**University of Northampton**

**Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 Access and Participation Plan**

Our Access and Participation Plan (APP) is a document we submit to the Office for Students (OfS) as a **condition of our registration**. It outlines our **whole provider approach** to **equality of opportunity** at the different stages of the student lifecycle including, Access, Continuation, Award and Progression. 2025/26 marks a new era for APPs where we are taking a **risk-based approach** to equality of opportunity; designing fully-costed intervention strategies to tackle our risks; **evaluating** our work and disseminating our findings on what works (and what doesn’t) with the sector.

**Our APP target cohorts are:**

* Full-time
* Home
* Undergraduate students

AND

* A student from an area of high socio-economic deprivation (measured using IMD Q1/2 postcodes)
* Global Ethnic Majority (GEM) students
* Male students
* A student with a declared disability
* A care leaver (previously named Looked after Child)
* A student who is estranged from their family or classed as independent.

**Our current demographics are:**

* 40% from Global Ethnic Majority (GEM) backgrounds (sector average 34.8%)
* 49% from IMD Quintiles 1/2 (sector average 44%)
* 66% female (sector average 57%)
* 13% with a declared disability (sector average 17%)
* 38% have a parent with a higher education qualification (sector average of 50%)
* 40% commute more than 7km to Waterside campus
* Most students enter with a mix of level 3 qualifications including A Levels and BTECs

We have specific objectives within our APP that address gaps in the student lifecycle between the highlighted groups above and the rest of the student population.

**Our APP objectives are:**See pages 10-11 of the full Access and Participation Plan for more information.

Access

* **Objective 1:** Increase and maintain the percentage of Asian students at UON.
* **Objective 2:** Monitor the level of GEM (Global Ethnic Majority) access at UON and maintain it at over 25%.
* **Objective 3:** Increase the proportion of students from socio-economically deprived backgrounds measured using IMD Q1/2 postcodes.
* **Objective 4:** Reduce the access gap between male (34.2%) and female (65.8%) students.

Continuation

* **Objective 5:** Reduce the GEM (65.2%):White (71.5%) continuation gap
* **Objective 6:** Monitor the IMD Q1/Q2 (59.9%) and IMD 3/4/5 (77.1%) continuation gap
* **Objective 7:** Reduce the male (55.8%) and female (76.2%) continuation gap
* **Objective 8:** 90% continuation (82.6% 4YA) at UON by 2028/29.

Award

* **Objective 9:** Reduce the White (78.3%) and GEM (53.4%) award gap (25pp).
* **Objective 10:** Monitor the IMD Q1/Q2 (58.9%) and IMD 3/4/5 (73.4%) award gap (14.5pp).

Progression

* **Objective 11:** Increase outcomes for Asian students (65.8%) to align with the rest of the GEM cohort (71.9%).

All stages

* **Objective 12:** Reduce barriers to the declaration of disabilities at all stages of the student lifecycle.
 **Fees we charge**You can see a [full list of fees](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/fee-information-summary-2025-2026.pdf) for courses at University of Northampton on our website.

The maximum fees charged for the academic year 2025/26 are:
- **£9,535** for full-time students
- **£7,145** for part-time students

**Financial help available**See pages 37-38 of the full Access and Participation Plan for more information.

We offer financial support to students identified within our APP at UON. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. We ensure our partner institutions provide financial support that is bespoke to the needs of the students in that location. If you are studying with a partner, please visit our [webpage](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/about-us/governance-and-management/equality-and-access-unit/access-and-participation-plans/) for specific details of their offer.

**Information for students**
See pages 37-38 of the full Access and Participation Plan for more information.

**Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support at events, such as our [open days and discovery days](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/about-us/contact-us/open-days/), through our website and email communications.

**Current students** receive information about fees and the financial support available through the [Student Hub](https://mynorthamptonac.sharepoint.com/sites/student), internal campaigns and emails.

**What we are doing to address our risks to equality of opportunity**See pages 12 –33 of the full Access and Participation Plan for more information.

**Knowledge and Skills -** Collaborate with local schools to improve GCSE outcomes.

**Information and Guidance** – Support local pupils to make informed decisions about their pathway through higher education.

**Perceptions of Higher Education** – Enable local pupils to access successful HE role models.

**Academic Support –** Developing processes and support structures that promote positive outcomes.

**Personal Support** – A financial support package and a new co-created Student Experience Strategy.

**Mental Health** – Achieve the Mental Health Charter mark and embed the learnings across UON.

**Data and Systems** – Make the most of data to ensure timely and relevant support.

**How students can get involved**See pages 34 of the full Access and Participation Plan for more information.

1. Become a paid Student Equality Consultant, specifically focussed on developing our APP.
2. Become a paid Student Ambassador and inspire local pupils.
3. Become a Student Rep to enhance the university experience for all your friends.

**Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved**See pages 35-36 of the access and participation plan for more information.

We used the best available evidence on what works to improve equality of opportunity for students to select the activities listed in our plan. Evaluation is embedded in all our activities so we will better understand what has worked and where improvements can be made in the best interests of our students. This is guided by our Theory of Change and our evaluation findings will be shared with our APP Steering Group and the Higher Education Evaluation Library (HEEL).

**Contact details for further information**

Please contact Tim Dobson, Head of Access and Participation by email (Tim.Dobson@Northampton.ac.uk) for more information.

**For more on the 2026/26 – 2028/29 Access and Participation Plan:**

[View a condensed version on our website.](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/about-us/governance-and-management/equality-and-access-unit/access-and-participation-plans/)

[View the complete version approved by the OfS.](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/university-of-northampton-app-2025-26.pdf)

[Download a glossary of key terms in this document.](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/glossary-of-terms-throughout-our-app.docx)