

University College London (UCL)

Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan sets out how a university will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups, as determined by the Office for Students.

This document provides a summary of the plan, you can also [read UCL's full access and participation plan](#).

Key points

UCL is the largest on-site provider of education at university level in the UK with around 51,000 students across all levels of study. Entry to undergraduate study at UCL is competitive and 38% of students enter with A levels, or equivalent qualifications, of AAA or higher. In October 2023, UCL was in the top 10 of universities in the English Social Mobility Index. In 2023/24, a third of UK undergraduate students entered through [Access UCL](#), our contextual offer scheme.

Our plan sets out the changes the university will make to support underrepresented students both to apply to UCL, and to achieve as well as all other students in their degree. Using the Equality of Opportunity Risk Register provided by the Office for Students, UCL assessed our performance and identified key areas for improvement. These are:

The proportion of students from particular socio-economic backgrounds coming to UCL.

The rate that mature students (students over the age of 21 on the first day of their degree) progress to the second year of study.

Differences in degree result for students of certain ethnicities and socio-economic groups.

See pages 1-3 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

At UCL, the maximum fees for UK undergraduate students are:

- £9,250 for full-time students

See page 4 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

Our plan outlines the six intervention strategies that UCL will implement to address the risks to equality of opportunity that we have identified:

1. Activity that aims to tackle knowledge and skills gaps in school and college students, including [contextual admissions](#), a school governor network, and attainment raising work.
2. A range of events and activity, including summer schools and taster sessions, that give school and college students information, advice and guidance about university.
3. Changes that help staff to support UCL students more effectively, including training, a role focused on this area in our research centre, and a strategy focused on inclusion.
4. Enabling development of more subject-specific student support in academic departments, including a person in each faculty to lead this area and a fund available for new projects.
5. Greater involvement of UCL students in the co-creation of initiatives and policy, including Student Curriculum Partners, a Student Success Panel and Student Policy Partners.
6. Activity to build inclusion and belonging amongst target groups, including a pre-enrolment programme, bursaries, additional support and a key contact for mature students.

See pages 5-27 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

UCL staff gave a series of presentations about the development of the plan to Students' Union UCL staff and student representatives. Students and their representatives were then invited to discuss and comment on the credibility of UCL's plans to address inequalities.

UCL will evaluate activity co-created with students in collaboration with the students involved in each activity. We will submit regular evaluation reports to the Student Access and Success Committee, whose members, made up of student representatives and senior UCL staff in academic and administrative roles, oversee the development and delivery of the plan. We will hold review meetings with student representatives and the Student Success Panel to provide updates and receive feedback on the progress of the plan.

See pages 30-31 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation how we will measure what we have achieved

UCL uses data to identify areas for improvement and we draw on research and evidence to help us decide the best ways to address these areas. We set out the outcomes we want to see from our projects and activities and set targets to measure success in the short-term and long-term.

We combine different approaches to learn how well our projects are working at making the changes we want to see. These include monitoring data on outcomes, leo fproachetou5(t)-d(al)6(i)54(an)3(d ac