

University of Hull Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 access and participation plan

What are access and participation plans?

Access and participation plans set out how higher education providers 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 the University of Hull at <https://www.hull.ac.uk/choose-hull/study-at-hull/money/information-and-policies>

Key points

A large proportion of University of Hull students are local to our region. Our area has high proportions of neighbourhoods where the number of students progressing to higher education is low. This means that many of our students are considered to be from under-represented backgrounds (when compared to national statistics). The university aims to support under-represented students who may have barriers, both real and perceived, to entering higher education. As part of our efforts to address this, at the access to university stage, we offer outreach which:

- supports school attainment through high-quality outreach interventions, inspiring and encouraging students to have a proactive and positive approach to entering higher education
- is based in research and evaluation
- informs student choices
- addresses the inequality between certain groups of students and others.

We do this by:

- offering a school's outreach programme of activities, informed by strong evaluation practices and research
- working collaboratively with key partners such as Uni Connect, Hull and East Riding Children's University, the university's Schools and Engagement department
- consulting with schools and colleges
- supporting students to remove barriers to attainment on their journey through the University of Hull.

The collaborative nature of our outreach ensures a well-rounded programme from primary to 6th form study, as well as work in the community, offering consistency and high impact to students of all ages.

Students are less likely to complete their studies if they come from a neighbourhood where not many people go on to higher education. The following groups of students are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above: Students from low-income backgrounds; white students under-represented in higher education; ethnic minority students. The same groups of students are less likely to progress to highly skilled employment or further study. Overall employability rates for our students have improved and Hull has a higher level of graduate retention than the region as a whole. However, we still have further to go.

Fees we charge

At the University of Hull, the maximum fees charged to home undergraduate students are:

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

You can see a full list of fees for courses at the University of Hull at www.hull.ac.uk/money

Financial help available

We offer an award called the Humber Grant. This is a grant of up to £1,000 per year for undergraduate students who are under 25 years of age and have experience of care, are a young adult carer, or who are estranged from their parents.

We offer a Sanctuary Scholarship, which includes a full tuition fee waiver and £2,000 study grant, for up to three students who have come to the UK seeking sanctuary and are unable to access student finance.

Medicine students studying at the Hull York Medical School with a household income of less than £25,000 receive a bursary of £2,400 per year.

In August 2021, the University launched the UK's first undergraduate LGBTQ+ scholarship, the 'Jeremy Round LGBTQ+ scholarship'. Eleven awards of £1,000 each are funded to support students with the cost of study.

In February 2022, in partnership with the Cowrie Scholarship Foundation, we launched the Cowrie Scholarship to support students with Black African and Caribbean heritage from socio-economically under-represented backgrounds. [Cowrie Scholarship Foundation Scholarship 2022 | University of Hull](#)

Students who are in financial hardship can apply for our Hardship Support Fund.

Information for students

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support from a dedicated team at in-person events such as open days and online events including webinars.

Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available through our student portal and email. They also have access to Blackbullion, which is an online financial education platform for students to use as individuals.

What we are aiming to achieve

Overall, we want to support students to access higher education. This programme of support is often referred to as outreach. We also want our students to feel like they belong at the University of Hull, participate fully when studying with us and succeed in their programmes. In all that we do you will see our strategy is underpinned by People, Place, Partnership and our values centre on being: Inclusive, Empowering and Progressive.

Our student body is diverse, and broadly representative of the population. This means we have not set a specific target to support any particular groups to access the University of Hull. However, we are committed to offer programmes of support to young people, schools and communities, to reduce barriers to them studying higher education.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

The University of Hull is already one of the most inclusive universities in the country:

- We work with young people from primary school to sixth form/college, as well as with mature learners. The activities we offer are designed to support academic attainment at school, and to boost the knowledge and confidence needed to navigate the university system
- We offer free online courses to support transition to University study; Digital Readiness for Success at University (see <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/get-ready-for-success-at-university> and <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/being-a-digital-researcher-digital-skills-for-effective-research>)
- We support students in the development of academic and information skills through the use of open resources, including open access literature and the locally developed web-based Skills Guides
- To help our university community be as inclusive as possible, we have developed the University of Hull '[Inclusive Education Framework](#)' and an accompanying [toolkit of resources](#). The framework identifies five areas of activity required for inclusion. The University's work in this area is already having impact at national level (we have received an award from the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Collaborative Enhancement Project fund 2022-23 to develop a [sector level version of the Inclusive Education Framework and Toolkit](#))
- We work with a range of partners to support students with specific learning differences, disability and offer all our students wellbeing screening and access to twenty-four-hour wellbeing support

- We also offer a range of apprenticeships and flexible provision:
 - We are launching Programmes in Social Work and Operating Department Practitioner
 - We are partners in the launch of a Medical, Health and Social Care Academy
 - We have apprentices who complete the Senior Healthcare Support Worker apprenticeship with two of our local Trusts
 - The University Certificate in Health and Social Care Practice opens up opportunities for those in or out of work to build confidence in their ability study at university
 - Learning through the use of 'micro-credentials' – much smaller bite sized pieces of study.
- We aim to reduce or eliminate awarding gaps and graduate outcome differences. For example:
 - The gap in results between younger and mature students with first or 2:1 degrees has narrowed by 4.2% since the start of our plan and the gap between students from specific low participation neighbourhoods has narrowed by 3%
 - By 2024-25, we will increase the number of ethnic minority students gaining a good degree outcome of 2:1 or above. Although we have seen that our projections to date around attainment have not been reached, targeted initiatives have been put in place and unemployment recorded for example by Black graduates is relatively low at 3.9%.
 - Specific 2020 graduates from Low Participation Areas (LPAs), have an unemployment rate of 3.75%. This is almost identical to that of graduates from higher participation areas (HPAs) who have an unemployment rate of 3.74%. Unemployment has declined year on year for both groups.

How students can get involved: representation, giving back and self-development

Our APP is developed in partnership with the Student's Union, who are also represented on our Widening Participation Steering Group which manages the plan. Students seeking to work with Hull University Student's Union can look here [Work with Us | Hull University Students' Union \(hulluniunion.com\)](https://www.hulluniunion.com)

The University has operated PASS (Peer-Assisted Student Success) since 2011. PASS provides students with peer support from their fellow students, supporting both those who are finding the transition into University difficult and also developing those students offering the peer support.

In 2021 we began a partnership with [Grit](#). It delivers a programme of student personal development workshops designed to support, empower, build confidence and create connections with peers.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our programmes outlined in the full access and participation plan and above are informed by the best available evidence on what works for students. We will follow a yearly reflective cycle bringing together all relevant parties and information to understand and adapt our practice.

We will evaluate, monitor and report on:

- Programme design and implementation to allow for continual improvement
- Participation and success (against key targets – see the full plan)
- Individual activities performance against expected outcomes
- Long-term impact (including using the Higher Education Access Tracker database to understand what happens to outreach participants).

We have a growing research and evaluation team funded to advance our understanding. We will publish evaluations of our progress on targets in our APP in January 2024. For example, we know that currently at Hull, graduates with a known disability have an unemployment rate of 4.0%, while graduates with no known disability have an unemployment rate of 3.7%. This gap of 0.3 percentage points is an improvement on the previous year, where the gap was 0.5 percentage points.

Contact details for further information

For further information about an activity mentioned in this summary please contact our Academic Registrar, Clare Gough C.L.Gough@hull.ac.uk