



What is an Access and Participation Plan?

Access and Participation Plans set out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for students traditionally less likely to enter Higher Education and recognise that it is within their reach. You can see the full Access and Participation Plan for UEA [in the widening participation section of our website](#).

Key points

We have identified that not all groups of students have the same outcomes as their peers:

- ✦ Students eligible for free school meals in our region are less likely to progress to higher education in comparison to the rest of the sector
- ✦ Care experienced and estranged students are less likely to apply to UEA in comparison to the region
- ✦ Mature students and those students who studied a BTEC only are less likely to receive an offer to study at UEA than their counterparts
- ✦ Students who were eligible for free school meals, are mature, have a mental health condition, or studied a BTEC only are less likely to continue or complete their degree than their counterparts
- ✦ Students who were eligible for free school meals, are from ethnic-minority backgrounds, or studied a BTEC only are less likely to be awarded a good honours (2.1 or 1st degree classification) degree award than their counterparts
- ✦ Students with a mental health condition are less likely than their counterparts to progress into a graduate outcome (a graduate level job or post-graduate study)

→ Please see Section 2, p.2-4 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#) for further detail.

What we are trying to achieve

UEA is committed to a university-wide approach to addressing the ten risks to equality of opportunity we have identified. A risk to equality of opportunity occurs when the actions or inactions of an individual, organisation or system may reduce another individual's choices about the nature and direction of their life. Our plan has been designed to support students who are less likely to progress to higher education and ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed in reaching their goals.

We have set the following objectives which we will achieve with our plan:

- ✦ **Objective 1:** Through attainment raising and outreach activity, UEA will increase the proportion of students eligible for free school meals in our region accessing higher education with the ultimate goal of achieving the sector average.
- ✦ **Objective 2:** Through enhanced engagement with, and advocacy for, care experienced and estranged students (along with supporting services such as Norfolk County Council, virtual schools and third sector organisations), UEA will ensure that care experienced and estranged students have equal opportunity to apply to UEA.
- ✦ **Objective 3:** Through inclusive admissions, marketing and application support, UEA will work to remove barriers to successful outcomes for applications from underrepresented student groups, including mature students and students with vocational qualifications.
- ✦ **Objective 4:** Through increased consistency of inclusive practice and tailored removal of barriers to engagement, opportunities and support, UEA will ensure equality of continuation and completion for all students including students declaring a disability, eligible for free school meals, those with vocational qualifications, black students and mature students.
- ✦ **Objective 5:** Through increased consistency of inclusive practice and tailored removal of barriers to engagement, opportunities and support, UEA will ensure equality of good honours (2.1 or 1st degree classification) degree award for all students including students eligible for free school meals, black students or students of mixed ethnicity, and students with vocational qualifications.
- ✦ **Objective 6:** Through increased consistency of inclusive practice and tailored removal of barriers to engagement, opportunities and support, UEA will ensure equality of progression to graduate level employment or further study for all students including students eligible for free school meals and students declaring a mental health condition, neurodiversity or with multiple impairments.

→ Please see Section 3, p.4 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#) for further detail.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

UEA invests in meeting its aims and objectives through dedicated staff providing top level leadership to develop, implement and evaluate our plan. The Management Team report to the University Committees. We report on the plan's evaluation, progress to targets and actions. The Committees ensure actions are implemented and we meet our yearly milestones. Our Plan is aligned with wider University strategies such as UEA's 2030 Vision and is embedded in delivery across the University. Our Committees are there to ensure the University is well governed and compliant.

We take a whole provider approach where the delivery of our plan is embedded across a range of services, policies and procedures. This approach spans all aspects of the student lifecycle from pre-application through to post graduation, encompassing academic, personal, social, and professional development.

To meet our six objectives listed above, we have six intervention strategies – these are a series of activities, services and policies which will address our identified risks to equality of opportunity:

Access to higher education

Activities include: Maths Excellence Fund partnership (East Maths Community), attainment raising interventions, IntoUniversity partnership, collaboration with the local community and sense of belonging opportunities. These are underpinned by our student ambassador scheme, an individual travel fund, our public event series, and our inclusive approach to clearing during the application cycle.

→ Please see Section 5.1, page 8-11 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#) for further detail.

Access to UEA

Activities include: tailored “IncludingMe” programme for students with disrupted education journeys, external partnerships and advocacy, tailored application support and financial support. These are underpinned by access to named experts for key groups and continuous training and knowledge exchange between staff.

→ Please see Section 5.2, page 11-14 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#) for further detail.

Offer making

Activities include: application support programmes, embedded targets and collaboration with admissions, recruitment and marketing teams, partnerships with local sixth forms and colleges, and support with transition to higher education and developing HE skills. These are underpinned by our inclusive admissions policy.

→ Please see Section 5.3, page 14-17 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#) for further detail.

Continuation and completion

Activities include: specific support for new students, financial support, sense of belonging opportunities and peer academic support. These are underpinned by continuous engagement monitoring, student support services, learning enhancement teams and our dedicated one-stop-shop for student support, the Student Information Zone.

→ Please see Section 5.4, page 17-20 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#) for further detail.

Degree awarding

Activities include: Students of Colour Ambassador scheme, learning, teaching and assessment development and tailored learning enhancement. These are underpinned by our existing curriculum review project, blended learning policy, inclusive education policy, and inclusive library services.

→ Please see Section 5.5, page 20-23 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#) for further detail.

Progression

Activities include: wellbeing training, study abroad and placement opportunities, the UEA Award, role model programmes, and an employer progression partnership. These are underpinned by our extensive careers service, curriculum enhancement project and faculty-based employability planning.

→ Please see Section 5.6, page 23-26 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#) for further detail.

Evaluation

How we will measure what we have achieved:

UEA is committed to using evidence and evaluation to inform delivery of the plan. We have a range of specialists who work with staff to allow decisions to be evidence based and ensure that evaluation is built into the design of activities. Our evaluations will be designed to understand why activities do (or do not) work, contributing to insight across the sector. We will be evaluating activities in the plan using a range of methodologies and will share our findings internally and with our peers in other universities.

→ Please see Section 7, p.27-29 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#) for further detail.

Fees we charge

At UEA, the maximum fees charged for 2025/26 entry are:

for Full-Time Home students – £9,250.00

for Part-Time Home students – £6,935.00 (£77.00 per credit)

This may be subject to change in subsequent years and the University may increase its fees in line with fee limits set out in regulation.

→ You can see a full list of fees for courses [in the tuition fees section of our website](#).

Financial help available

Our in-depth research highlights that financial support indirectly helps students stay on their course as it supports them to engage with university life more. As such financial support is a key part of our plan to ensure our students get the most out of their higher education experience and studies.

UEA Bursaries available	Value of bursary per academic year of study
£0 - £20,000 Household income	£1,600
Care leaver / Estranged students	£3,000

We are continually reviewing the impact of our financial support. We will ensure students receive accurate information on any funding changes.

→ Please see Section 8, p.30 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#) for further detail.

Information for students

UEA is committed to providing clear and accessible information to both current and prospective students about the fees we will charge and the financial support we offer. We publish information on both areas on our website. You can see the full information in [the fees and funding section of our website](#). We provide the information in printed materials for prospective students, via email through our enquirer and applicant engagement plan, and through synchronous delivery such as open days and our webinar series. Our Outreach Team deliver a comprehensive package of activities about student finance, fees and funding across our region, and ensure this is embedded in student recruitment activity through our Inclusive Admissions Recruitment and Marketing strategy. Our Student Life Advisers offer confidential, non-judgemental advice to current students on finance, from student finance loans and funding to practical money management and financial confidence.

How students can get involved

Students have been involved in the development of our access and participation plan in a wide variety of ways. Through on-going research, communication and consultation students can get involved in the implementation and evaluation of the plan. For example through our embedded student voice survey which continuously informs our work, getting involved with our Students' Union who we work closely with, or with School and Faculty staff and student forums where we gather insight to inform our work.

→ Please see Section 6, page 26-27 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#) for further detail.

Contact details for further information

You can contact our Head of Widening Participation at team.app@uea.ac.uk

