



HARTPURY
UNIVERSITY

Hartpury University Access and Participation Plan Summary 2025-26 to 2028-29

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan sets out provisions that will be meaningful and effective in promoting equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups, as determined by the Office for Students. You can see the full access and participation plan for Hartpury University at

<https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/about-us/governance-leadership/policies-regulation-and-information/#General>

Key points

Hartpury University is a unique organisation, focused on delivering a high-quality applied curriculum to a diverse range of students, integrating our stunning 360-hectare campus throughout the student journey. Our historical and ongoing connections with further education (FE) ensure we continue to be focused on the broadest range of people who can benefit from higher education (HE). Teaching excellence is at the core of our business, recognised by the awards and accolades achieved, including Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) Gold in 2017 and 2023 (gold in all areas). The mix of subjects offered, the variety of industries that we serve, our rural location, and our relatively small size demonstrates the unique context in which we strive to achieve equality of opportunity. At present we support a large proportion of the student population who have reported disability and enrol students from a wide range of entry qualification types. Through the analysis of data available in developing this plan, we identified the following main areas that require improvement:

- Compared to the sector average, we find lower proportions of students from lower socio-economic backgrounds and those receiving free school meals enrol at Hartpury. Evidence suggests that this could be because potential applicants lack confidence in academic skills or are unaware of the opportunities available to support students whilst they study at Hartpury.
- Within the university student population there is a relatively low proportion of UK students from ethnically diverse backgrounds. Evidence suggests this could be due to a lack of awareness about the opportunities for study at Hartpury or a lack of confidence in applying for these students.
- We recognise a decrease in attainment rates for students disclosing cognitive or learning differences, which we believe may be because of a lack of awareness of the available support such that it is not in place in a timely way to support achievement.
- Lower on-course outcomes have been identified for a small proportion of the student population who are both male and who joined from low socio-economic backgrounds. In consultation with students when developing this plan, we recognised a number of opportunities to support student engagement which is associated with successful outcomes.
- A high proportion of our student population enrol with non-traditional entry qualifications, however in some cases this appears to be associated with lower attainment rates. Hartpury recently reviewed and updated all its curriculum and is committed to reviewing the success of this in part by focussing on the outcomes of this student group.

See pages one to five of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

Undergraduate full-time course fees for home students would be the maximum allowed by the UK Government. Part-time course fees are three-quarters of this. Up to date information on tuition fees is available on the Hartpury website. <https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/university/student-life/fees-finance/tuition-fees-and-student-loans/>

The tuition fees that apply to a student, are as stated on the website on the date the contract is formed between student and Hartpury University, and are determined by a student's fee status. The tuition fee for a course may be increased annually to reflect inflation (using the UK RPIX measure) or a change in the maximum tuition fees (where these fees are applicable

Following the UK Government's announcement in relation to raising the tuition fee cap we expect to increase our undergraduate tuition fees within the boundaries set from the start of the 2025/26 academic year. This increase is subject to Parliamentary approval and we will confirm our fees for 2025/26 as soon as possible.

See pages 26 and 44 onwards of the access and participation plan for more information.

Financial help available

Hartpury offers a range of financial support, including non-repayable and repayable options. For more information on current financial support visit the Hartpury website

<https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/university/student-life/fees-finance/bursaries-scholarships-studentships-and-more/>

See page 26 and 45 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

We provide information about fees and financial support via our website and signpost this via our Tuition Fee Policy and marketing literature to applicants/ new students as our most up-to-date source of information.

See page 26 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

In our Plan we have committed to achieving the following targets by 2028-29:

- Increase the proportion of students enrolling with us from IMD Q1&2 backgrounds by 3.8% and who previously were eligible to receive free school meals by 2.7%.
- Increase the proportion of enrolments from students from ethnically diverse backgrounds.
- Improve attainment rates by 14% for students disclosing cognitive or learning difference.
- Increase completion and attainment rates of male students with IMD Q1&2 background to align with Hartpury KPIs.
- Increase attainment rates for students from non-traditional entry routes to align with Hartpury KPIs.

See page 5 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

In order to achieve our targets we are investing in the following projects and initiatives:

- Collaborative outreach activity, including the promotion of our contextual offers, disability student support and financial support.
- Residential summer school on the Hartpury campus, working with local schools.
- Bespoke community group orientated outreach activity.
- Commissioning students to work with our Marketing department to develop authentic marketing materials.
- Reviewing the processes students undertake to disclose disability/ get support in place.

- Provide an inclusive and accessible learning environment.
- Undertaking in-depth analysis of the student experience working with our target student groups.
- A project to help students to identify needs and how to address these.
- Enhanced promotional activity around the financial support available to students.
- Review the impact of the implementation of the Hartpury Academic Framework.
- A project to support students understand the language of Higher Education and Hartpury University.

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

How students can get involved

Students were consulted in the development of our plan, from approving target groups to realising interventions that we are investing in. Over the coming years, we aim to continue to listen to, and work alongside the student body. This also includes projects seeking to develop authentic marketing materials.

See pages 24 to 25 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

For each intervention we have outlined how we aim to measure their relative success. We also created an in-house evaluation framework to provide oversight of the evaluative activity linked to each intervention strategy and the activities within these. The framework includes a reporting schedule detailing when the outcomes of activity for each intervention will be reviewed and details of the accountable individuals for each report, highlighting how the University will receive updates on outcomes of APP interventions at a variety of committees.

See pages 25 to 26 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact Dr Linda Greening, linda.greening@hartpury.ac.uk (01452 702349) for more information.