

Norwich University of the Arts

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.

You can see the full access and participation plan for Norwich University of the Arts at <https://www.nua.ac.uk/about-nua/access-and-participation-plan/>.

Key points

Norwich University of the Arts is a specialist arts university based in the East of England with approximately 2,500 undergraduate students and 100 postgraduate students. We are committed to excellence in teaching and learning and enabling students from all backgrounds to access our courses and achieve consistently outstanding outcomes to reach their full potential. Our access and participation plan outlines the key areas that we have identified as showing gaps for different groups of students in four areas of operation: *access* to our courses as applicants, *continuation* on our courses once enrolled as a student, *attainment* of a final award and *progression* onto employment.

We have focussed on five key groups of prospective students and students where we have evidence that gaps exist when considering access, continuation, attainment, or progression (pages 1 – 15 of the full plan):

- Prospective students and students from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic backgrounds
- Prospective students and students from deprived areas, when measured through indices of multiple deprivation (IMD), which measures deprivation for areas normally defined by postcodes. IMD quintile one indicates an area with a high level of deprivation while IMD quintile 5 represents areas of low deprivation.
- Students from low participation neighbourhoods when measured through what is called a POLAR quintile. This is a measure of the proportion of young people from a postcode area that enter higher education. POLAR quintile one indicates an area of low participation while POLAR quintile 5 has a much higher proportion of young people entering higher education.
- Mature students and prospective students, that is students who are already 21 or over when they apply for or start a higher education course.
- Students with one or more disabilities, particularly those with mental health disabilities

We have also identified the need to provide additional support for care leavers and students who are estranged from their families.

Fees we charge

The maximum fees charged are £9,250 for full-time students.

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at open days and through our website. Applicants and offer holders also receive information on fees and financial support through our Applicant and Pre-enrolment portals. Current students receive information on our fees via the University's intranet.

A full list of fees is available at (<https://www.nua.ac.uk/study-at-nua/fees-funding/>).

Financial help available

To maximise support for students from under-represented backgrounds the University will provide additional financial support. This is seen as an effective measure to enable them to remain on their course.

The University will offer a bursary of £1,000 per annum to new entrants who are care leavers and those who are estranged from their family.

For new entrants whose household income is assessed as £25,000 or less, the University will offer a contribution towards the costs of studying at NUA.

Three-year degree: £500 for new entrants to Year 1, £300 in Year 2 and £200 in Year 3.

Four-year degree (incl Year 0): £500 in Year 0, £200 in Year 1, £300 in Year 2 and £200 in Year 3.

See page 24 of our plan.

Information for students

The Access and Participation Plan is published to prospective applicants through the *How to Apply Page* (<https://www.nua.ac.uk/study-at-nua/undergraduate-apply/>) and *Fees and Funding* page (<https://www.nua.ac.uk/study-at-nua/fees-funding/>). The Plan is also publicised through our Open Days and through UCAS.

Information for current students is published on the University intranet. Previous Access and Participation Plans and Access Agreements for the last five years are published through the University's information scheme <https://www.nua.ac.uk/about-nua/info-publication-scheme/governance/>

What we are aiming to achieve

We have focused on five key aims of our plan (pages 15 – 19 of our Plan):

- To reduce the gaps in **access** to higher education for the groups identified in this plan
- To reduce the gaps in **continuation** and **attainment** for the groups identified in this plan
- To reduce the gaps in **progression** to employment or further study for the groups identified in this plan
- To improve the data and analysis of access, continuation, attainment, and progression of students who are **care leavers** or those who are **estranged** from their families
- To improve our monitoring and evaluation capabilities to ensure that we can effectively assess our performance against the objectives and targets set out in this Plan and identify new gaps in the future

Specific targets related to our plan are outlined in pages 19 to 24 of our plan.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

We will design and deliver a range of interventions that will aim to reduce the gaps identified by 2024-25.

We will support prospective students and applicants through the following measures:

- Supporting prospective students to access our courses through practical advice and engagement sessions delivered through our website, at Open Days, through school and college visits, and via Applicant Days and taster sessions.

- Raising aspirations and ambitions through targeted outreach and collaborative outreach through our UniConnect outreach partnership.

We will support our current students through:

- Implementing continuous enhancements to our curriculum, our teaching, and our assessment practices to ensure that we actively support diverse groups of students with the transition to higher education and as they progress through the course
- Strengthening the ‘creative community’ to ensure an inclusive and welcoming environment for students from underrepresented groups, paying particular attention to the needs of mature students and students from Black, Asian, or Minority Ethnic origins
- Improving the digital literacy of students which will particularly benefit students from mature and non-traditional backgrounds
- Continuously improve our support for students with mental health disabilities through our curriculum and our specialist student support services

We will support our graduates through our employability curriculum, providing more opportunities for all students to understand their employment/further study options and to prepare them for progression to their chosen career path.

How students can get involved

Student involvement with the plan is through collaboration with the Students’ Union, elected Students’ Union Liberation Officers, and elected Student Representatives for each course. Senior Managers meet with the Student Reps group on a termly basis to discuss wider issues related to their experience, learning and teaching and access and participation. Students can also inform activity and feed back on their experience through anonymous student surveys.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We will evaluate our progress annually against the targets set out in the plan through measuring student outcomes to determine whether the gaps identified are reducing. We will supplement quantitative data with qualitative feedback from different groups of students. We will continue to develop our data collection and evaluation capability through engagement with sector research and improvements in our understanding of our own data (pages 25 to 27 of the full plan) and engage with external evaluation processes to measure our progress.

Contact details for further information

Any questions about the information contained in this Plan can be sent to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience) & Academic Registrar by email to aro@nua.ac.uk, or by post to Norwich University of the Arts, Francis House, 3-7 Redwell Street, Norwich, NR2 4SN.