

Access and Participation Plan: Summary

Bloomsbury Institute

Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 Access and participation plan.

What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans set out how universities and colleges will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented and disadvantaged students to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

You can download and read our full [access and participation plan](#) from our website.

Key points

We are a small, vibrant and contemporary learning community set up in 2002 to deliver accounting, business and law courses. Many of our students are from low-income backgrounds. National data shows that our domestic student body is significantly diverse compared to others.

We are proud to have opened our doors to students who might otherwise not have had the opportunity to enter higher education. Our staff and students are committed to understanding and working together to break down any barriers that stop students from reaching their full potential.

The focus of our 2025-26 to 2028-29 plan is to support students to continue with their studies, and to ensure disadvantaged students have the same chance as other students to do well on their course.

See pages 1-7 and 19-23 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

We charge the maximum fees of £9,250 per year for undergraduate degrees. Students on an accelerated degree pay £11,100 per year.

See page 27 and 58 of the access and participation plan for fee information. You can also see the list of fees charged on our [Fees and Financial Support page](#).

Financial help available

We have carefully considered how financial help can best support our students in their studies.

We provide the following:

- **Household Income Bursary** to support students from low-income backgrounds who face financial challenges impacting their education. Students funded through the Student Loans Company, and having low-income thresholds as determined by the Institute receive the bursary.
- **Childcare Bursary** to eligible students to cover the additional 15% of childcare costs not covered by the Student Loan Company's Childcare Support Grant.
- **Internship Bursary** providing support over a two-week period to support eligible students to undertake work experience.

See pages 28 of the access and participation plan for more information about these bursaries.

You can also find out about financial support on our [Fees and Financial support page](#).

Information for students

Information on fees and financial support is made available to prospective and current students at open days, in our prospectus, by email communication, and on our website.

Current students can also raise questions or requests through our student self-service portal, and they can speak directly to our finance team.

See pages 27-28 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

While we will continue to enhance our support to all students, we have identified that students from the most disadvantaged areas, and Black, Asian, and mixed ethnicity students experience more obstacles than others, and are therefore more at risk of not continuing and achieving in their studies. See pages 2-5 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Our access and participation plan aims to ensure that these students have equal opportunity to stay on their course and to do well. In doing so, we aim to eliminate the gap in continuation and achievement rates by 2029.

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

We have developed two key strategies to achieve our aims. Each strategy sets out a description of the activities we will undertake; a supporting rationale and evidence base; the costs that are involved; the intended outcomes; and an evaluation plan.

- **Intervention strategy 1: Breaking down barriers to student continuation**
The activities in this strategy are aimed at supporting students to continue in their studies. We will do this through the implementation of a high-quality evidence-based personal tutoring system, underpinned by staff training in coaching; a reward and recognition scheme to promote students' sense of 'mattering'; and targeted financial support including a bursary for students from the lowest income households.
- **Intervention strategy 2: Breaking down barriers to student achievement**
The activities in this strategy are aimed at supporting more students to attain 1st or 2.1 degrees. A 'Futures Programme' will provide dedicated advice and guidance to accessing relevant work experience. Enhanced in-class personal and professional development, and an internship bursary will motivate and enable students to fulfil their potential on their chosen course.

See pages 6-19 of the access and participation plan for more information.

These activities will work alongside our existing approaches which currently include extensive learning enhancement support; mental health and wellbeing support, including an online community platform 'Togetherall' and 1-1 and group advice through our disability and wellbeing office; student attendance and engagement data-driven interventions; practical advice on budgeting and money-management skills; peer-assisted learning and peer-mentoring; leadership training for students; employability and careers support including training with Bloomsbury Radio; a hardship fund and Disability Support Fund

How students can get involved

Our student representatives and Student Guild work with us to improve what we do. We invest in the 'student voice' providing training and advice to ensure students are supported to engage.

Student representatives sit on all key committees at Bloomsbury Institute including our Access and Participation Committee (APC.) The APC provides updates for the Academic Committee and the Board of Directors.

The Student Staff Consultative Forum has robust discussions on many items that touch on access and participation, and our regular student surveys offer another opportunity for input and feedback from students.

See pages 23-24 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We are members of the Specialist Evidence, Evaluation and Research (SEER) service, whom we work in partnership with to evaluate our work.

Working with the wider SEER membership provides opportunities to mitigate the issue of small datasets which is a challenge for small providers like us. See pages 24-27 of the access and participation plan for more information.

We will prepare a comprehensive annual progress report. We will share our learning and publish our findings through conferences, submissions to journals, and through our [Bloomsbury Radio](#).

Contact details for further information

If you would like further information, please contact our Deputy Principal, Dr Joan O' Mahony.

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