

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

What is an Access and Participation Plan?

An Access and Participation Plan (A P P) sets out provisions that will be meaningful and effective in promoting equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups, as determined by the Office for Students (O f S).

You can see the full access and participation plan for Teesside University [here](#)

Key points - See page 1 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Teesside University (T U) has long been established as an education institution to level-up opportunity, dedicated to developing highly skilled graduates. T U is committed to both delivering opportunities and an outstanding learning environment where all students can meet their full potential.

We are set in the Tees Valley which is ranked as the second most deprived out of 38 English Local Enterprise Partnership areas. In the academic year 2022/23, 85% of our students were from a disadvantaged background and 74% of UK domiciled undergraduate students were from the North East.

We believe education has the power to transform lives and that everyone with the talent to succeed, should have the opportunity to experience higher education. We are committed to creating an inclusive campus that embraces diversity and supports students across their whole journey. Our inclusive and supportive approach is evidenced by our award as University of the Year for Social Inclusion by The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021.

Fees we charge - See pages 86-87 of the access and participation plan for more information.

T U's tuition fees are in line with the O F S's guidance and are subject to regular review and also subject to us continuing to meet our commitments as set out in the A P P. The fees below are for the 2024-25 academic year and may be subject to inflationary increases.

- Full-time Undergraduate Degree including Foundation years £9250 per annum
- Full-time Foundation Degree or other qualifications below degree level £6150 per annum
- Part-time Undergraduate fees range £3960 to £4620 for 120 credits

Full details on fees and funding are available [here](#)

Financial help available - See page 35 of the access and participation plan for more information.

[TU Advance Scheme](#) provides eligible students with £100 credit at the start of each academic year (up to a maximum of £300) to spend on relevant course materials through the John Smith's online bookshop. This is one element of the Teesside Advance Scheme which supports students. Eligibility criteria can be found at the link above.

Information for students - See pages 34-35 of the access and participation plan for more information.

We support students and prospective students by providing financial and course information through several routes. Staff from Student Recruitment and Marketing (S R M) and Student and Library Services (S L S) work together with schools and partner colleges to deliver a range of activities to prospective students. Our Students' Union (S U) also plays an active part in Open Days and initial orientation of new students. More specific pre-entry support is provided by a team of welfare advisers in S L S. Support is available through advice and guidance on a wide range of issues including but not limited to student funding, financial hardship, financial implications of course changes and our Hardship Fund. This team of advisers continue to support students throughout their time at university. Further information on these services and the extensive range of support available to our students can be found at our [Student Life](#) webpage.

What we are aiming to achieve - See pages 5-6 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Following a thorough analysis of available data and risk factors that contribute towards gaps in equality of opportunity to identify our key objectives we aim to;

- Improve the regional opportunities for pre-16 students to attend HE and contribute to reducing the gap in attainment rates in the North East region.
- Increase the percentage of Asian, black, mixed and other (A B M O) students in our student population by 2%.
- Remove gaps in continuation, completion and attainment for students with diagnosed mental health conditions when compared to our students with no known disability.
- Reduce the gap in continuation rates between our students with social and communication disabilities when compared to our students with no known disability.
- Reduce the gap in attainment rates between our students with cognitive and learning disabilities when compared to our students with no known disability.
- Reduce the gap in progression rates between graduates from underrepresented geographical areas when compared to our graduates from outside these areas.
- Reduce the gap in progression rates for our graduates with a diagnosed mental health condition when compared to our students with no known disability.
- increase the number of school staff in the Tees Valley undertaking a TU led digital upskilling programme.

What we are doing to address key risks to equality of opportunity - See pages 7 to 27 of the access and participation plan for more information.

To achieve our aims, we have developed a set of targeted interventions. Some interventions will target more than one set of students. Interventions include:

Aim	Interventions
Improve attainment levels of pre-16 students in the region	A new scheme to improve digital skills of teachers Series of targeted events Collaborate with Uni Connect and work in collaboration with Spark Tees Valley
Improve access to University for ABMO students	Outreach with schools and colleges Series of events and targeted campaigns
Improve success for students with mental health conditions, Social and	24/7 student assistance programme Mental Health Charter

Communication Difficulties and Cognitive and Learning Disabilities	Counselling Call Out Service to improve mental health Triage model to improve access to appropriate support services Disability Co-ordinators in academic schools
Improve progression for students from specific geographical areas and improve progression for students with mental health diagnosis	Tees Valley mentoring programme Internships and part time work opportunities Continuation of employability support after graduation Extended Mental Health Support Extended access to Adobe Creative Campus

How students can get involved - See pages 32- 33 of the access and participation plan for more information.

S U officers and staff are members of key university boards and committees. We have a student and school representative programme led by our S U. We also seek to consult with students via annual focus groups. The A P P project board includes various University departments and S U officers. We have a Student Experience Sub Committee (S E S C) that has a large diverse student membership. Its members will form student focussed delivery project groups to maximise student representation.

Student Ambassadors have been integral to delivering A P P activity across Tees Valley and further afield. We regularly gather feedback from the ambassadors to sense check that interventions are fit for purpose.

Student Engagement Assistants are employed to assist in the delivery of front-line student support services and are actively engaged in gathering feedback and student views used in the development of the student success intervention strategies.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved - See page 33 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Our approach is centred upon a student lifecycle offer; We recognise the value of interwoven interventions that follow a student from outreach (access) to study (success) and into employment (progression). Our evaluation plan is hinged on.

- I. further enhancement of relevant student support at each educational milestone.
- II. visibility of, and equity of experience for the breadth our student body in a bid to build community, recognition and culture of diversity, and
- III. ease of access to data and subsequent analyses across the A P P period to ensure all stakeholders are aware of our equality of opportunity priorities, the actions it is taking to address these, and the outcomes and impact those interventions produce. To enable this institutional approach, our intervention strategy includes the creation of an Equality of Opportunity Project team.

Evaluation and research outcomes will be shared and published publicly to ensure successes and challenges and lessons learned can be understood both within TU and within the wider HE sector.

Contact details for further information

James Ward, Assistant Director, Student and Library Services
P.A.SLS@tees.ac.uk for more information.