MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY

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 plan on our access and participation web page

Key points

The University is proud of its long-established reputation in widening participation. We provide a diverse range of access pathways and improve student outcomes through the right choice of course designed to prepare students for the world of work. In line with the revised priorities, we plan to develop our partnerships with schools and other organisations to help raise attainment levels, in particular, for pre-16 students. This will include reviewing existing activities as well as the development of new interventions.

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes for specific groups of students. We aim to ensure that all students can achieve their potential, and are focusing our efforts on activity we believe will help BAME students, male students from poorer neighbourhoods, and those entering university with BTECs complete their studies and achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above. **[please see pages 2-12 of full APP]**
This includes

- work on designing and delivering a more flexible and inclusive curriculum **[please see pages 16-17]**
- tailored academic and study support for students **[please see pages 17-20]**
- working with our students to understand their experiences to identify and remove barriers to learning and success **[please see pages 13-14 and pages 20-21]**
- building confidence and skills for every student **[please see pages 22-24]**

Fees we charge

At the Middlesex University, the maximum fees charged are:
• £9,250 for full-time students
• part-time students £6,935 (calculated and charged at £77 per individual credit).

Course fee details are available on the fees and funding web page.

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes:
[please see page 28]

Student Support Fund: Direct financial support to students who are experiencing hardship. The fund is open to students who are normally resident in the UK, registered for at least 30 credits, eligible for and receiving Student Finance England or NHS funding and experiencing financial difficulties.

Uni Starter Kits: We have redirected the funds within the Community Scholarship scheme to better meet current student needs and are providing personalised “Uni starter kits” to eligible students. These kits provide funding for items such as digital devices, travel and gym subscriptions as part of our transition programme.

Free printing*:* recognising additional costs associated with study can be financially challenging we are endeavouring to make as many processes paper-free but provide free printing for academic purposes for all students

Free eTextbooks: in addition to our library hard copy and electronic collections we provide every student on a taught course with the core book for that module as an eTextbook. This ensures equal access to key resources for students who may not be able to purchase copies themselves.

Information for students

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, through our website and by email communications.
Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available through our student portal, internal communications campaigns and emails.
For the most up-to-date information, visit the scholarships and bursaries page.

[please see pages 32-33]

What we are aiming to achieve

Objective 1: To eliminate the non-continuation gap between Asian/White students and those of Black/mixed/Other ethnicities by 2028-2029.

Objective 2: To eliminate the non-continuation gap between low IMD female and male students by 2028-2029.

Objective 3: To eliminate the non-continuation gap between students entering University with A Levels and those with BTECs by 2028-2029.

Objective 4: To eliminate the good honours attainment gap between students entering University with A Levels and those with BTECs by 2030-2031.

Objective 5: To eliminate the good honours attainment gap between students from IMD Q1 and those from IMD Q2-5 by 2030-31.

Objective 6: To eliminate the good honours attainment gap between white and BAME students by 2030-31.

[please see pages 12-13]

What we are doing to achieve our aims

We have identified several programmes of activity to support achievement of our aims and targets.

[please see pages 13-27]

1. Flexible and inclusive curriculum – designing a curriculum that better suits the learning needs of BTEC students, that has more practice-based elements, that allows students to study at their own pace inside and outside the classroom and has fairer assessment to suit all students **[please see pages 16-17]**

2. Provide tailored academic and study support for students through dedicated support teams working together, using data to identify students at risk of not succeeding, and implementing a revised approach to personal tutors and academic advisors **[please see pages 18-19]**
3. Working with our students to understand their experiences to identify and remove barriers to learning and success by conducting joint research with the Students' Union and using our student representation and voice schemes to hear how we can improve **[please see pages 13-14, 20-21, 29]**
4. Building confidence and skills for every student by embedding skills development in the curriculum, offering a range of co-curricular opportunities and mentoring and employing and training our students to support each other through peer support schemes **[please see pages 22-23]**
5. Extending our programme of work and partnerships with schools – this supports more pupils from underrepresented groups to attain good grades and progress to study for a higher education qualification including degree apprenticeships **[please see pages 26-27]**

How students can get involved

We worked with the Students' Union to gather student input into the design of our access and participation plan and student representatives are actively involved in our university learning, teaching and student experience committees and groups. Together we review progress on our targets and the wider range of activity we undertake each year. Our students co-lead some of our work, for example on the inclusive curriculum and on student surveys.

Students are able to provide feedback on any aspect of their university experience, including the activity in this plan, through the Students' Union.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved [please see pages 29-31]

Our programmes of activity are informed by the best available evidence about what works for students.

Our work is set out in annual strategic action frameworks and unit plans, with priorities designed jointly with students. Key committees consider reports on progress incorporating data and student feedback. We make use of a range of approaches and resources to evaluate our work and specifically monitor impact on our target groups, to ensure we are addressing our aims. Where appropriate, we will adjust our interventions in the best interests of our students.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Edel Mahony, Academic Registrar E.Mahony@mdx.ac.uk for further information