

University of Sussex

Summary of 2025/26 to 2028/29 Access and Participation Plan

What is an Access and Participation Plan?

An Access and Participation Plan (APP) sets out measures to promote equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups. You can see the full University of Sussex plan

Hardship fund: We provide financial assistance to students who are experiencing financial difficulties while studying at Sussex. This does not need to be paid back and payments are based on an assessment of the student's financial situation.

Information for students

We display accessible information to all potential and current students on fees and funding in our prospectus, both physical and online. This includes information on tuition fees, direct financial support, living and accommodation costs, student loans and budgeting. Information is also provided to students at open days and applicant visit days.

What we are aiming to achieve

We work continuously with both external and internal data to identify where there are risks to equality of opportunity for students at Sussex, drawing upon the OfS Equality of Opportunity Risk Register to support this. From this work, the key areas of focus within our Plan are:

1. Increasing access to higher education for students who have been eligible for free school meals (**FSM**) at school, with the proportion joining Sussex up by at least 5% from 12.2%.
2. Increasing access to higher education generally for students within the Sussex region who have been eligible for free school meals (**FSM**) while at school through a collaborative objective, alongside other Sussex HE providers, by at least 5% from 16.9% in East Sussex, 18.1% in West Sussex, and 21.2% in Brighton and Hove.
3. Increasing access to higher education at the University of Sussex for students from gypsy, Roma, traveller, showmen, boater (**GRTSB**) backgrounds and those with **experience of care**.
4. Reducing the gap between students with a declared **mental health condition**, and those with no disability, in continuing from their first to second year of study to no more than 5%;
5. Reducing the gap between **mature** and non-mature students in continuing from their first to second year of study to no more than 5%;

encourages participation in extra-