

York St John 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 York St John University at <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/policies-and-documents/access-and-participation-plan/>.

Key points

See pages 1 to 4 of the full plan

The focus of our Access and Participation Plan is to diversify and increase access for underrepresented groups and ensure that student outcomes are equal.

Data shows that, compared to their peers at York St John University, students from underrepresented groups are less likely to.

- **Access higher education.** At York St John, this particularly impacts students from low-income backgrounds, those that identify as being from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds and mature students.
- **Achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above.** At York St John, this particularly impacts students from low participation neighbourhoods, students from low-income backgrounds and disabled students.
- **Progress from higher education into employment or further study.** At York St John, this particularly impacts students that identify as being Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic.

Significant improvement has been made in a variety of areas, including continuation rates (students continuing in their study after their first year). But there is more to be done to widen access and participation and enable positive outcomes for all our students.

Fees we charge

See the Appendix of the full plan

At York St John University, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,250 for full-time students
- £6,935 for part-time students.

You can see the full list of fees for courses at York St John University at <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/media/content-assets/document-directory/documents/Fee-Summary-2022-to-2023.pdf>

Financial help available

See pages 29 to 30 of the full plan

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups. This helps students to access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed.

We evaluate the impact of our scheme regularly. From 2020 onwards, new starters will be eligible for a targeted bursary scheme providing individual support.

You can see information on the pre-2020 Aspire Bursary Scheme at <https://www.yorksjaspire.co.uk/yorks/scheme>

You can see a full list of current financial help available at <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/funding-opportunities/>

Information for students

See page 29 of the full plan

- **Prospective students** receive clear information about fees and finance packages, and there is an individualised approach to admissions handling to ensure appropriate information is provided, as well as useful information around student life, transition to HE and course related information. This information is based on the website and our prospectus and is also communicated throughout the enquiry and admissions processes by email and mail outs.
- **Current students** receive information through the University website, which is reviewed regularly, as well as on our student app and via tailored email communications.

You can find the most up-to-date information on our website at <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/>

What we are aiming to achieve

See page 19 to 20 of the full plan

Our overall aim is to diversify and increase access for underrepresented groups and also ensure that student outcomes are equal.

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

- **Support underrepresented groups to access higher education**, focusing on activities to increase intakes of the following:
 - Students from low-income backgrounds to 18% by 2024-5
 - Students who identify as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic to 10% by 2024-5
 - Mature students to 14% by 2024-5
- **Eliminate the degree outcomes gap** (academic outcomes for students in underrepresented groups when compared to their peers) by 2024-5 for the following:
 - Students from low participation neighbourhoods
 - Students from low-income backgrounds
 - Disabled students
- **Eliminate the progression gap** (the progress from higher education into employment or further study for students in underrepresented groups compared to their peers) by 2024-5 for students who identify as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic.
- By 2020-1, ensure that all **Care Leavers have progression plans** in place.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

See pages 22 to 25 of the full plan

We have identified several programmes of activity to support achievement of our aims and targets:

1. Promote **fair admissions** through our innovative contextual admissions scheme – assigning points to prospective students based on factors in their background, which may reduce offer levels. This is supported by a range of school-based activities.
2. Develop the academic portfolio taking a flexible, inclusive and collaborative approach to **learning and teaching** – this focuses on the design and delivery of a broad range of curricula to achieve equality in attainment and continuation and to widen access.
3. Have sustained **engagement** with students from underrepresented groups and personalising the students' learning journey so that they are supported as individuals in school, throughout their University experience and beyond.
4. Develop the **students' social capital** – developing students' transferrable skills and social capital, recording and recognising their academic and wider achievements as well as broadening their networks through partnerships with employers and community organisations.

5. Develop **staff skills and expertise** to facilitate widening access and ensure that they are able to effectively implement and support the inclusive curriculum design and the students' personalised learning.
6. Offer **financial support** – including bursaries and scholarships to reduce cost barriers to access and support student engagement and success.

How students can get involved

See page 25 of the full plan

Students are represented on our Access & Participation Plan Group by our Students' Union sabbatical team, who work closely with student representatives embedded across all our Schools and programmes. Students' views also had equal weight in the shaping of our Access & Participation Plan.

This ensures that we continue to develop a student-focused approach to achieving enhanced access, participation and success for all.

To provide feedback, students can contact their student union representative.

To become involved in this work, contact our APP Programme Manager at APP@yorksj.ac.uk.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

See pages 26 to 29 of the full plan

We will collect various data and feedback to ensure all outcome targets are being achieved and assess the impact of our activities against the six aims outlined above.

The Access and Participation Plan Working Group will review our progress and identify key actions to ensure we remain on track to meet our targets. The Group will report into the University's Academic Board and Board of Governors who oversee the University's work in this area. They oversee implementation of interventions, monitor progress against agreed targets and commission further research, activities and/or investment if progress is not in line with expectations.

Contact details for further information

You can contact APP@yorksj.ac.uk for further information.