

University of Surrey Access and Participation Plan summary

Summary of 2024-25 to 2028-29 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan (APP) sets out how universities ensure students from under-represented backgrounds can gain a place and succeed at university and, progress into good employment or further study when they leave, so that everyone with the with the desire and ability to access higher education can, regardless of their background or personal circumstances. The plan is reviewed and rewritten every 4 years to make sure it reflects the current issues affecting students and prospective students.

You can see the full access and participation plan for the University of Surrey on our access and participation webpages here: <https://www.surrey.ac.uk/about/governance/access-plans>

Key points

Promoting and supporting equality of opportunity and collaboration is fundamental to the University, as evidenced through the 2041 Strategy. “We will celebrate and embrace the diversity of our student community by recognising the individuality of each student and by creating an environment conducive to success for all. We will provide a variety of study types and be dedicated to fostering an inclusive, personalised, globally focused and co-created student community, which removes physical, social and attitudinal barriers to success.”

Delivering an excellent student experience for all students, regardless of background, is a core strategic goal for the University and we continue to work in partnership with students to build a strong Surrey community, fostering pride and championing diversity, inclusivity and togetherness. Reflecting on the 2020–2025 plan, the University is proud of the progress made as a provider to enhance equity of experience and improve social mobility for Surrey students and learners in the local community. Particular highlights are:

- the University’s flagship sandwich placements teamed with our award-winning Careers and Employability team have positively contributed to reducing the gaps into highly skilled employment for Black versus White students;
- the launch of a learning analytics platforms, MySurrey Engagement, which empowers students to take ownership of their learning and their Surrey journey; and
- the University’s nationally recognised, award-winning outreach work with local schools and community organisations, that has had a positive impact on reducing the GCSE attainment gap and increased the number of learners entering higher education.

Despite these areas of success, the University is aware there is still much work to undertake and to ensure that Surrey’s increasingly diverse population have equal opportunity across the student lifecycle. This new plan extends the scale of the University’s ambition looking ahead. It highlights continuing under-representation of students coming from low socio-economic backgrounds and points to persistent continuation/completion gaps for Black students and also those with a declared mental health condition. Lastly there is a need to tackle a persistent gap in progression for Asian students. The plan outlines five intervention strategies, each with specific targets which we believe constitute an ambitious and credible plan to address these manifest risks to equality of opportunity.

See pages 3-4 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

The maximum tuition fee charged for home full-time undergraduate study in 2024/25 will be £9,250. We will not raise fees annually for 2024-25 new entrants.

Financial help available

The University provides financial support to under-represented students to ensure they can fully take part in life at university or pre-entry activity and, where necessary, provide targeted financial support to students experiencing specific financial hardship.

See pages 27-28 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

Future students receive information on fees and financial support via our website and at in-person events, such as our open day, offer holder days and school visits. Current students receive information about fees and financial support available through the MySurrey website or via internal communications and campaigns.

See pages 74 of the access and participation plan for more information or visit our fees and funding webpages for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

An assessment of our performance highlighted five key risks that students from under-represented backgrounds are more likely to be exposed to at Surrey. You can find out more about the risk below on page 5 of the access and participation plan.

- Surrey Risk A: Reinforcing sector-wide inequality of opportunity into higher education
- Surrey Risk B: Barriers to positive student belonging and engagement
- Surrey Risk C: Impact of mental health upon positive student experience and outcomes
- Surrey Risk D: Inequality of positive outcomes in graduate-level employment or further study
- Surrey Risk E: Data Capability

The risks identified above have formed the basis of our institutional objectives and work to tackle them. We have committed to five institutional objectives.

- Obj 1) Increase pre-16 attainment and post-18 progression to HE and to the University of Surrey for learners from lower socio-economic backgrounds and under-served communities.
- Obj 2) Reduce all educational outcome and experience gaps for students from lower socio-economic backgrounds and under-represented groups, particularly in access, awarding and progression.
- Obj 3) Reduce all outcome and experience gaps for those with a declared disability, especially those students with mental health conditions. Particularly in continuation, completion and awarding.
- Obj 4) Reduce all ethnicity outcomes and experience gaps across the student lifecycle, particularly in continuation, completion and progression.
- Obj 5) Surrey will improve its data collection, tracking and monitoring to better understand our student communities, their experience and outcomes while at Surrey to enable us to identify specific risk exposure and develop meaningful interventions.

See pages 8-9 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

In order to achieve the objectives about we have launched 5 strategic workstreams:

1. **Pre-16 Attainment and Post-18 Progression** focuses on sustained partnerships and programmes of engagement for learners in schools and in the community, and their supporters, to enhance positive outcomes and build a sense of familiarity and belonging to a HE provider.
2. **Access, Transitions and Belonging** focuses on curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular interventions that support students, ensuring that learners have access to a wide range of timely information, support and guidance that allows them to make confident, informed decisions and develop the skills required to be successful throughout their time at university and into their future career.
3. **Inclusive Learning Experiences** focuses on educational practice and curriculum-based programmes. Through its activity, all students will receive a coherent, progressive and embedded curriculum that

provides students with information, advice and guidance and preventative student support, and opportunities to develop employability skills, social and cultural capital, and aspirations for their future.

4. **Mentally Healthy University** focuses on a university-wide proactive approach to supporting all students to have positive mental wellbeing. Through its activity, students will have access to a wide range of initiatives that builds meaningful connections with peers and staff, access to flexible support and University staff will be educated and empowered to better support our students.
5. **Future Prospects** focuses on developing future-ready graduates who are empowered to take ownership of their own professional development and career management, enabling them to identify and leverage self-growth opportunities, develop skills and personal agency for their career regardless of their background, degree or aspirations.

See pages 10 - 56 of the access and participation plan to find out more about the activity within each of these workstreams.

How students can get involved

The University of Surrey is proud to work in partnership with students, and with the University of Surrey Students' Union to establish, enhance and evaluate activity to improve equality of opportunity at Surrey and support students to succeed.

See pages 67 of the access and participation plan for more information about how students can get involved in this work.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our access and participation plan activity is robustly evaluated to ensure we are working towards our objectives and meeting the needs of our students. Each of the individual activities delivered as part of the strategic workstreams will be evaluated, with those evaluations published on our website.

Students will be involved in evaluation which may include a mixture of the below methods:

- Pre- and post-surveys to look and changes in knowledge or confidence.
- The use of learning analytics to monitor engagement of students involved in extracurricular activity.
- Six-month post-activity feedback to understand the medium-term impact of the activity or programme.
- An annual review to ascertain whether outcomes are being met effectively, implement changes based on student, staff and Ambassador feedback.

In addition, the university will undertake regular evaluation of the impact of bursaries and other financial support to ensure the University's financial support is meaningful and effective.

For more information about our evaluation strategy and design, see pages 68 – 73 of the access and participation plan. To find out about the evaluation plan for each strategic workstream see the evaluation tables on pages 10 – 56 of the access and participation plan.

Contact details for further information

Please contact Hollie Baker, Associate Director of Student Success for more information.

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