

Queen Mary University of London

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 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 Queen Mary University of London at <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/access-and-participation-plan/>.

Key points

Queen Mary is a Russell Group university with a difference. We combine excellence in research with an unparalleled commitment to social justice and social mobility, and a very close relationship with our local communities that led us to be the first university to receive the Platinum award for Public Engagement. Our vision is to open the doors of opportunity and be the most inclusive University of our kind.

We are proud of our track record in recruiting and supporting students from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds and note the external recognition we continue to receive in this area, including being ranked number one for social mobility in the country in a 2021 report by the Department for Education, Institute of Fiscal Studies, and The Sutton Trust.

The diversity of our student body is truly sector-leading for a research-intensive university like ours and being the top ranked university for social mobility is a testament to the outcomes our students achieve upon graduation. We are not, however, complacent and fully understand the challenges faced by underrepresented groups both across the sector and locally. Our approach is data-driven, focusing on groups of students for whom the data shows that there are barriers to access, continuation from year 1 to year 2, or success in relation to degree outcome and subsequent employment.

See pages 2-4 of our access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

At Queen Mary, the maximum fees we charge for home undergraduate students are £9,250 for full-time students.

See page 91 of our access and participation plan for more information.

Financial help available

We offer a significant, broad-ranging financial support package to home fee-paying students from underrepresented groups which is designed to help students access higher education and support them to continue studying until their course is completed. We spend over £8m a year on financial support.

- **An annual bursary** of up to £1,700 for the duration of the course, for students whose household income is below £35,000.
- **A Financial Assistance Fund** to support students who are experiencing financial hardship that might impact on their ability to participate successfully on their course (this is available to all students ordinarily based on our London campuses).
- **A travel bursary** for students from targeted groups under-represented at Queen Mary to visit open days and other recruitment events.
 - **An additional Care Leaver and Estranged bursary** of £1,500 for students) assessed by Student Finance as being a Care Leaver or Estranged and eligible for maintenance funding who are under 25 years at the time they start undergraduate study.

See pages 49-50 of our access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

The University invests heavily in providing effective information and guidance for prospective and current students:

- Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support through our printed materials, at our outreach events, access programmes, open days, and through our [Digital Outreach Hub](#).

- We provide information about our commitment to support care experienced and estranged students through our [dedicated webpage](#). Prospective and current students can access specialist support as required from our Advice and Counselling, and Disability and Dyslexia Support Services. For the most up-to-date information visit our website: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/disability-and-dyslexia-service/>.
- Current students receive information about the fees and financial support available to them through our student portal (MySIS), internal communications, advisors, student support officers, and the Advice and Counselling Service.

See pages 44-47 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

We want to create an environment where students and staff flourish and reach their full potential. Our Plan outlines the following targets of focus where we have identified risks to equality of opportunity. By 2028-29 we will:

- **Increase Access for Students with Disabilities:** We will work to reduce the gap in participation for students with disabilities by increasing the proportion of disabled students entering the University each year. This will be achieved through targeted interventions and research to better understand and address the barriers these students face.
- **Increase Access for Care Experienced students:** We will increase the number of care experienced students entering the University by meeting the standards set by the National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL) Quality Mark and enhancing support for care-experienced students.
- **Improve Attainment for Students Eligible for Free School Meals (FSM):** We will support efforts to raise the attainment of FSM-eligible students by focusing on boosting their confidence and self-efficacy each year through tailored activities and coaching, working closely with our Sponsored Academies.
- **Increase Access for Underrepresented Students to Research-Intensive Universities:** In collaboration with Realising Opportunities, we will work to improve access to research-intensive universities for underrepresented groups and enhance social mobility.
- **Improve Continuation Rates for Students with Disabilities:** We will narrow the gap in continuation rates for students with declared disabilities by implementing targeted interventions that focus on those with specific impairments or mental health conditions.
- **Improve Continuation Rates for Black Students:** We will increase the continuation rate for Black students through targeted interventions that address the specific challenges they may face.
- **Improve Completion Rates for Students Previously Eligible for Free School Meals (FSM):** We will reduce the gap in completion rates by supporting FSM-eligible students with targeted interventions that address their unique challenges.
- **Narrow Progression Gaps for Bangladeshi and FSM-Eligible Students:** We will reduce the progression gap into highly skilled employment and further study for Bangladeshi and FSM-eligible students through targeted activities and strategies.

See pages 8-9 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

In accordance with our University Strategy 2030, we have identified several workstreams to fulfil our aims and objectives. Alongside specific interventions for targeted groups, we will support our wider student body through a comprehensive suite of initiatives:

- **Enhancing Access for underrepresented Students:** We will maintain our position as the most diverse Russell Group University by developing our access initiatives and collaborating with other universities on national initiatives to support underrepresented students entering higher education.
- **Strengthening partnerships with schools and communities:** We will expand sustained outreach activities to raise attainment, particularly through our sponsored multi-academy trusts and partnerships with secondary schools and colleges.

- **Providing tailored academic and pastoral support:** Using a data-driven methodology, we will offer support tailored to individual student needs through the [Queen Mary Education Approach](#), which includes individualised support, student feedback, and employability skills development.
- **Promoting inclusivity in curriculum and assessments:** We will ensure our curriculum and assessments are inclusive and embed Queen Mary Graduate Attributes that incorporate employability skills and social responsibility, equipping our students to become active global citizens.
- **Enhancing student support services and wellbeing initiatives:** We will enhance our student support services by integrating in-person and digital resources, and partnering with services like Togetherall and the Student Assistance Programme to address mental health needs, particularly for students with disabilities, Black students, and those previously eligible for Free School Meals (FSM).
- **Improving student transitions and destigmatising support:** We will expand our transition programmes to support first-year and returning students, destigmatise help-seeking behaviour, and ensure students feel confident and supported throughout their time at Queen Mary.
- **Advancing race equality:** We will continue our commitment to the Advance HE Race Equality Charter (REC) to enhance representation, progression, and success for individuals from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, aiming for recognition with a Bronze Award.
- **Providing targeted career and employment support:** We will offer tailored employability support through coaching, mentoring, and enterprise initiatives, while also transitioning our Careers Service to a peer-to-peer support model to increase accessibility and provide valuable experience for student supporters.

See pages 10-43 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

Our Access and Participation Plan has been co-created with our students through the Students' Union sabbatical officers. Students are represented on our Access and Participation Monitoring Group and also involved in a wide range of committees that contribute towards positive improvements across the student lifecycle. We use student-led research and student feedback in the development of new initiatives and as formative evaluation.

To provide feedback, students can contact their student union representative by emailing su-president@qmul.ac.uk. To become involved in this work, students can use the contact details at the bottom of this summary.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Evaluation is a core component of our access and participation work. We will further develop our evaluation framework, utilising our existing data-driven methodology to articulate both qualitative and quantitative outcomes.

Our Access and Participation Plan Monitoring Group oversees the evaluation of our activities, with student members playing a key role. We collaborate across the sector to refine our evidence base and share best practice, ensuring continuous improvement and transparency. We remain committed to publishing this information via our website.

See pages 47-49 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

You can email app@qmul.ac.uk for further information on this plan.