

The Oldham College

Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation 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 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 equality of opportunity at each stage of the student lifecycle, improving access to Higher Education for underrepresented groups, and maximising positive and transformative outcomes for our students. Following a comprehensive assessment of the information available, our focus will be to improve:

- Access to Higher Education for students who are care experienced and/or those who were previously eligible for free school meals,
- The success of young students (under 21 at the time of enrolment) and/or those who were previously eligible for free school meals,
- The attainment of students with a reported disability,
- Progression to a positive outcome for students who choose to study an 'other undergraduate' course, compared to a first degree, and/or those who were previously eligible for free school meals.

See pages 1-25 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

At the Oldham College, the maximum fees charged are:

- £8,000 for full-time students
- £6,000 for part-time students

You can see a full list of fees for courses at The Oldham College at:

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:

- A bursary to provide new first year undergraduate students from low-income backgrounds with a £500 bursary,

- A Cost of Living Support 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. Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

- Increase the proportion of students that declare care leaver or care experienced in each intake to rise above the pre-pandemic level of 3% by 2029;
- Increase the proportion of students previously eligible for Free School meals accessing Higher Education to pre-pandemic levels of 40%, or above, by 2029;
- Improve the success of young students through raising continuation incrementally to reach 86% by 2029;
- Improve the success of young students through raising completion incrementally to reach 83% by 2028;
- Improve the success of students previously eligible for Free School meals through raising completion incrementally to reach 85% by 2029;
- Improve the success of students previously eligible for Free School meals through raising attainment incrementally to reach 65% by 2029;
- Improve the success of students with a reported disability through raising attainment incrementally to reach 75% by 2029;
- Close the positive progression gap of students who studied an 'other undergraduate course', compared to a 'first-degree', by 10 percentage points, by 2029;
- Close the progression gap of students who were previously eligible for free school meals, compared with their peers, by 10 percentage points, by 2029.

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

Over the course of the plan (2025-2029) we will implement the following to address the key risks to equality of opportunity identified:

- Deliver aspiration raising activities and sessions at local schools and colleges;

- Promote financial support available for students, particularly those from low income households;
- Development of Summer School offer with bespoke sessions and short courses;
- Hosting of events in partnership with Community initiatives;
- Implementation of the Universities UK: Stepchange Self-Assessment Tool to gain a robust understanding of mental health support across the institution, through support services, teaching, learning, assessment and including working with NHS services;
- Delivery of resilience sessions within the HE tutorial scheme and through small group sessions, along with development of resilience resources available to students;
- Increase the number of trauma informed staff, able to offer support to students;
- Encourage the disclosure of disability at application stage to ensure the correct support is given, and separating Disability and Mental Health reporting;
- Embedding of Graduate Attributes through the curriculum and the HE tutorial scheme to ensure that students develop workplace standard skills and that assessments are designed to prepare students for real world work experiences;

See pages 6-26 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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.

To provide feedback, students can contact our [Student Experience & Quality Co-Ordinator](#).

To become involved in this work, contact our [Access and Participation Lead](#).

See pages 27-28 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

The College Access and Participation Plan Working Group (APWG) will monitor and report on these processes to the Curriculum Quality and Standards Committee and the Governors Curriculum and Quality Committee. The APWG 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 use TASO's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (MEF) to measure and determine the impact of each intervention.

See page 28 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact the [Access and Participation Lead](#) for more information.