

University Centre Farnborough: 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. This supports underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.



You can see the full access and participation plan for the University Centre Farnborough at <https://www.farn-ct.ac.uk/Access-and-Participation-Plan>

Key points

See pages 4 to 18 of the full plan

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes for specific groups of students. Data shows that, compared to their peers at the University Centre Farnborough, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students.

- Students are less likely to complete their studies if they come from a neighbourhood where not many people go on to higher education.
- The following groups of students are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above:
 - Students from low-income backgrounds
 - White students underrepresented in higher education
 - Ethnic minority students
- The same groups of students are less likely to progress to highly skilled employment or further study.

Overall employability rates for our students have improved. However, we still have further to go.

Fees we charge

See page 1 of the full plan

At the University Centre Farnborough, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,000 for full-time students on Accelerated Degrees
- £8,000 for those on full time 3 year degrees
- £5,000 for full-time students on HNC's or HND's
- For part time courses we charge pro rata, so for someone doing an HND or HNC over 2 years you would pay £2500 per year.



You can see a full list of fees for courses at the University Centre Farnborough as well as financial support available at <https://www.farnborough.ac.uk/university-centre-farnborough/fees-finance-and-support/>

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:

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- An **annual bursary** of £500 for the 1st year of the course if the student's household income is below £25,000 or if you are from a BAME background or if you are a Care Leaver or come from a Low Participation Neighbourhood or area of deprivation.
- A **hardship fund** to support students who experience financial hardship during their time at university

Information for students

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- **Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, and by email communications.
- We regularly update our information for **care leavers** on the [Propel](#) website.
- **Current students** receive information about fees and the financial support available through our induction, internal communications campaigns and emails.



For the most up-to-date information, see our [university website](#).

What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 23 to 26 of the full plan

Our overall aim is to support students to access higher education. We also want to create an environment where students at the University Centre Farnborough 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 on our FE Courses and access to higher education**
– We are working with FE Students to raise pupil attainment and expectations to study for a higher education qualification. During 2022-23, we will identify other local schools from where fewer pupils access higher education. We will develop a programme of work to start in 2023-24.
- **Diversifying our provision** – We have recently validated [degree apprenticeships](#) and higher level apprenticeships and are keen to continue to develop these during 2022-23. We are also continuing our transition to

accelerated degrees (Full Degree in 2 Years), all our degrees will be accelerated from September 2023.

- **Students from low participation neighbourhoods and low income backgrounds** – By 2024-25, we will improve:
 - increase the proportion of students from the most deprived areas from 2% to 7%
 - increase the proportion students from low participation neighbourhoods from 11% to 16%
 - increase the continuation rate (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course) for those from low participation areas by 5% to equal the overall student population.
 - reduce the continuation gap for the most deprived students
- **Mature students** – By 2024-25, we will improve the continuation rate for mature students (aged over 21 years) increasing the proportion of Mature students continuing from 60% to 70%
- **Ethnic minority students** – By 2024-25, we will increase the proportion of Black and Ethnic Minority students from 13% to 18%
- **Disabled students** – By 2024-25, we will eliminate the success gap for those with a Disability

See pages 23 to 26 of the full plan

We have identified seven programmes of activity to support achievement of our aims and targets.

1. Extend our programme of work with our own **FE Students and Local Schools** – this supports more pupils from underrepresented groups to attain good grades and progress to study for a higher education qualification.
2. Take a targeted approach to **learning and teaching** – this focuses on our five target groups and is informed by student representatives on our Quality and Standards Committee.
3. Establish and embed **flexible modes of learning** to give students a choice in how they learn with Accelerated Degrees, Degree Apprenticeships, Online Attendance and Blended Attendance.
4. Enhance **study support** so all students can access tailored support as required.
5. **Engage external industry partners** to collaborate on improving our students' success in their chosen course of study, and progression to employment or further study.
6. **Engage students** in their own development of personal, social and professional skills with Guest Lectures, Inspirational Speakers, Skills Workshops and guidance on work experience and volunteering
7. Offer **financial support**, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England.

How students can get involved

See page 26 of the full plan

We worked with our student peer mentors to gather student input into the design of our access and participation plan. Students are represented on our Quality and Standards Committee which is responsible for overseeing implementation of the plan.



To provide feedback, students can contact a peer mentor. To become involved in this work, [contact our Access and Participation Lead](#).

Evaluation: how we will measure what we achieved

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Our programmes of activity are informed by the best available evidence about what works for students. We will collect data and feedback to evaluate:

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

The Quality and Standards Committee (Q&S) will monitor and report on these processes to the Senior Management Team (SMT). The Action Plan will also be monitored by the Equality and Diversity Committee. Q&S will oversee implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against yearly milestones in our access and participation plan. We will monitor impact on our target groups, to ensure we are addressing our aims. 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 for further information



You can contact Larry Magee at l.magee@farn-ct.ac.uk for further information.

