

Plymouth Marjon University

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 the full access and participation plan for Plymouth Marjon University at [University strategies & policies | Plymouth Marjon University](#)

Key points

Our Access and Participation Plan aims to improve outcomes for specific groups of students. The plan is led by our data, which shows that some groups have been less likely to succeed.

- We have low ethnic diversity in our student population, and we want to increase this.
- Some groups of students have been less likely to continue their studies from year 1 to year 2. These have included, in recent years:
 - Mature students
 - Students who come from a neighbourhood in which fewer people go to university
 - Students with a diagnosed mental ill health condition
- Some groups of students are less likely to get a first or a 2.1 degree and have also been less likely to move quickly after university into graduate-level work or study. These have included, in recent years:
 - Students who come from a neighbourhood in which fewer people go to university
 - Disabled students

We want to change this, and the Plan is about how we are doing this.

Fees we charge

The maximum fees charged for home undergraduate students are £9,250 per annum for full-time students and £4265 per annum for part-time students (for 60 credits). International student fees are higher, and postgraduate fees differ. You can see a full list of fees for courses at www.marjon.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-funding/

All fees are per annum unless otherwise stated and additional professional accreditation fees may also apply. Tuition fees may be subject to an annual increase due to inflation, subject to the fee cap.

You can see a full list of fees for courses at www.marjon.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-funding/

Financial help for students

We offer financial support to some students, to help them to access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes:

- A **hardship fund** to support students who experience financial hardship during their time at university.

- A **care leavers' bursary** for students under 25, who have been in care for at least 13 weeks, some of which is after the age of 16, and students who are estranged from their families.
- **Placement bursaries** which enable trainee teachers to attend placements further afield, covering costs of transport or accommodation.
- **Going Places bursaries** which fund international experiences or experiences which will enhance employability such as additional qualifications.
- **Sports Scholarships** for students representing their country in sports, with a proportion of this ringfenced for students from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic backgrounds.

Information for students

To ensure students have the latest information to make decisions about their studies, we keep our website updated.

- **Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, including on-campus and off-campus (for example at school fairs); on our website; and in our prospectus.
- Our **fees and bursary opportunities** are kept updated on our website and on our internal student Sharepoint site (MyMarjon).
- **Current students** receive information about financial support available through our student Sharepoint site (MyMarjon) and other internal communications campaigns.

What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall aim is to support all those who can benefit from higher education to succeed in higher education. Driven by our data, we are working on the following areas:

- **Supporting attainment at school**, ensuring that we use our 180 years of experience in teaching to enable local pupils to succeed.
- **Offering diverse and flexible routes** through higher education, including introducing multiple apprenticeships, particularly within health education.
- Supporting disadvantaged groups to **access higher education**, including increasing the proportion of Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic students to 10% by 2024-25.
- Supporting **mature students** to continue in their degrees, closing the gap compared to young students by 2022-23.
- Supporting students from **neighbourhoods in which fewer people go to university**:
 - to continue into Year 2 at the same rate as other students by 2024-25
 - to achieve the same proportion of first and 2.1 degrees as other students by 2029-30
 - to progress into graduate-level employment at the same rate as other students by 2029-30
- Supporting **disabled students**:
 - to achieve the same proportion of first and 2.1 degrees as non-disabled students by 2024-25
 - to achieve progress into graduate-level employment or study at the same rate as non-disabled students by 2029-30
- Supporting students with a diagnosis of **mental ill health** to continue in their studies at the same rates as other students, closing the gap by 2029-30.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

We run specific projects to achieve these goals:

1. Working closely with schools: from sharing our Early Years expertise right through to running revision schools for disadvantaged GCSE students, and a Summer School, we are ensuring that children and young people have access to quality information, advice, guidance about higher education, and they can attain the grades they need.
2. Improving inclusion and helping all students to feel they belong, which includes extensive work on mental health and wellbeing.
3. Offering accessible study skills and encouraging take-up by more disadvantaged groups to improve grades.
4. Developing oracy skills in our students, thus supporting them to achieve.
5. Developing the volume and quality of our Marjon Student Colleague positions, supporting more students who work for Marjon into higher quality employment after leaving.
6. Offering personalised and online careers support.
7. Offering financial support as already described in this plan.

How students can get involved

We work closely with our Students' Union on our Plan through our Access and Participation Action Group which meets six times a year. Other students are also part of this group, and other relevant working groups such as our Mental Health Working Group.

To get involved you can contact the Students' Union, or contact our Access and Participation Lead on the information below. You can find information on being involved in this and related inclusion projects, by searching "Leadership opportunities" on MyMarjon.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our programmes of activity are informed by the best available evidence about what works for students. We will collect data and feedback to evaluate the design of our projects, the impact of the projects, how we are doing on delivering our stated goals, and our impact on closing the gaps.

The Access and Participation Plan Action Group will monitor and report on progress to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and to Governors. The Action Group will oversee actions to ensure ongoing progress against yearly milestones. We will monitor impact on our target groups, to ensure we are addressing our aims. Where appropriate, we will adjust our interventions in the best interests of our students.

We will publish evidence from our evaluations on our website by January 2024.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Katy Willis, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Student Success on kwillis@marjon.ac.uk