

# Arts University Plymouth

## Summary of Access and Participation Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29

### What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan sets out how universities will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education into employment or further study.

Each university reviews and rewrites their access and participation plan every 4 years, to ensure they are up to date and able to tackle the current issues and barriers their students are facing.

You can see the full access and participation plan for Arts University Plymouth at [\[insert link\]](#).

### Key points

The focus of our plan is equality of opportunity and improving continuation, progression and degree outcomes for specific groups of students. Data shows that outcomes are lower for certain groups of students.

Our data shows that:

- students are less likely to access the University if they:
  - are from Black, Asian or other ethnic minority backgrounds
  - are care experienced
- students are less likely to continue with their studies at the University if they:
  - were previously eligible for free school meals
  - have a reported disability
- students are less likely to complete their degree if:
  - they are a mature student
  - have a reported disability
- students are less likely to attain first or upper-second class degree if they have a reported disability
- students with certain combinations of characteristics, for example ethnicity, sex and background, are less likely to progress to graduate employment (professional or managerial).

See pages 2-3 for more information

### Fees we charge

At Arts University Plymouth, the annual tuition fee charged for a full-time UK undergraduate student is £9,535 (for 2025-26; fees are subject to annual inflationary rises linked to the tuition fee cap set by the Government).

See the Fees, Investments and Targets Annex of the access and participation plan for more information

### Financial help available

The aim of the University's package of financial support is to provide targeted support to the students with the greatest additional needs or to those experiencing specific financial burdens. This will help enable students to fully partake in university life and have the same opportunities as others to complete their course and progress to graduate employment.

In addition to a hardship fund for all students we also offer a Materials Bursary, Care Leavers' Bursary and Pre Degree Progression Award.

See pages 15-16 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### **Information for students**

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support via our website and in digital communications as well as in-person events, such as our open days, offer holder days and outreach visits.

Current students receive information about fees and financial support through our student portal, in their online student handbook and in other ways such as through Student Voice and internal communications.

See page 27 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

Our plan contains seven objectives with nine targeted improvements to 2029. The Plan aims to address the key risks to equality of opportunity. Addressing these risks will reduce the gaps that exist between over and under-represented student groups at the University. It will support prospective students to access higher education, to feel supported in study, achieve their potential and complete their degree and be in the best possible position to progress to graduate employment or further study.

See pages 7-8 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### **What we are doing to address key risks to equality of opportunity**

To address our key risks, we have produced six intervention strategies to address one or more of our objectives in each.

Each intervention strategy is a group of actions that will mitigate the six risks identified and enable us to meet the targets and achieve the aims of the Plan. The interventions are as follows:

1. **Project: Access and Participation Plan professional development for staff**
  - to maintain recent improvements in completion rates for mature students, particularly those aged over 30
  - improve continuation rates for students who have reported a disability
  - improve completion rates for students reporting a disability
  - improve attainment rates for students reporting a disability
  
2. **Project: Direct Financial Support**
  - increase applications and enrolments from under-represented groups, specifically care-leavers, ethnically diverse applicants (including Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showman

- and Boater communities)
  - improve continuation rates for students who were previously eligible for FSM.
3. **Project: Mature Student Support**
    - maintain recent improvement in completion rates for mature students, particularly those over 30
  4. **Project: Disabled Student lifecycle**
    - improve continuation rates for students who have a reported disability
    - improve completion rate for students reporting a disability
    - improve attainment for students reporting a disability
  5. **Project: Progression**
    - improve progression to graduate level employment for students from ABCS quintile 1 - those least likely to access, continue and progress in HE
  6. **Project: Access and Participation Evaluation 2025-2029**
    - all seven objectives

See pages 9-23 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

Students are represented across all levels of decision making at the University, working in partnership with the Students' Union and elected executive representatives. Students may also be involved in the University's committees.

See page 26 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

Monitoring progress against this Plan and achievement of our strategic aims and objectives will be embedded into our management processes and procedures. Our intervention strategies are based on evidence of what works for students.

- data and feedback will be collected and analysed and fed back to relevant committees.
- impact on achieving the Plan's aims will be assessed with monitoring of absolute performance for target groups as well as the gap in performance between target groups compared to their counter-categories
- lack of progress against targets will be identified swiftly and, where applicable, at individual course level through the data prepared for consideration at relevant groups and committees.

See pages 25-27 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

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