

Arts University Bournemouth

Summary of 2024-25 to 2027-28 Access and Participation Plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan (APP) sets out how universities ensure everyone, no matter their background, can gain places at and succeed at university as well as getting good employment (or further study) after they leave. Each university reviews and rewrites their APP every 4 years, to make sure they are up to date and able to tackle the current issues and barriers their students are facing.

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

The focus of our APP is on improving the diversity of students from a range of different backgrounds who access the University to study, and on making sure that once they are here students from specific groups complete their studies, get a good degree outcome, and go on to successful, rewarding work once they graduate.

Our data shows that:

- Students are less likely to **access** the University if they
 - Are from Black, Asian or other ethnic minority backgrounds.
 - Are from geographic areas where there has been historically low participation in Higher Education.
 - Are from a low-income background.
- Students are less likely to **continue** with their studies at the University if they are care experienced or estranged from close family members.
- Students are less likely to **attain** first or upper-second class degree if they
 - Are care experienced.
 - Are estranged from close family members.
 - Are from Black, Asian or other ethnic minority backgrounds.
- Students are less likely to **attain** with a first or upper-second class degree if they are from Black, Asian or other ethnic minority backgrounds.
- Students are less likely to **progress** to professional or managerial employment if they are from a low-income background.

See Annex A of the full access and participation plan for more details

Risks to Equality of Opportunity

To make sure we built a strong plan to tackle the gaps in our data for students from some groups, we carried out a university wide consultation with staff and students. This consultation allowed us to identify key risks to equality of opportunity which we think students from those groups might face at AUB. These risks are linked to:

- Gaps in GCSE attainment for young men who are eligible for Free School Meals
- Lower proportions of students studying at AUB from areas which are least socio-economically advantaged.
- Lower proportions of students who live in neighbourhoods of low Higher Education participation at AUB.
- Lower proportions of students from ethnic minority backgrounds at AUB
- Gaps in continuation, completion and attainment for students who are care experienced and/or estranged.
- Barriers to progression into professional and managerial employment for students from a range of backgrounds who experience underrepresentation in the creative industries.

See the full [access and participation plan](#) for more details

Fees we charge

At Arts University Bournemouth, the maximum fees charged for UK undergraduate student is £9,250

See <https://aub.ac.uk/fees> for more information

Information for students

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support via our website and at in-person events, such as our open days, offer holder days or school visits.

Current students receive information about fees and financial support available to them through our student portal, from our dedicated team of student advisers, or via internal communications and campaigns.

We regularly update information for students on our dedicated university website. Visit [here](#) for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

Our plan contains seven objectives and ten targets which aim to address the key risks to equality of opportunity. We believe that addressing these risks will reduce the gaps that exist between over and under-represented student groups at the University.

See the full [access and participation plan](#) for further information

What we are doing to address keys risks to equality of opportunity

To address our key risks, we have produced four intervention strategies. An intervention strategy is a group of activities or programmes that we will carry out to achieve the aims of our Access and Participation Plan. We have 4 intervention strategies in our plan, and each strategy consists of activities that will support our students who might be facing a risk at different stages of their student journey. Our intervention strategies are:

1. Increase the GCSE attainment of boys in Dorset who are eligible for free school meals.
2. Increase the number of applications and enrolments to the University for students who may have experienced socio-economic inequality, student from areas of historically low Higher Education participation, and students Black and Asian ethnic backgrounds.
3. Increase continuation and attainment for students at the University who are care experienced and/or estranged.
4. Increase graduate outcomes for students from backgrounds which a underrepresented within the University and the creative industries.

See the full [access and participation plan](#) for further information

Financial help available

The key aims of the University's package of financial support are:

- To provide support to the students with the greatest additional need so that they can fully take part in life at university.
- Support students to access opportunities linked to their future career and employment.
- When necessary, to provide targeted financial support to students experiencing specific financial burdens.

For the most up to date information on the support the University offers visit <https://aub.ac.uk/fees/undergraduate>

How students can get involved

- Students are represented across all levels of governance at the University, working in partnership with the Students' Union and elected representatives.
- Students who want to get involved work related to the plan can contact the access and participation team to find out about our Student Outreach Ambassador scheme.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We work to meet high standards in the evaluating the impact of the activity we deliver. As a university, we are committed to:

- Making sure that all work and projects which support our plan's objectives and targets are fully and correctly evaluated.
- Improving staff confidence with evaluation across the University through training and support.
- Publishing and share our evaluation findings internally and externally.

Click [here](#) to view an example of our work to evaluate the impact of projects

Contact details for further information

You can contact the Access and Participation team at wp@aub.ac.uk, or visit our [webpages](#) for further information.