



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 at www.uea.ac.uk/about/university-information/widening-participation

Key points

- ★ Too few students from areas of the country where progression to higher education is lowest, progress to UEA and are more likely to drop out at the end of their first year.
- ★ Too few adult learners are studying at UEA and are more likely to drop out at the end of their first year.
- ★ Students of Black heritage are more likely to get a lower final degree grade than their White counterparts.
- ★ Students with disabilities are less likely to progress into a graduate outcome than their counterparts (a graduate level job or post-graduate study).

→ Please see Section 1, p.3-11 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#) for further detail.

Fees we charge

At UEA, the maximum fees charged per year are:
 for Full-Time Home students – £9,250.00
 for Part-Time Home students – £6,935.00 (£77.00 per credit)

→ You can see a full list of fees for courses at: [Tuition Fees – About \(uea.ac.uk\)](http://Tuition Fees – About (uea.ac.uk))

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 | Amount |
|---|--------|
| Household income £16,000 or less | £1300 |
| Household income £16,001 – £20,000 and from POLAR4* Q1 postcode | £800 |
| Care leavers and estranged students | £2500 |

*POLAR is a measure which classifies local areas into five groups – or quintiles – based on the proportion of young people who enter higher education.

We are continually reviewing the impact of our financial support. The aim is to move to a funding model which is more active and specifically funds engagement in key university activities. We will ensure students receive accurate information on any funding changes.

→ Please see Section 3.1, p.26 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#) for further detail.

Information for students

Information to support informed decision making – We know the importance of ensuring prospective students, especially those less likely to progress to higher education, have access to information to make decisions on higher education. We provide this key information across a range of digital and print resources with accessibility at the heart of everything that we produce.

Information about the reality of higher education – Our research highlights that more could be done by universities to align student expectations with the reality of higher education. Including better information before you arrive at university around how many hours in lessons you have, student welfare and support services, financial literacy and budgeting. We are committed to publishing clear and accessible information for our students.

Access to student finance and funding information – When publishing information on the fees that we charge and the financial support we offer (including eligibility criteria), it is key that it is accessible, accurate and straightforward for students and their key influencers to understand. We also ensure that any key information is accurate from Student Finance England and Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

What we are aiming to achieve

UEA is committed to a university wide approach to supporting students who are less likely to progress to higher education and ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed in reaching their goals.

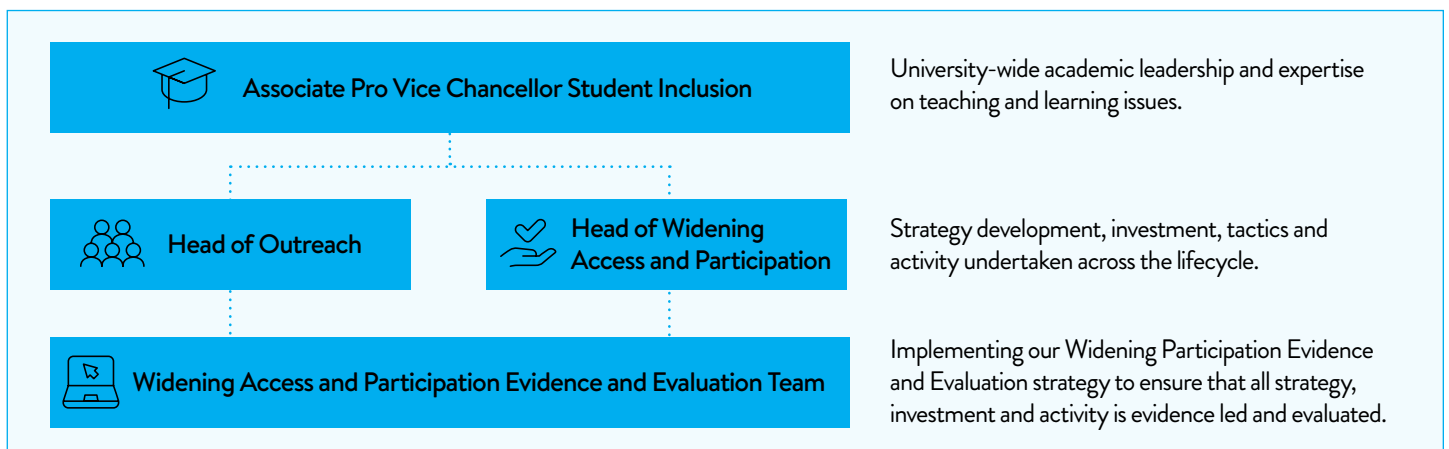
We have set the following strategic aims and objectives:

- ✦ Increasing access to higher education generally, and UEA specifically, for students from areas of lower higher education participation and a whole lifecycle approach to support retention (staying on your course), success (achieving a good degree grade) and progression (getting a graduate level job or post-graduate study) for these students at UEA.
 - ↳ To reduce the ratio between students who come to UEA from the areas least and most likely to progress to higher education to 1:1.5 students by 2024-25.
 - ↳ To reduce the degree awarding gap for students from the areas least and most likely to progress to higher education to zero by 2024-25.
- ✦ Increasing access to UEA for specific ethnically diverse students and a whole lifecycle approach to close the degree awarding gap for Black students at UEA.
 - ↳ To reduce the degree awarding gap between Black and White students to 5.5 percentage point by 2024-25.
 - ↳ To reduce the retention gap at the end of the first year between both Black and White and mixed ethnicity and White students to zero by 2024-25.
- ✦ Increasing access to UEA for mature students and supporting the student experience to level the playing field in terms of retention and success.
 - ↳ To increase the proportion of mature students (students who are over the age of 21 when they start their course) progressing to UEA studying Access to HE courses at local FE Colleges to 36% by 2024-25.
 - ↳ To reduce the retention gap at the end of the first year between young and mature students to 0.2 percentage points by 2024-25.
- ✦ Supporting the whole student lifecycle for students who have declared a disability, particularly in terms of ensuring success and progression.
 - ↳ To reduce the gap in progression into graduate level jobs or further study between students with disabilities and non-disabled students to 0.5 percentage point by 2024-25.
 - ↳ To reduce the gap in progression into graduate level jobs or further study between students with a mental health condition and non-disabled students to 4.6 percentage points by 2024-25.

→ Please see Section 2.2, p.12 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 above 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 UEAs 2030 Vision and is embedded in delivery across the University. Our Committees are there to ensure the University is well governed and compliant. They include:

- ✦ Learning and Teaching – considering all teaching and assessment topics for the University.
- ✦ Student Experience – covering all non-teaching aspects of the university experience such as student support, careers and graduation.
- ✦ Senate – led by the Vice Chancellor, this Committee has final sign off of all UEA policies and activity.

Our Target Schools and Colleges

We work with over 60 schools and colleges across Norfolk and North Suffolk from primary age to colleges and sixth forms and mature students. We provide whole year group multi-touchpoint projects and programmes, subject specific programmes, mentoring and activity to support attainment raising to support pupils to get good grades and make informed choices about higher education.

Outreach Attainment Raising

Our Outreach team offers direct attainment raising programmes for pupils in Year 8-13. We also work with the charity Into University to support attainment of disadvantaged pupils in Norwich and Great Yarmouth. We work with schools and teachers to support their professional development and to develop school structures.

Flexible Course Provision

UEA offers a range of apprenticeships and also works with local FE College partners to assess market needs to develop Level 4 and 5 courses in a range of subjects. This provides a comprehensive flexible offer in the region. We have committed to reviewing the intake and outcomes of our apprentices to inform the development of our next Access and Participation Plan.

Inclusive Education Policy

Inclusivity is a key aspect of UEA policy, we believe that an inclusive practice is at the heart of education. We help those who may experienced barriers to learning to feel supported, to thrive academically and make a life for themselves beyond higher education.

Student Information Zone (SIZ)

UEA's Student Information Zone (SIZ) is a one-stop-shop for all student enquiries. This approach ensures students have a consistent place to get information, advice and support throughout their studies. It encourages them to engage positively with their studies, the social elements of university and their future career plans.

Student Wellbeing

UEA's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy promotes wellbeing for all students through a 'whole university' approach which recognises that wellbeing is necessary to students' capacity to learn and achieve their potential. We commit to promoting a culture in which mental health concerns are understood, recognised and not stigmatised. We have invested in a range of different student support including a dedicated Student Wellbeing Team.

Learning Enhancement

Our Learning Enhancement team work to address issues of academic skills development for specific in-need groups of students through embedded and dedicated support and peer assisted learning.

Careers Support

In addition to the core programmes and initiatives offered by our CareerCentral team, we continue to work with careers experts at UEA to focus on addressing gaps in the take up of impactful employability opportunities for students from under-represented groups. We have a specific focus on reducing the progression gap for students with a disability and students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

→ Please see Section 3, page 13-26 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#) for further detail.

How students can get involved

Student representation in terms of widening access and participation is the remit of UEA Students' Union's Undergraduate Education Officer and Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer. Through membership of our various University Committees, they have contributed to the development of this plan and are involved in its implementation and evaluation.

→ Please see Section 3.2, page 27-28 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#) for further detail.

Evaluation

How we will measure what we have achieved:

- ✦ Evaluation is embedded into all planning and project design, it is a culture.
- ✦ We have a dedicated team of evaluation experts to design and analyse evaluations.
- ✦ Our evaluations meet data compliance and are approved through our Ethics Committee.
- ✦ Evaluation is based on assessing impact in order to shape our projects going forward.

→ Please see Section 3.3, p.28-32 of our [Access and Participation Plan](#) for further detail.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Sarah Ward, Head of Widening Access and Participation at sarah.ward@uea.ac.uk

