# University of Westminster: Access & Participation Plan 2025/26- 2028/29

# What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan sets 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 our full access and participation plan [here](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/sites/default/public-files/general-documents/Access-and-Participation-Plan-2025-2029.pdf).

Our plan takes you through our ambition for change, what we plan to do to achieve this change and the targets we have set ourselves to ensure progress.

# Key points

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes for specific groups of students at our diverse university in the centre of London. Data shows that, compared to their peers on undergraduate programmes at the University of Westminster, outcomes are lower for certain groups.

* Some student groups are less likely than peer groups to receive a place and enrol on some creative courses. This includes those from lower socio-economic areas or those from Black, Asian and other Minority ethnic backgrounds.
* Groups of mature and part-time learners are less likely to continue beyond their first year of undergraduate study.
* Students from the following backgrounds are less likely to both, continue and complete their course:
	+ Black and Mixed ethnicity backgrounds
	+ Lower socio-economic areas
	+ Care-experienced backgrounds
* Some student groups are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above. This includes students from Black, Asian and other Minority ethnic backgrounds, as well as those who are male and also from lower socio-economic areas.
* The following groups of students are less likely to progress to highly skilled employment or further study:
	+ Students with a social and/or communication impairment
	+ Students who are female from Black and Asian backgrounds
	+ Students from lower socio-economic areas

We are committed to understand the experience of disadvantaged and underrepresented students within our university, setting out plans and actions to address any ‘gaps’ in the experience of different student groups. This work is an integral part of the University’s [‘Being Westminster’ strategy](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/sites/default/public-files/prospectuses/Being-Westminster-2022-29.pdf) and is reflected in our mission: to help students from different backgrounds fulfil their potential.

See pages 7-9 of the Access & Participation Plan for more information

# What we are aiming to achieve

To ensure that we recruit students in our target groups onto courses where they are currently underrepresented, supporting them throughout the student lifecycle. These include:

* + People from Black, Asian and other Minority ethnic backgrounds
	+ People from lower socio-economic areas
	+ People who have in the past been cared for by public authorities – (CARE LEAVERS)
	+ People who are studying part-time or who were over 21 when starting their first degree (MATURE)
	+ People with social and/or communication impairments

To ensure that by supporting and empowering students from our target groups, they are as likely as all other people to:

* attend the University of Westminster;
* continue and complete their studies;
* be awarded a good honours degree and;
* progress to meaningful, highly skilled employment or further study when they graduate.

We aim to make substantial progress during the life of this plan and will continue to work on this over the next 20 years to eliminate these gaps.

To develop our centralised and educational student support, alongside maintaining meaningful engagement and partnerships.

To continue to develop our portfolio so that we offer a range of course types, entry routes and centres of excellence for research, teaching and employability.

See pages 9-11 of the Access & Participation Plan for more information

# Fees we charge

Undergraduate course fees at University of Westminster for 2025-26 academic session are indicated below. You can find the most up to date information [here](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding/fees).

• £9,535 for full-time students

• £7,145 for part-time students.

* Foundation year (classroom based): £5,760
* Foundation year (non-classroom based): £9,535

# Financial help available

As part of our commitment to progress, we have introduced a number of financial support schemes for students from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds.

* Living Expenses Support Scheme

The scheme aims to help UK undergraduate and postgraduate students with an additional grant that can be used to meet any maintenance needs, such as travel costs, childcare costs or day-to-day costs.

* Care Leaver Bursary

If you're a UK undergraduate student, you can apply for a University Care Leavers' Bursary for each year of academic study. You must provide evidence from your Local Authority that you are a care leaver. It is £750 each year of study.

Other financial support includes schemes such as the Estranged Students' Bursary, the Westminster Employability Award to formally recognising the extra-curricular activities you complete, the Global Experience Bursary and Disabled Students’ Allowance. You can find out more about financial support available [here](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding/scholarships).

# Information for students

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, and by email communications. Find information about the range of courses we offer [here](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/course-search?f%5b0%5d=course_type%3A926).

Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available through our student portal, internal communications campaigns and emails. Students can access employability stories, explore careers, take part in activities to improve [employability](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/employability), seek information about jobs and work experience. Visit [the Student Hub](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students) to access support. We regularly update our information for [care leavers](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/support-and-services/support-for-care-leavers) on our dedicated webpage. Our Disability Learning Support team can be contacted [here](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/support-and-services/disability-learning-support). We offer a [counselling service](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/support-and-services/counselling-and-mental-health-service).

See pages 31-32 of the Access & Participation Plan for more information

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

We have identified key programmes of activity to support achievement of our aims and targets. These include development and changes to

* OUTREACH COLLABORATION
* SUBJECT TASTERS
* MODES OF STUDY

Westminster offers Foundation year course provision to provide a route into higher education for non-traditional students from diverse social and educational backgrounds.

* WORKSHOP DELIVERY

Providing students with relevant information at specific points of the year will help our students transition into and through higher education. We will deliver workshops such as our Being Westminster transitions programme to target courses with low continuation rates to improve engagement and belonging.

* MENTORING

Westminster acknowledges the value of mentoring to support students and foster a sense of belonging. Mentoring forms a core part of our interventions from peer mentoring to support students, a personal tutoring model based on mentoring to targeted mentoring to support our students in progression on from their studies.

* CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT.

Aligned with Westminster’s Education strategy (2023-2029) we are committed to providing an inclusive, accessible and intellectually rigorous learning experience while recognising the diversity of our student population and the barriers traditional higher education imposes on them. As such we are committed to designing a curriculum that is representative of our student population and emphasises authentic assessment.

See pages 12-19 of the Access & Participation Plan for more information

# 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 EDI Committee and EDI Education Steering Group which is responsible for overseeing implementation of the plan.

To provide feedback, students can contact their student union representative. To become involved in this work, visit our dedicated [website page](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/university-life/get-involved/student-representation) to see the opportunities to have your voice heard.

See pages 29-30 of the Access & Participation Plan for more information

# 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:

• our programme design

• the impact of the programme of activity we are doing to achieve our aims

• the impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and an inclusive environment for our students

The EDI Education Steering Group will monitor and report on these processes to the Teaching Committee and University Executive Board. The Committee will oversee implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against yearly milestones in our access and participation plan. We will monitor impact 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.

See pages 20-25 of the Access & Participation Plan for more information

# Contact details for further information

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