

## Health Sciences University – Access & Participation Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29 – Summary

### What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan (APP) outlines how a university will ensure that any student, no matter their background or prior lived experience, has the opportunity to access higher education, succeed during their studies and progress into employment after their degree. Universities will review and rewrite their access and participation plan every four years to ensure that it is up to date and reflective of the current issues or barriers that students may be facing.

To read our access and participation plan, please follow the link below:

[https://www.hsu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Health-Sciences-University\\_2025-26\\_V1\\_10000163.pdf](https://www.hsu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Health-Sciences-University_2025-26_V1_10000163.pdf)

### Key Points

At HSU the key focus of our APP is increasing the diversity of students who are looking to access our university from underrepresented student groups, providing support during study to facilitate students fulfilling their fullest potential and ensuring that students are receiving good degree outcomes and are progressing into rewarding careers.

Our data shows that:

Students are less likely to **access** HSU from the below underrepresented student groups:

- Students from Global Majority backgrounds (Black and Asian)
- Students in receipt of free school meals (FSM)
- Students from neighbourhoods with lower access to higher education

Students are less likely to **continue** their studies at HSU from the below underrepresented student groups:

- Mature learners (student over the age of 21 at the start of the degree)
- Students from backgrounds with lower access to higher education

Students are less likely to **attain** a first or upper-second class degree from the below underrepresented student group:

- Students with a declared disability

### Fees we charge

The maximum tuition fee in 2025/26 for a UK undergraduate student is £9,535. Fees for

full-time Home undergraduates are set at the maximum level permitted by the government. Any annual increases are subject to government fee caps and are communicated to applicants and students in a timely manner.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.hsu.ac.uk/student-life/student-finances/tuition-fees-2025-26/>

### **Information for students**

Prospective students can receive information on fees and financial support via our website and through our in-person events at our Bournemouth and London campus locations including open days, next step days or through school visits.

Current students can receive information on fees and financial support by using their dedicated student portal, by communicating with our Student Services team or via internal communications.

### **What we are aiming to achieve**

Our APP identifies six risks to equality of opportunity for students from underrepresented backgrounds and sets out six objectives to combat these risks.

- Increase the percentage of students from areas with the lowest higher education participation
- Increase the number of non-white students enrolling on our courses
- Increase the percentage of students who have received free school meals
- Reduce the continuation gap between mature and young learners
- Reduce the continuation gap between students from backgrounds with lower access to university than their peers
- Reduce the attainment gap between those students with a disability and those without.

To read about these in full, please visit our full Plan via:

[https://www.hsu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Health-Sciences-University\\_2025-26\\_V1\\_10000163.pdf](https://www.hsu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Health-Sciences-University_2025-26_V1_10000163.pdf)

### **What we are doing to address key risks to equality of opportunity?**

For each objective stated in our Plan, we have created an intervention strategy which outlines how will meet this objective and how we will reduce the risk to equality of opportunity for each underrepresented group.

#### **This includes:**

- Strengthening our current outreach offer to increase the number of applications from students from neighbourhoods with historically lower participation with university, students from non-white backgrounds and students who are/have been in receipt of free school meals.
- Increase our support to mature students and students from underrepresented

backgrounds on course to improve their continuation rates, to bring these in line with their peers, alongside strengthening a sense of belonging for mature learners.

- Increase the attainment rate for students with a declared disability to ensure they are succeeding at the same rate as their peers through targeted support, ongoing training and guidance sessions for staff and an increase awareness of student experience for those declaring a disability at HSU.

To read about our intervention strategies in full, please visit our full Plan via:

[https://www.hsu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Health-Sciences-University\\_2025-26\\_V1\\_10000163.pdf](https://www.hsu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Health-Sciences-University_2025-26_V1_10000163.pdf)

### **Financial Help available**

The key aims of HSU's financial support are to:

- Provide students with additional funds so they can engage with all aspects of university life to its fullest extent
- Provide opportunities on both campus locations for students to get paid work and experience
- And where necessary, HSU can provide targeted financial support to students who may unexpectedly require it

For more information on financial support please see below:

<https://www.hsu.ac.uk/student-life/student-finances/scholarships-and-bursaries/>

### **How students can get involved**

Incorporating and responding to the student voice is a key aspect of our APP. There are several ways students can get involved and ensure that they are contributing to the successful delivery of our Plan

- Engaging with internal opportunities such as student focus groups and our Reverse Mentoring scheme
- Attending our quarterly Access and Participation Steering Group
- Becoming a member of the access and participation team by either becoming a Specialist Student Ambassador or a Senior Specialist Student Ambassador.

For more information on how students can get involved, please visit our full Plan via:

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### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

At HSU we understand the importance of continually monitoring and evaluating the successful delivery of our Plan. We will do this by:

- Ensuring that all the activity committed to in our Plan is successfully delivered and evaluated
- Ensuring that evaluation results are regularly communicated to members of the Access and Participation Steering Group
- Publishing and sharing our evaluation both internally and externally

For full information on how we will monitor and evaluate the success of our Plan, please view the Plan in full via:

[https://www.hsu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Health-Sciences-University\\_2025-26\\_V1\\_10000163.pdf](https://www.hsu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Health-Sciences-University_2025-26_V1_10000163.pdf)

**Contact details for further information**

You can contact the Access and Participation Team directly via [wideningaccess@aecc.ac.uk](mailto:wideningaccess@aecc.ac.uk)