

Edge Hill 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 groups who are underrepresented to access, succeed in and progress from higher education. You can see the full access and participation plan for Edge Hill University at <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/document/access-participation-plan/>

Key points

Edge Hill University has been a champion of widening participation since its establishment in 1885 as the country's first women's non-denominational teacher training college. We have always attracted and supported a diverse student body with approximately 70% of our students having one or more under-represented characteristic.

Having reviewed our data, we have identified the following priorities as the focus of our access and participation plan:

- Increasing access to higher education for Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic students
- Improving the likelihood of students from neighbourhoods where not many people go on to Higher Education, completing their studies
- Improving degree outcomes for our Black Students and Female students from low-income backgrounds
- Improving employability rates (the percentage of students going into graduate level employment) for students from neighbourhoods where not many people go on to Higher Education

See pages 1 to 5 of the full plan

Fees we charge

At Edge Hill University, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,250 for full-time students
- £6,165 for full-time foundation year students
- £77 per credit (equivalent to £1,540 per 20 credit module) for part-time students

You can find out more about tuition fees and funding at <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding/>

Financial help available

Our Financial Support includes:

- Our **Student Support Fund (Hardship Fund)** of up to £3000 to support students to stay on course where their financial circumstances demonstrate they otherwise cannot afford to continue
- Our **Student Opportunity Fund** of up to £2000 to participate in activity which will enhance a students' CV and increase their confidence and skills to continue into graduate level employment

- Our **Care Leaver Bursary**, an annual bursary of £1000 (new and continuing full time students) or £500 (new and continuing part time students) for eligible Care Leavers, Foyer or other Supported Housing Organisation young people

See pages 16 and 17 of the full plan for more information on Financial Support

See pages 24 and 25 of the full plan for more information on our Care Leaver Bursary

Information for students

We provide **prospective students** with information and advice about the costs of Higher Education and the **financial support available**, through:

- A range of in-person talks on Open and Offer Holder Days
- Via email in our 'Tuition Fee and Finance' and 'Getting Started' booklets

We provide **students** with a range of information and support including through:

- Our trained student 'Money Buddies'
- Our specialist Money Advisors
- **A range of written** communications via email, our website, factsheets and talks

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

See pages 23 to 25 of the full plan

What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall aim is to contribute to a fair and transparent sector where all those with potential have equal access to Higher Education and receive the right support to succeed and fulfil their potential.

Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

- **Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic Students:** By 2024/25, we will:
 - Increase our Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic student population from 7.1% to 10.1%
 - Reduce the attainment (degree outcomes) gap between Black students and White students by 50%
 - Reduce the attainment (degree outcomes) gap between Asian students and White students by 50%
- **Students from low participation neighbourhoods and low-income backgrounds:** By 2024/25, we will:
 - Reduce the gap in continuation rates (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course) between students from these backgrounds and others by 66%
 - Reduce the gap in attainment (degree outcomes) between students from these backgrounds and others by 50%
 - Reduce the gap in progression (into graduate-level employment) between students from these backgrounds and others by 50%
- **Disabled Students:** By 2024/25, we will:
 - Reduce the gap in progression (into graduate-level employment) between disabled and non-disabled students by 50%
 - Maintain the already positive number of Disabled Students studying with us
- **Care Leaver, Care Experienced and Estranged Students:** By 2024/25, we will:
 - Maintain the already positive number of Care Leaver, Care Experienced and Estranged Students studying with us

See pages 10 and 11 of the full plan

What we are doing to achieve our aims

Our Strategic Measures include:

- Continuing to take a **collaborative approach** to outreach activity, working with partner institutions, partner schools and our three Uni Connect partners (Hello Futures, Shaping Futures and FutureU) to widen access to Higher Education.
- Providing high quality **student guidance and support**, including pre-arrival events, for students from underrepresented backgrounds to enable them to manage their transition to University
- Improving the knowledge and skills of our **academic staff** in directly supporting students with wellbeing and mental health conditions and disabilities
- Further increasing our **student consultation mechanisms** beyond the Students' Union to gain greater input into our planning, monitoring and evaluation and ensuring we put students at the heart of what we do
- Committing **financial support** to developing opportunities for students to succeed, ensuring support for those who are struggling but also assisting students to grow their aspirations to progress into graduate level jobs
- Ensuring all students from all backgrounds have equality of opportunity in developing their **employability skills** and have the confidence, resilience and aspirations to move onto the next stage after graduation
- Ensuring we have a **whole University approach**, through our University-wide steering group, providing updates to University committees and the Board of Governors, and embedding targets in our Annual Monitoring Process

See pages 12 to 17 of the full plan

How students can get involved

We worked with both student officers and the Students' Union to draft and develop our plan. Our **Action and Participation Plan Steering Group** also works closely with the Students' Union

Students can also get involved through our **Student Advisory Panels**. Our panel members offer their opinions and ideas to help the University better support students before they apply to university and once they are on course

See pages 17 and 18 of the full plan

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We use research to support the design of our activity and include evaluation at all stages of activity so we can measure impact. We will review existing evaluations and make changes to current practices, so our approach is consistent, and any evidence gaps are filled. We will develop a strategic cross-University approach to evaluate all of our Widening Access and Participation work involving students, academics, and practitioners as members. Within this, we will expand the ways in which we engage our students to gain greater input into our planning, monitoring and evaluation and ensuring we put students at the heart of what we do.

See pages 18 to 23 of the full plan

Contact details for further information

You can contact the Widening Access and Participation Team on wideningaccessandparticipation@edgehill.ac.uk for more information.