

Bloomsbury Institute Limited

Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 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 Bloomsbury Institute's full Plan at www.bil.ac.uk/gem/policies/

Key points (See page 22 of the full Plan)

The focus of our Plan is on improving continuation and attainment rates for all students. However, there we are focusing in particular on 4 target groups of full-time undergraduate students.

- **Students from low socio-economic backgrounds** (measured according to an Index of Multiple Deprivation and classified as IMD Q1 and Q2)
- **Black students**
- **Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups**
- **Students with a disability**

Fees we charge

For 2022-23 the maximum fees charged are:

- £11,100 for full-time students taking one of our accelerated degrees. [An accelerated degree is a degree course that is delivered over a shorter period of time than other equivalent courses.]
- £9,250 for full-time students

You can see a full list of fees for courses and information about funding at Bloomsbury Institute at www.bil.ac.uk/fees/

Financial help available (See page 26 of the full Plan)

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups as well as students facing financial hardship. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes a:

- **Travel Bursary** which is available to all students who are funded by the Student Loans Company.
- **Hardship Fund** to help students if they have suffered from unexpected events. The maximum a student can claim from the Fund is £1,600 per academic year.
- **Disability Support Fund** for students with disabilities to claim up to a maximum of £1,000 each academic year to help with the additional study support costs they may face.

Information for students (See page 46 of the full Plan)

- Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person and online events, such as our open days and information sessions, and via our email communications plans.
- A summary of our fees and financial support is also included in our course brochure (printed and online) together with links to the relevant pages on our website.
- Our website is regularly monitored and updated to ensure that the most up-to-date information on fees and financial support is always available.
- We include in the above information sources telephone and email contact details for our Student Recruitment team in case a prospective student has any questions on our fees and the financial support available.
- Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available through our website, internal communications campaigns and direct emails from our Finance team.

What we are aiming to achieve (See pages 22 to 25 of the full Plan)

Our focus is on supporting all students to continue their studies so that they graduate with a First or 2:1 degree. We also aim to support all students to progress to postgraduate studies or graduate employment once they complete their degree course.

We will achieve our overall aim by improving:

- the continuation rate for all students through developments to our curriculum, assessment, interventions strategy and support services.
- the progression rate for all students through the implementation of our Let's Grow programme.

However, our particular focus is on improving the continuation and attainment rates of students from low socio-economic backgrounds (students from IMD Q1 and 2); Black students; Black, Asian and minority ethnic students; and students with a disability. We will ensure that by 2024-25 there is no difference between the continuation and attainment rates of students from these groups and those of students from outside these groups.

What we are doing to achieve our aims (See pages 26 to 33 of the full Plan)

We have identified the following key areas of activity:

- Introduction of a **travel bursary**
- Increasing the size of our **Hardship Fund**.
- Introduction of a **Disability Hardship Fund**.
- Introduction of a **Pre-entry course** that will be offered, free-of-charge, to all 4-year degree applicants who do not have a Level 3 qualification (A Level or equivalent).

- Enhancements to our **Peer Mentoring Schemes**. These are schemes where students are trained to support other students through peer-based activities and projects.
- Enhancing our use of **data analytics** to inform interventions for students who are at risk of not continuing with their studies.
- Introduction of more **flexible timetables** to meet the needs of our students.
- Embedding regular **Virtual Classroom lessons** within the Foundation Year curriculum as an additional teaching activity.

How students can get involved (See page 36 of the full Plan)

We developed this Plan with support from our students. We asked them what they would like us to invest in. We held focus groups and sent all students a questionnaire covering the same areas that were discussed in the focus groups.

The results of the focus groups and questionnaires were discussed in our Student Staff Consultative Forum and considered by our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (EDIC) as this committee formally developed the Plan. Student representatives also attend our Board meetings where the Plan was formally approved.

Students will be involved in the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of activities in the Plan.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved (See pages 37 to 41 of the full Plan)

For each new intake of students each academic year, we will complete an interim and a final evaluation of each programme of activity. This will tell us whether the activity is contributing, or has contributed, to the reduction and subsequent elimination of the continuation rate and attainment gaps for our 4 target groups of students. These evaluations will also help us to see any strengths that we can work on and any weaknesses where we need to take action.

The interim and final evaluation reports will be submitted to the EDIC which meets every two months, together with a report on our Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) because the continuation and attainment rate gaps we have reported in our Plan have been included in our KPIs. The evaluation reports and the KPIs, together with any observations of the EDIC, will be submitted to the Senior Management and Leadership Team (SMLT), the Academic Committee and the Board of Directors for consideration and action.

Working with our EDIC, our Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is responsible for monitoring the year-on-year reduction and eventual elimination of the identified gaps. The Board of Directors has ultimate responsibility for ensuring the strategic measures (and associated programmes) set out in this Plan are implemented and for ensuring the aims and objectives are achieved.

Students are involved in the ongoing monitoring of implementation of our Plan through their membership of the EDIC, the Academic Committee, Staff Student Consultative Forum and their presence on our Board of Directors.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Maria Jackson for further information at maria.jackson@bil.ac.uk