

Access and Participation Plan Summary

University Centre Peterborough (UCP)

Summary of 2026-27 to 2029-30 access and participation plan

University Centre Peterborough (UCP) is the higher education subsidiary of the Inspire Education Group (IEG) with campuses in both Peterborough and Stamford. Students are at the centre of everything we do. Their voices shape our decision-making, and staff work in genuine partnership with them to drive both student success and institutional excellence. As a smaller provider, we celebrate the diversity of our student community and offer a highly personalised learning experience. Our supportive environment and smaller class sizes ensure that students are known, valued and prioritised.

Our access and participation plan sets out how we will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups at UCP. It encompasses marketing, admissions, on-course experience and progression to further study or employment. It focuses on UK undergraduate students and uses detailed data analysis to identify potential risks to achieving equal outcomes. It outlines the interventions we will implement to address these risks and explains how we will evaluate and learn from our actions.

You can read the full Access and Participation Plan for UCP [here](#).

What UCP is aiming to achieve

UCP is a higher education provider operating in a "cold spot" for participation in higher education. Our mission is to address educational inequality and raise aspirations in our region. We have achieved considerable progress in recent years; however, we acknowledge that further work remains to be done. To achieve this, UCP has identified key groups who encounter barriers at different stages of their learner journey, and we have set objectives and measurable targets to address these barriers.

These are:

- **Accessing Higher Education**
UCP aims to increase applications and enrolment from students eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and among Black and Asian students. To achieve this, UCP has set ambitious targets for 2030, aiming to increase the enrolment of FSM-eligible students to 18%, raise the proportion of Asian entrants to 12%, and increase Black entrants to 5%.
- **Continuing your studies**
UCP aims to improve continuation rates for male students—particularly those from more deprived areas—and for students from Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage backgrounds, who face a heightened risk of non-continuation nationally and locally. By 2030, UCP aims to increase continuation rates for male students from deprived areas to 87%, for Asian students to 89%, for Black students to 85%, and for Mixed Heritage students to 85%.
- **Completing your studies**
UCP aims to increase the completion rates of male students and students from Black and Asian backgrounds. To support this objective, UCP has set 2030 targets to increase male completion to 85%, Asian student completion to 85%, and Black student completion to 80%.
- **Attaining high grades**
UCP aims to address persistent attainment gaps experienced by male and female students. By 2030, UCP seeks to raise the proportion of male students achieving a 2:1 or above to 80%.

- Progressing into highly skilled employment or further study
UCP aims to strengthen progression outcomes for young students (aged under 21 on entry), who currently progress at lower rates than their mature peers. The target for 2030 is to increase the proportion of young students entering highly skilled employment or further study to 72%.

See pages 2 to 6 of the plan for more information.

What UCP is doing to achieve its aims

UCP worked closely with students and staff to identify research-informed actions we believe will improve experiences and outcomes for our specific student groups. Delivering the aims in this plan is a shared responsibility across the whole institution, with planning, monitoring, and evaluation forming a key part of governance, priorities, and senior management focus. Aligned with the UCP 2025–2030 Strategy, this plan sets out how we will embed these priorities into our long-term vision for inclusive, high-quality education. Based on these consultations and research, our plan details activities and inputs that we identified including:

- Aspiration raising Interventions.
- Marketing & IAG Activity
- Financial Support
- Contextual Admissions
- Programme Development with stakeholders (students and employers)
- Subject tasters/events and knowledge & skills development
- Academic Support
- Personal Support

See pages [49-139] of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

At UCP, the maximum fees currently charged are:

- £9000 per year for full-time students
- £6750 per year for part-time students

We now expect our tuition fees to increase annually in line with inflation, which will allow us to continue to deliver high-quality education and an excellent student experience. Our course webpages will remain up-to-date with the correct tuition fees.

You can find the most up to date details for all our fees on the UCP website [here](#).

Financial help available

UCP offer specific financial support and advice to help eligible students succeed in their studies. This includes

- Low Income Bursary: A bursary of £500 for full-time undergraduate students (pro-rata for part-time students) with a household income under £30,000.
- Care Leaver Bursary: A £500 bursary for students under 25 who are current or former care leavers.
- Student Ambassador Bursary: A competitive bursary of up to £1,000 per year for Level 5 or 6 students who act as ambassadors for UCP.
- Subsidised Travel: Reduced travel costs (up to 50%) for students with a household income below £30,000.

See pages 28-29 of the access and participation plan for more information.

** Unless otherwise stated, the support outlined applies to full-time UK undergraduate students only*

Information for students

UCP is committed to providing timely and accessible information on tuition fees and financial support to both current and prospective students. Details on fees, loans and bursaries are available on our [website](#) and in our prospectus. We share accurate updates with UCAS and Student Finance England, run tailored advice sessions, and promote financial support at Open Days and Applicant Days.

See pages 33-34 of the Access and Participation Plan for more information.

How students can get involved

Students contribute in the following ways:

- The Student Council will play a key role in monitoring progress against the plan.
- The Student Officer is part of the plans monitoring group
- Student Ambassadors will be actively involved in delivering the plan, including information, advice, and guidance (IAG) and broader engagement initiatives.
- The Student Council, alongside Student Officers and Ambassadors, will participate in the evaluation of the plan and its outcomes.
- Student representatives and the wider student body will provide ongoing feedback through surveys, focus groups, and active participation in initiatives aimed at improving continuation, attainment, and progression outcomes.

Through these formal governance structures and engagement activities, students will contribute directly to the strategic oversight, continuous improvement, and accountability of our Access and Participation initiatives.

See pages 30-32 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Everything we do in our Access and Participation Plan is guided by evidence of what truly makes a difference for students. We use data and feedback to understand what's working and where we can do better. This means looking at our overall approach as well as the impact of individual activities and how we're performing against our targets.

We don't just measure; we act. By listening to students and partners and tracking outcomes for key groups, we make sure our efforts are effective and adapt quickly when needed. Our evaluation combines data with student and staff voice, and we share what we learn openly—both within UCP and across the sector—so that we can keep improving opportunities and outcomes for everyone.

See pages 32-33 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact enquiries@ucp.ac.uk for more information.