

The Oldham College - 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 The Oldham College at www.uco.oldham.ac.uk/about-us/institutional-documents/.

Key points

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving access to our higher education courses and better outcomes for specific groups of students.

See pages 1 to 11 of the full plan

- Data shows that, compared nationally to students accessing higher education, the following groups of students are less likely to access higher education at The Oldham College:
 - Young male students from low-income backgrounds
 - Young ethnic minority students from low-income backgrounds
 - Care-leavers and other under-represented groups in higher education
- Data shows that, compared to their peers at The Oldham College, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students. The following groups of students are less likely to achieve an outcome of a 'good' degree award of 2:1 or above:
 - Mature students (21 years or older when starting their course)
 - Ethnic minority students

Fees we charge

At The Oldham College, the maximum fees charged are:

- £7,500 for full-time students
- £3,750 for part-time students.

➡ You can see a full list of fees for courses at The Oldham College at <https://www.uco.oldham.ac.uk/about-us/institutional-documents/>

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:

See page 20 of the full plan

- A **bursary** to provide new first year undergraduate students from low-income backgrounds with a suitable IT device to support their studies.
- A **hardship fund** to support students experiencing unforeseen financial difficulty, which may cause serious disruption to their ability to continue to engage in their studies.

Information for students

- Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, by email communications, and by post.
- 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, see our university website - <https://www.uco.oldham.ac.uk/apply/fees-and-finance/>.

What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall aim is to support students to access higher education. We also want to create an environment where students at The Oldham College can achieve their full potential.

See pages 11 to 21, and 26 of the full plan

Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

- **Support attainment at school and access to higher education** – We are working with schools to raise pupil attainment and expectations to study for a higher education qualification. During 2022-23, we will identify other local schools from where fewer pupils access higher education. We will develop a programme of work to start in 2023-24.
- **Diversifying our provision** – We will review our current Higher Nationals offer during 2022-23. We would like to extend these and other opportunities such as short courses and professional qualifications, and focus on a flexible delivery model which will include a part time offer of full course qualification and certification of standalone modules.
- **Improving the number of students who stay in education** - By 2024-25 we will improve the continuation rate (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course) to 90% across all years and courses.
- **Improving our attainment** - By 2024-25 we will improve the attainment rate (the proportion of students who achieve the qualification they set out to gain) to 85% across all courses.
- **Providing good outcomes** – We will build on existing career provision to include a range of opportunities for individuals and groups. By 2024-25 we will improve,
 - the numbers of students progressing into higher paid/graduate level.
 - the numbers of students progressing into postgraduate further study.
- **Students from low participation neighbourhoods and low-income backgrounds** – By 2024-25, we will improve:
 - the number of young male students accessing higher education at The Oldham College from low-income backgrounds by 8%.
 - the number of young ethnic minority students accessing higher education at The Oldham College from low-income backgrounds by 9%.
- **Mature students** – By 2024-25, we will increase the number of Mature students (aged over 21 years) gaining a 'good' degree outcome of 2:1 or above by 10%.
- **Ethnic minority students** – By 2024-25, we will increase the number of ethnic minority students (aged over 21 years) gaining a 'good' degree outcome of 2:1 or above by 4%.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

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

See pages 21 to 25, and 26 of the full plan

1. Extend our **programme of work with schools** – this supports more pupils from underrepresented groups to attain good grades and progress to study for a higher education qualification.
2. Take a targeted approach to **learning and teaching** – this focuses on our target groups and is informed by themes noted in our Staff-Student Panel meetings.
3. Establish and embed **part-time modes of learning** to give students a choice in how they learn and to meet the needs of the local community.
4. Enhance **support for study** throughout the institution so all students can access tailored support, whether this be academic, mental health and wellbeing, or careers advice and guidance.
5. **Engage students** in their own development of personal, social and professional skills, so they are ready for their next steps in either employment or further study.
6. Offer **financial support**, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England.

How students can get involved

We worked with our Student Representatives to gather student input into the design of our access and participation plan. Students are represented on our Committees and Groups which are responsible for overseeing implementation of the plan.

See pages 20 to 21 of the full plan



To provide feedback, students can contact our [Student Experience & Quality Co-Ordinator](#). To become involved in this work, contact our [Access and Participation Lead](#).

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our programmes of activity are informed by the best available evidence about what works for students. We will collect data and feedback to evaluate:

See pages 21 to 25 of the full plan

- our programme design
- the impact of the programme of activity we are doing to achieve our aims
- the six actions outlined above
- the impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and an inclusive environment.

The Access and Participation Plan Steering Group will monitor and report on these processes to the Quality Improvement Committee and the Governors Curriculum and Quality Committee. The Access and Participation Plan Steering Group will oversee implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against yearly milestones in our access and participation plan. We will 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.

We will publish evidence from our evaluations on our website by January 2024.

Contact details for further information



You can contact Shelley Taylor at shelley.taylor@oldham.ac.uk for further information.