

# Queen Mary University of London

## 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 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. The vision of our University Strategy is 'opening the doors of opportunity', and we were proud to be named the top University in the country for social mobility in an independent study conducted by the Institute of Fiscal Studies and the Sutton Trust<sup>1</sup> in 2021.

We are proud of our track record of attracting students from backgrounds typically under-represented at Russell Group universities. We continue to work closely with schools, including our sponsored and partner schools, to ensure students from under-represented backgrounds are supported to join us. We collaborate with other universities through the 'Realising Opportunities' programme to ensure students across the UK can access Russell Group universities, and have just launched a new Access Programme to address 'cold spots' – i.e. areas from which there are few students who attend university, in our surrounding area.

We take a data-driven approach to ensuring all students have the right support to succeed at Queen Mary. We are committed to increasing support for different groups of students where the data shows that there are barriers to continuation from year 1 to year 2, or to success in relation to degree outcome and subsequent employment.

Degree apprenticeships are a key aspect of our educational offer at Queen Mary. We were the first Russell Group University to offer Degree Apprenticeships and we continue to develop this provision, working with a wide range of employers including the BBC, Samaritans, Prince's Trust, PWC and Goldman Sachs.

### Fees we charge

At Queen Mary University of London, the maximum fees we charge for home undergraduate students are:

- £9,250 for full-time students



You can see a full list of fees for courses at the University by visiting the programme information within our course finder: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/courses/>

### Financial help available

We offer a 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.

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<sup>1</sup> This study looked at graduates who were eligible for Free School Meals (signifying families with very low household income) when they were at school and are now in the top 20% of earnings at age 30.

- **An annual bursary** of up to £1,700 for the duration of the course, for students whose household income is below £35,000
- **A hardship 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)
- **A travel bursary** for students from groups under-represented in Higher Education, providing financial assistance to support students to attend events like our Open Days
- **An annual transition from care bursary** of £1,500 for students in their final year (from 2021-22):
  - 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
  - For further information, see: <https://arcs.qmul.ac.uk/students/finances/bursaries-grants-scholarships/financial-assistance-fund/cles/>

## 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 at our outreach events, open days through our [Outreach Hub](#).
- We provide information about our commitment to support **care leavers and care experienced** students through the [Care Leaver Covenant](#).
- **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.
- **Prospective and current students** can access specialist support as required from our Advice and Counselling, and Disability and Dyslexia Support Services.

See pages 9 to 10 of the full plan

For the most up-to-date information visit our website:

<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/>



## 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:

See pages 7 to 17 of the full plan

- **Support students from backgrounds that are currently under-represented to go to research-intensive universities** – By collaborating nationally through the Realising Opportunities Programme we will support students through a structured programme, to ensure success in education and their future careers. We will further develop our own access programmes through 2023-2024.
- **Black students** – By 2024-25 we will have closed the gap in non-continuation rates from year 1 to year 2 for black students, compared with the whole undergraduate population.
- **Students with disabilities** – By 2024-25, we will have closed the current gaps in non-continuation from year 1 to year 2 for students with mental health conditions, and students with specific learning difficulties, compared with the whole undergraduate population.
- **Black and minority ethnic students** – By 2024-25, we will have significantly reduced the gap in success in relation to degree outcome between BAME students compared with the rest of the student population. We have already made good progress in closing this gap.
- **Bangladeshi students** – By 2024-25, we will have closed the gap between the proportions of Bangladeshi students who enter highly skilled employment or further study compared with the whole population.

These targets were identified in 2019 and we are proud of the progress we have made in meeting the milestones we set out at the time. We continuously monitor the measures to ensure we are on target to achieve the best outcomes for our students.

## What we are doing to achieve our aims

In accordance with our University Strategy 2030, we have identified several workstreams to fulfil the aims and objectives of our targets.

1. We will maintain our position as the most diverse Russell Group University through the **development of new access programmes and continuing to collaborate with other universities on national programmes** that support students currently under-represented in universities like ours to enter higher education.
2. We will build on our existing relationships with secondary schools and other partnerships to **develop sustained outreach activity, supporting raising attainment where possible, and particularly with our sponsored multi-academy trusts.**
3. We are **committed to closing gaps between different groups of students** in relation to their continuation from year one, and to achieve the best degree outcomes and employment. We will continue our work to make our curriculum and assessments as inclusive as possible.
4. **We will review our student support services and develop them further to ensure that our students find them easier to navigate and access.** We will be creating student hubs that bring in-person and digital services together.
5. **Further develop our transition programme, using feedback from students,** to support first year students to adjust to Queen Mary.
6. **Continue to co-create** our curriculum and support mechanisms with students to ensure the most effective and relevant support is provided.
7. Provide appropriate **financial support.**

## 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 full 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](mailto:su-president@qmul.ac.uk).



To become involved in this work, contact our Access and Participation Lead using the information at the bottom of this summary.

## Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Evaluation is a golden thread through our access and participation work. We are data-led in our approaches, and regularly use, and share, best practice from the sector.

See pages 27 to 29 of the full plan

We monitor the progress of all our access and participation activities through the Access and Participation Plan Monitoring Group, of which students are important members. Our teams work collaboratively across the sector to develop our evidence base and share best practice.

## Contact details for further information



Please contact Jack Fox (Head of Student Recruitment and Widening Participation) at [J.Fox@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:J.Fox@qmul.ac.uk) for further information.