University of Northampton

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, like University of Northampton are working to improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education. Please read our full [Access and](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/uon-access-and-participation-plan-2020-2025.pdf) [Participation Plan](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/uon-access-and-participation-plan-2020-2025.pdf)

# Key points

See p1–7 of our full plan

Data shows that, compared to their peers at the University of Northampton, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students. The University of Northampton’s access and participation plan is focussed on improving outcomes for these specific groups of students:

* **Students from low-income areas** who are slightly less likely to complete their studies than their peers and are less likely to gain a degree award of 2:1 or above or enter higher skilled employment.
* **Students from areas where not many people go on to higher education** who are less likely to complete their studies than their peers. This small gap is narrowing and is on track to closed by 2025
* **Students from BAME** backgrounds who are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above and are less likely to enter highly skilled employment than White students. However, this is not the case in all subject areas and, overall, gaps currently closing.

Rates for continuation, attainment, and graduate employment for all our students are continuing to improve.

# Fees we charge

At University of Northampton, the maximum fees charged for the academic year 2022-23 are:

£9,250 for full-time students

£6,750 for part-time students

You can see a [full list of fees](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/fee-information-summary-2022-23.pdf) for courses at University of Northampton

# Financial help available

See p16–18 of our 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. UON and partners make a wide range of bursaries available with the level of financial support dependent upon need:

1. **UON Bursary**. This applies to all qualifying students paying £9250 tuition fees from households whose income of below £25,000. A £500 bursary or in-kind support in year 1, plus a minimum of £400 in years 2 and 3. In addition, students undertaking a 3-year UG programme with an integrated foundation year will receive a further £400 in their 4th study year. Students undertaking a placement year will not be eligible for a bursary during that year.
2. **The Care Leaver/Foyer/Estranged Student Bursary** is a non means tested award up to

£1,500 per year for each year of study.

1. **Standalone Bursary**. For students who are estranged from their families, aged under 25 at the start of their course have access to a non-means tested award of up to £1,500 per year for each year of study (excluding Year in Industry placement years).
2. **Carers Bursary.** Students with caring responsibilities can apply for an award of up to

£2,000 annually.

1. **Learning Support Bursary** qualifying students undertaking an HND, FDA and FdSc course could receive up to a maximum of £1300 in-kind financial support.
2. **Disability Bursary**. This £550 bursary provides financial support to new students eligible to receive Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)
3. **Access to a Financial Assistance Fund (FAF)** for any student experiencing financial hardship, access to appropriate financial support including a Hardship Fund

You can refer to our [full plan](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/uon-access-and-participation-plan-2020-2025.pdf) for more detailed information or if you are studying with one of our partner institutions, you can see the Financial Support Package [provided at your institution](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/about-us/governance-and-management/management/equality-and-diversity/access-and-participation-plans/)

# Information for students

**Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our [open days and discovery days](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/about-us/contact-us/open-days/), and through our website and email communications.

We regularly update our information for **care leavers** on our designated [Care Leavers and](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/student-life/care-leavers-and-estranged-students-support-hub/) [Estranged Students](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/student-life/care-leavers-and-estranged-students-support-hub/) webpages.

**Current students** receive information about fees and the financial support available through the [Student Hub](https://mynorthamptonac.sharepoint.com/sites/student/), internal communications campaigns and emails. For the most up-to-date information, see our [university website](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/).

# What are we aiming to achieve?

See p11-16 of our full plan

Our overall aim is to support students to access and succeed in higher education by creating an environment that supports aspiration, ambition and is super supportive. Having reviewed our performance, we identified these areas as our focus:

**Support attainment at school and access to higher education** – We work with schools to raise pupil attainment and expectations to study for a higher education qualification. During 2022-23, we will work with our school partners to further develop our range of attainment raising opportunities and programmes of work that starts in 2023-24.

**For students from low-income backgrounds** by 2024-25 we aim to close the gaps in continuation rates (the proportion of students continuing to their next year of their course), the awarding of good degrees (2:1 or 1st class degree), and progression to highly skilled employment or further study between students from low and high-income backgrounds.

**For students from low participation areas** by 2024-25 we aim to close the continuation gap between students from low participation areas and their peers.

**For ethnic minority students** by 2024-25 we aim to close the gaps in continuation rates (the proportion of students continuing to their next year of their course), the awarding of good degrees (2:1 or 1st class degree), and progression into highly skilled employment or further study between BAME and White students.

# What are we doing to achieve our aims?

See p11-16 of our full plan

We have identified several areas on which we are focussed. These will enable us to achieve our aims and targets:

1. Refocus our range of **opportunities with schools** – We are working with schools to raise pupil attainment and expectations to study for a higher education qualification.
2. Continue to review our approach to **learning and teaching** prioritising equality, diversity and inclusion.
3. Extend the range of opportunities for students to study in a way that supports their learning.
4. Implement changes and developments to our **pastoral support systems** as part of a process of continuous improvement in how we support our students.
5. Support students as they step into university via our online transition resources and develop this support to enable students to **step through university** with us successfully.
6. Work closely with **external partners** to support the achievement of good degrees and graduate employment through the development of work experience and placements.
7. Offer **financial support**, including bursaries and hardship funding to eligible students to support their progress through University at Northampton.

# How students can get involved

See p18 of our full plan

We work with the Students’ Union to gather student input into the design of our plan. Students are represented on our Access and Participation Plan Student Voice Forum who meet regularly across the year to ensure the plan is implemented and monitored effectively.

To provide feedback, students can contact the student union

representative via email at Genine.Taylor@Northampton.ac.uk or make an appointment to see her at the Students’ Union.

**To become involved in this work, contact our Access and Participation Lead:**

Tim.Dobson@Northampton.ac.uk **or**

**Access and Participation Manager:** Kahvan.Bryan@northamptona.c.uk

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

See p18-20 of our full plan

We collect data from a range of our widening access and student success activities and commitments, including those identified above in the “What are we aiming to achieve?”, to ensure that we have the best available evidence with which to:

* Provide feedback reports identifying what works and what doesn’t, to plan our next steps
* Support our students
* Create an inclusive environment
* Develop a detailed review of the impacts that our financial support package has on our student’s progression though their degree, their attainment and move into jobs after their studies with us.

Our APP Student Success Working Group will monitor and report on these processes to the Student Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Forum. The Forum oversees implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against the yearly milestones in our 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.

Evaluation evidence and reports are published on our website and updated annually

# Contact details for further information

You can contact Tim Dobson at Tim.Dobson@Northampton.ac.uk for further information