University Centre Peterborough

Summary of 2022-23 to 2025-26 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans (APP) set 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 the full access and participation plan for University Centre Peterborough (UCP) at https://www.ucp.ac.uk/policies/

Key points

The focus of our access and participation plan is to ensure equality of opportunity at all stages of a learner's journey. This means:

- Enabling students to apply and enrol at UCP
- Helping students complete their studies
- Facilitating students to achieve a good degree award
- Improving opportunities for students to go onto highly skilled employment or further studies

Data shows that, compared to their peers at UCP, these are lower for certain groups of students.

- The following groups of students are less likely to enrol on courses at UCP:
    - Ethnic Minority students compared to White British students
    - Male students from an area where not many people go on to higher education
    - Mature students compared to younger students

- Students are less likely to complete their studies if they are from an ethnic minority. They are also less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above compared to those students from a white background.

- The following groups of students are less likely to progress to highly skilled employment or further study:
    - Ethnic Minority students compared to White British students
    - Mature students compared to young students
    - Disabled students compared to those without a disability
    - Female students from an area where not many people go on to higher education

Fees we charge

At University Centre Peterborough the maximum fees charged are:

- £8000 for full-time students

- £6000 for part-time students

You can see a full list of fees for courses at www.ucp.ac.uk/fees

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes:

- An **annual bursary** of £500 for the duration of the course if the student's household income is below £25,000
- An **annual care leavers bursary** of £500
- By becoming a **student ambassador,** students can receive up to a £1000 tax free bursary
- Being able to apply for a **hardship bursary** if a student experiences financial hardship during their time at UCP

Information for students

We provide advice for **prospective students** in a range of formats including:

- The UCP prospectus contains information on fees, how to fund studies, bursaries and other information about studying at UCP
- The UCP website (ucp.ac.uk) contains information about courses, fees, bursaries and welfare
- All Open Day events and Applicant Days include bespoke tuition fee, finance advice and support sessions for students and parents
- 1 to 1 guidance session for finance and support

Current students receive information about fees, finance and support through our student portal, internal communications campaigns, 1 to1 sessions and emails.

What we are aiming to achieve by 2025-26

1. **Our overall aim** is to support students to access higher education. We also want to create an environment where students at UCP can achieve their full potential.

Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

- **Support attainment (the grade, score or level achieved) at school and enable access to higher education** – UCP will work closely with our Uni-Connect, partners, schools and other stakeholders during 2022/23 to explore how to best to support the development of attainment raising initiatives for target students at key stage 2, 3 and 4

- **Diversifying our provision** – UCP will seek to continue to develop more diverse pathways into and through higher education through the expansion of flexible Level 4 and 5 courses, shorter courses (micro-credentials) and degree apprenticeships

- **Evaluating our plan and actions –** UCP intends to increase the quality and volume of evaluation of our APP to appraise if activities are having a positive impact. UCP intends to partner with other higher education providers to share findings and strategies

- **Increase the % of BAME students** across both campuses by 14% within the duration of this plan.

- **Increase the number of Male students** from an area where not many people go on to higher education by 12%

- **Increase the number of mature students** at our Stamford Campus by 9%

- **Reduce the gap in attainment (grade / level) for those students from BAME backgrounds** compared to those from White backgrounds to 4 percentage points

- **Remove the non- continuation (the proportion of students that don't continue onto the next year of their course) gap for BAME students**

- **Reduce the gap between BAME and White students** progressing into highly skilled employment or higher study by 9%

- **Increase the numbers of females (from an area where not many people go on to higher education) to progress into highly skilled employment) at our Stamford Campus by 9%**

What we are doing to achieve our aims

1. Extending our **programme of work with schools and Uni Connect** – this supports more pupils from underrepresented groups to attain good grades and progress to study for a higher education qualification.

2. **Evaluating our activities** to see what impact our strategies and actions have

3. **Improving our data capabilities**

4. **Monitoring our marketing activities** impact on recruitment of UCP underrepresented groups

5. Continuing to **increase student involvement** in setting and evaluating our plans

6. Continually review **learning, teaching, assessment and curriculum** – this is informed by student representatives on our Student Engagement, Learning and Teaching Committee, our APP monitoring committee and our peer review observation process.

7. Establishing and developing further **flexible modes of learning** to give students a choice in how they learn.

8. Continuing to enhance **academic and pastoral support** so students can access tailored support.

9. **Continuing to engage external partners** to collaborate on curriculum design and in improving progression to employment or further study.

10. **Engaging students** in their own development of personal, social and professional skills.

11. Improving accessibility around **the financial, academic and pastoral support we offer**, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England.

How students can get involved

UCP worked with the Student Officer and the Student Council to gather student input into the design of its access and participation plan. The Student Officer is also a member of the Access and Participation Plan working group (AWAC) which is responsible for overseeing implementation and monitoring of the plan.

To provide feedback and become involved with this work, students can contact the Student Officer.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our APP activities are evidenced based about what works for students. UCP will increase the volume and quality of evaluation across our access and participation activity. We will collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- our curriculum and programme design
- the impact of the activities we are doing to achieve our aims as outlined above
- the impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and an inclusive environment.

The Access and Participation Plan working group (AWAC) will monitor and report on these processes to the Academic Board and UCP Council (the governing body). AWAC will oversee the implementation of our actions to monitor ongoing progress against yearly milestones in our APP. Where appropriate, we will adjust our interventions in the best interests of our students.

We will publish evidence from our evaluations on our website by January 2024.

Contact details for further information

You can contact UCP Student Support (support@ucp.ac.uk)