.ac.uk/about/organisation/governance/student-expert-panel/</a></p>

## Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our aim is for all of our APP activities to be informed by the best available evidence about what works for students. We have also invested in a team who are responsible for leading our access and participation monitoring and evaluation. This team is developing our datasets to ensure that we are able to keep on top of our access and participation progress across the student lifecycle. They are also developing a university-wide evaluation framework that will enable everyone involved in this area of work to properly and robustly evaluate and monitor their projects. We will use these findings to shape and adjust our activities and we also intend to share our findings, both positive and negative, with other universities so that we contribute to the national access and participation picture. Our university working groups that are responsible for the delivery of our APP will monitor our progress and produce progress reports at regular intervals.

**See pages 17-19  
of the full plan**

## Contact details for further information

You can email the Access and Participation Monitoring and Evaluation Team for further information: [access-and-participation@york.ac.uk](mailto:access-and-participation@york.ac.uk)