

De Montfort University

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 student groups to access, succeed in, and progress from higher education. You can find [De Montfort University's full access and participation plan here](#).

Key points / What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 2-6 in the full plan

Our overall aim is to support students into higher education, to be successful throughout their studies, and into employment or further study.

Based on review and assessment of recent performance we have identified the need to further support in the following areas:

Students from IMD quintiles 1 and 2 – Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a measure of disadvantage in a small area, relative to other areas of the country. IMD divides these into a scale from 1-5. Students from IMD quintiles 1 and 2 are considered more disadvantaged than those from quintiles 3, 4, and 5. There are occasions when the level of disadvantage together with the sex of a student may create a risk to the student's ability to succeed. We aim to:

- Improve access to higher education for the most disadvantaged students.
- Improve student continuation on course for the most disadvantaged male students.
- Improve course completion outcomes for the most disadvantaged male students.
- Improve progression to highly skilled employment, and further study for the most disadvantaged students.

Students' age on commencement of study – Whether a student is young (under 21) or mature (over 21) when they start their studies can affect their success. Therefore, we aim to:

- Improve course completion outcomes for mature students.
- Improve progression to highly-skilled employment, and further study for young students.

Students by ethnicity – our student body is ethnically diverse, and there are occasions when a student's ethnicity may link to their success. As such we aim to:

- Improve course continuation for students of black, mixed, and other minoritised ethnic backgrounds.
- Improve course completion outcomes for students of black, mixed, and other minoritised ethnic backgrounds.
- Improve attainment outcomes for students of black, asian, mixed, and other minoritised ethnic backgrounds.
- Improve progression to highly skilled employment, and further study for students of black, asian, mixed, and other minoritised ethnic backgrounds.

Students with declared disabilities – across the university, students who declare a disability have positive outcome experiences. However, we want to further address one area, and as such we aim to:

- Improve progression to highly skilled employment, and further study for students who declare mental health, or social and communication disabilities.

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

See pages 6-18 in the full plan

Following consultation with students, staff, and our Board of Governors, we identified the three perceived greatest risks for students at De Montfort University:

- Cost pressures – Increases in costs may affect a student's ability to complete their course or obtain a good grade.
- Progression to further study – Students may not have equal opportunity to progress to an outcome they consider to be a positive reflection of their higher education experience.
- Insufficient personal support – Students may not receive sufficient personalised non-academic support or have sufficient access to extra-curricular activities to achieve a positive outcome.

Our access and participation plan recognises the areas we seek to address, and the risks perceived to be the greatest to equality of opportunity at De Montfort University. The plan includes eleven objectives, which reflect the identified risks to equality of opportunity, and four themes, considered across stages of a student's time at the university:

Intervention strategy one: Access

- Activity: Work collaboratively to support schools and students across the region, to raise aspirations and attainment in younger years, pre-16 students.
- Addressing the level of disadvantage

Intervention strategy two: Continuation

- Activity: Proactive engagement led by the Student Success Advisors. Develop, evaluate, and expand the online resource tool 'DMU Basecamp'. Further develop 'Healthy DMU' with specific targeted intervention inline with the access and participation plan.
- Addressing level of disadvantage and sex, and ethnicity.

Intervention strategy three: Completion

- Activity: Proactive engagement led by Students Access Advisors.
- Addressing age on commencement of study, level of disadvantage and sex, and ethnicity.

Intervention strategy four: Progression

- Activity: Expand 'Lead and Inspire' - a leadership skills initiative for minoritised groups, and 'THRIVE' - a targeted programme for progression into graduate employment that supports students with a declared mental health disability.
- Addressing age on commencement of study, level of disadvantage, ethnicity, and disability.

Additionally, attainment by ethnicity is a key part of the '[Empowering University](#)' strategy, which aligns with this access and participation plan.

Fees we charge

At De Montfort University, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,535 for full time students
- £6,935 for part-time students

Information about course fees at [De Montfort University are on our website here.](#)

Financial help available

The [DMU Support Fund](#) assists with general living and course-related costs for students who are facing genuine and unavoidable financial hardship. Other financial support measures include:

- **The Access to Higher Education Scholarship**, available if students are accepted onto a course with an Access to Higher Education qualification (where it is an entry requirement for the course).
- **The Care Leavers' Bursary**, aligned with our participation in the Care Leaver Covenant, and our quality mark recognition from the National Network of Care Leavers, this bursary is available to eligible students who come to DMU directly from care.
- **The Estranged Students' Bursary**, available to eligible students who are estranged from their family and have no other source of income. Additionally, DMU provides summer accommodation support for students estranged from their parent/s and need to pay for accommodation over summer.
- **DMU Global Widening Participation Funding** is a bursary that provides additional financial support to students from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds to cover the costs of participating in embedded international experiences.

Full details about Student Fees and Finances are available via our [Student Finance webpages](#), and our [Scholarships and Bursaries](#).

Information for students

See pages 28-30 in the full plan

At De Montfort University, we place emphasis on promoting and communicating our support packages, tuition fee policies, and payment agreements to students. The [university's website](#) is the most comprehensive source of information about funding and fees. In addition to the information on our website, we provide fee and support information to applicants, open day guides, and pre-enrolment materials. All of these materials are available in accessible formats.

How students can get involved

See pages 26-27 in the full plan

Student collaboration, consultation, and co-creation have been core to the development of our access and participation plan. Students are our drivers of change. Student representation is a key element throughout activity at De Montfort University.

Student representatives are integral to the governance and operation of university committees and relevant working groups. In recognition of the importance of the student voice, student reports are significant agenda items at core university committees such as Academic Board and Education Committee, where the university leadership team meet with senior academic staff. At the latter of these the De Montfort Student Union Academic Executive Officer is Deputy Chair. Within faculties, Associate Professors Student Experience coordinate student voice. They act as a key link between the university, students and [De Montfort Students' Union \(DSU\)](#). They play an active role in supporting recruitment of Student Representatives, across our subject disciplines to enhance the student voice at the programme level.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

See pages 16 - 18 , & 27 in the full plan

At De Montfort University we ensure that a robust evaluation of our performance, strategic aims, objectives, and initiatives is a fundamental part of our approach to performance management and programme impact. Our access and participation plan includes an evaluation plan that ensures it is impactful.

Contact details for further information

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