

# Arts University Bournemouth

## Summary of 2023-24 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 underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

You can see the full access and participation plan for Arts University Bournemouth at <https://aub.ac.uk/schools-hub/widening-access-to-aub>

### Key points

A key focus of our Access and Participation plan is to increase the number of students accessing creative higher education from areas of low participation. Data shows that at our institution, the proportion of students coming to the university to study from the areas of lowest participation (POLAR Quintile 1) was 9% in 2017/18, compared to 34% from the highest (POLAR Quintile 5).

Alongside this the plan focuses on:

- Recruiting more students from groups which may face additional barriers to entry such as care experienced and mature students
- Eliminating the awarding gap for current students from BAME backgrounds
- Building on success for continuation, achievement and progression

[See pages 1 to 10 of the full plan](#)

### Fees we charge

At Arts University Bournemouth, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,250 for full-time students

### Financial help available

We offer a range of financial support to students from underrepresented groups. This helps students to access the University and continue studying with us until their course is complete. This support includes:

#### **Students from households with an income of below £25,000**

- A one-off **travel voucher of £250, up to £400 per year to support educational visits**, and a **£300 progression bursary** in Level 6

#### **Students from households with an income of below £16,000**

- Alongside the financial support offered to students with from households with an income of below £25,000, students also receive **£750 in refectory vouchers** at Level 4

#### **Students who are care experienced**

- Care experienced students are entitled to all of the above and a non-means tested automatic bursary of **£2,000** per annum

### Disabled Students

- The University also make **£200 contributions toward laptops** for Disabled students and provide support for the cost of Educational Psychologist reports where this might be required.

See page 26 of the full plan

### Information for students

We have a dedicated webpages which sets out our offer. This page also includes a link to the fees and financial support measures. Following enrolment, we write to all new students who meet our criteria for additional support to confirm their entitlement.

Continuing students are reminded annually of the additional support to which they are entitled.



For the most up to date information visit the Arts University Bournemouth [website](#)

### What we are aiming to achieve

- To ensure equality of access to courses at Arts University Bournemouth so the student population is more reflective of wider society.
- To raise the proportion of entrants to the University from areas of low higher education participation to 30% by 2025, and 35% by 2030.
- To double the number of care experienced students studying at AUB by 2025.
- To improve recruitment from other groups which may face barriers to entry such as young people from military families or individuals who are estranged from their families, increasing these numbers by a third over five years
- To eliminate the awarding gap BAME gap by 2027

See page 11 of the full plan

### What we are doing to achieve our aims

- Working to raise the GCSE attainment of young people from with projects such as *Being a Boy*, which focuses on narrowing the attainment gap experienced by boys who are eligible for Free School Meals
- Sustained interventions with students over the age of 16 such as our access programme [All Access AUB](#)
- Eliminating the BAME attainment gap through a whole-provider approach at AUB
- Working in collaboration with organisations such as the Southern Universities Network to join up access and participation activity across the region.
- Supporting progression for students from under-represented groups through new measures including the appointment of a dedicated Progression Officer to signpost and offer students one to one support.

See pages 13 to 19 of the full plan

## How students can get involved

- This Access and Participation Plan is developed through a consultative process with student representatives, and involved the University's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team.
- The Students' Union has also formed a reference group for BAME students and for students with disabilities. University staff liaise with the students who convene these groups. Feedback from these groups informs our approach to addressing issues like the BAME awarding gap
- The University regularly gathers feedback from students who have benefited from its on-course support mechanisms, including those in receipt of financial support. This feedback helps Arts University Bournemouth to shape the package of support which is offered in subsequent years.

*If students have feedback on the University's Access and Participation Plan, they can contact their [students' union representative](#), or if they would like to get involved in access and participation work they can contact the [Access and Participation Manager](#).*

## Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our evaluation activity is informed by using the best available evidence to assess the impact that our work has had. We do this in several different ways:

- Developing and embedding a theoretical framework across all activity which underpins the assumptions we hold about how young people navigate a tightrope of expectation and risk when forming future educational orientations
- Using an evaluation intensity matrix to assess the appropriate levels of evaluation based on the scale of activity and level of time and financial resource deployed in its development
- Running programme-level evaluations of activity which employ a suitable methodology for the size of cohort and type of activity
- Working to develop an overarching Theory of Change and Progression Framework which spans the student lifecycle, identifying key learning outcomes at each stage of the student journey
- Implementing new mechanisms such as a CRM system to capture quantitative data and facilitate a more targeted approach to the deployment of resource
- Working with partners such as the Southern Universities Network and the Centre for Transforming Access and Student Outcomes in Higher Education (TASO) to enhance programme design and build evaluative expertise.

In 2023/2024 we will regularly publish findings from our evaluative activity and disseminate learning through both internal and external networks.

**See pages 20 to 25 of the full plan**

## Contact details for further information

 You can contact Dr Alex Blower at [ablower@aub.ac.uk](mailto:ablower@aub.ac.uk) for further information