

Bath Spa University

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

What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans set out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

For further details you can read the full [Bath Spa University access and participation plan 2020-21 to 2024-25](#).

Key points

The aim of the university's outreach strategy is to reduce gaps in equality of opportunity for groups which are underrepresented in higher education across the sector and in our own institution.

When working at an individual school or college level the percentage of students from areas with low participation in higher education remains one of our main priorities.

In support of this aim, we will continue to develop our highly-targeted outreach programme that is based on a learner progression framework. This develops knowledge about the benefits of higher education and its role in supporting career ambitions: it supports aspiration and educational attainment from primary school onwards.

Fees we charge

At Bath Spa University tuition fees vary according to the type of degree programme you study, your mode of study and where you study. Fees specific to each course are listed on the individual [course pages](#).

The typical fees are:

- Full-time fee: £9,250
- Part-time fee: £4,625

You can find further information, as well as details regarding fees for foundation study, PGCE courses, postgraduate study and international fees via our website pages on [Tuition Fees](#).

Financial help available

We offer a range of scholarships, bursaries and awards to help students fund their time at university and to ensure that students from disadvantaged backgrounds are given the support they need.

These include (but are not limited to):

- **Bath Spa University Bursary** - awarded automatically to students coming from lower income families in areas with low participation in higher education. Care leavers, Foyer leavers, young adult carers and estranged students may also be eligible for support through these bursaries - see our dedicated [webpages](#) here.
- **Bath Spa University Access Fund** - provides discretionary financial support for students who are experiencing financial difficulty and are unable to meet basic or unexpected additional costs
- **Sanctuary Scholarship** - awarded annually to students from refugee and asylum-seeking communities

To help students understand university fees and finance we have produced a resource to explain how it all works: [Your guide to student finance](#).

You can find further information on the full range of financial help available from Bath Spa University via our website pages on [Scholarships and Bursaries](#).

Information for students

For prospective students we regularly send out information via sources such as the Good University Guide, Times Higher, The Guardian and Complete University Guide in addition to publishing our own university website and prospectus. We also share information with schools and colleges through our outreach workshops and regular attendance at UCAS events.

Those interested in applying can speak face to face with staff from our Finance and Student Wellbeing teams at our campus-based Open Days and Applicant Visit Days. Students are able to discuss funding, bursaries and other support available and can find further information on finance and funding through the [Undergraduate applicant page](#).

Students studying with us are signposted via email, the university's student portal and their tutors to access regular updates to the [Finance Guide](#) on the Student Hub, and we produce our own [Money Matters](#) guide in addition to having our [Finance pages](#) which provide links to the [bursaries](#) and [Access Fund](#).

What we are aiming to achieve

We have a set of strategic aims that relate to the gaps identified in our current performance:¹

- **Students from low participation neighbourhoods -**
 - We will reduce the access gap between the most and least represented groups to 6.5 percentage points by 2024-25
 - We will eliminate the continuation gap at the university by 2024-25
 - We will eliminate the gap in progression to highly skilled employment or further study by 2024-25
- **BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) students -** we will reduce the gap in degree outcomes between white students and BAME students to 5.0 percentage points by 2024-25
- **Disabled Students -** we will eliminate the gap in degree outcomes between non-disabled students and disabled students by 2024-25
- **Mature Students -** we will eliminate the attainment gap between young and mature students by 2024-25

What we are doing to achieve our aims

To develop a common approach to access and participation across the university we have brought together departments working in these areas to form a unified Student Recruitment and Outreach Team

This team will spearhead a university wide effort to achieve our goals:²

- **Students from low participation neighbourhoods -**
 - We will continue to build on our highly-targeted *Be Inspired!* outreach programme and develop attainment raising workshops in partnership with our academic teams
 - We will work closely with highly engaged schools who have benefited from our school workshops and campus visits in recent years to ensure long term development opportunities for their pupils
 - We will continue to develop sector leading interventions such as the *Themes* and *Primary Readers* programmes boosting reading ability for Year 6 students, the *outreach* package offering subject specific workshops to inspire the next generation of university students and the *Graduate Placement Scheme* offering fully funded work experience within a university department
 - We will collaborate with our wide range of local, regional and national partners to ensure our presence and support for specific groups such as students from military families, care leavers, young carers, estranged students, refugees and GTRSB (Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showman and Boater) communities

¹ See page 15 of the [full plan](#) for more details

² See pages 16-23 of the [full plan](#) for more details

- **BAME students -**
 - We will develop our *Bath Spa Empowers* leadership and development programme that aims to develop confidence and leadership capabilities through a programme of workshops and masterclasses.
 - We will reduce the gap in progression to highly skilled careers between BME and white students.
 - We will embed a whole university approach to inclusivity through our *Curriculum Enhancement Programme*.
- **Disabled Students -** are supported with a raft of measures via our Accessibility Advisors who act as a personal point of contact throughout their studies. Measures include a number of actions which specifically support attainment and aim to target the gap in degree outcomes:
 - The *Get Started* scheme which encourages early intervention from the Student Wellbeing team and allows for the timely introduction of subsequent steps
 - Screening and assessment for specific learning support
 - Guidance on how to access helpful resources, services, facilities, software and support
 - The production of an Academic Access Plan which is shared with academic staff to make specific arrangements for a student's learning and assessment
- **Mature Students -**
 - The *Mature Student Welcome* programme focuses on providing mature students with the academic skills to successfully navigate their re-entry to education. Run with the university's Writing and Learning Centre it also enables students to learn about key support services, network with other students, develop confidence and hear about tips and tricks to get them successfully through a university degree
 - The *Re-Ignite* programme for students who have taken a break from university supports those returning to their studies

How students can get involved

Sabbatical Officers from our Students' Union sit on numerous planning and advisory committees throughout the university to ensure that students' voices are represented at the very highest level.

We are working with our Students' Union and students from a range of BAME groups to review sector evidence to gain a deeper understanding of the issues around race, ethnicity and attainment and how together we can build an inclusive environment to support BAME students and work towards eliminating attainment gaps.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Evaluation is built into each outreach programme from conception. Programmes are underpinned by an understanding of what works in what context, and evidence is used to support the development of the processes involved in delivering outreach activities.

We work closely with our partner schools and colleges to develop their understanding of the importance of evaluation, how they can contribute to the process and how their engagement will benefit their own institution.

Further to our own extensive evaluation of workshops and events we subscribe to the HEAT (Higher Education Access Tracker) service which provides the opportunity for a more comprehensive long-term evaluation of our institutional and wider collaborative outreach activity.

Contact details for further information

For more information about the university's plan or our access work you can contact the Access and Participation team via their email: ap@bathspa.ac.uk

For specific information you may be able to [contact one of our university departments directly](#).