

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLANS

How do we plan, monitor and evaluate our support for students from underrepresented groups at the University of Leeds?

[Access and Participation Plans](#) (APP), previously known as Access Agreements, set out how an institution will seek to improve equal opportunities for underrepresented groups.

Under the new [Office for Students](#) (OfS) approach, we will be completing and submitting our first five-year APP in May 2019, covering the academic years 2020-21 through to 2024-25.

OfS will assess plans based on the risk of institutions breaching [condition of registration A1](#) and will carefully monitor progress each year. Where a risk of breach is perceived, the duration of a plan may be shortened to three years.

Previously, plans were in place for one academic year with a new plan submitted annually, however the OfS are asking institutions to take a more strategic approach. This includes clear, long-term ambitions for achieving significant reductions in gaps in access, success and progression over the next five years.

The OfS also have sector targets for reducing gaps in access and attainment and have recommended targets to us based on their own strategic ambitions for access and participation.

Who are the underrepresented groups?

The term 'underrepresented groups' includes all groups of potential or current students where the OfS can identify gaps in equality of opportunity in different parts of the student lifecycle.

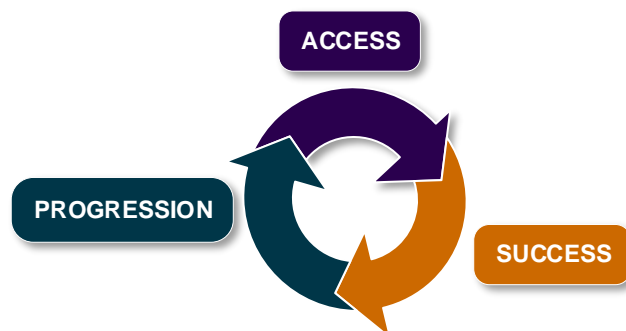
For APPs the OfS considers underrepresented groups to include students with the following characteristics:

- Students from areas of lower HE participation, lower household income and/or lower socioeconomic status groups
- Some black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) students
- Mature students
- Disabled students (those in receipt of disabled students allowance (DSA) and those who have declared a disability but are not in receipt of DSA)
- Care leavers.

Monitoring and evaluating plans at Leeds

Monitoring and evaluation is a key component of our APP work. This is to ensure the work we are doing is effective, has a positive impact and also provides value for money. As part of this, the Educational Engagement team are implementing a new Evaluation Model with a Strategy for Impact and Evaluation. The use of data and analysis is strongly encouraged by OfS and they have launched an [Access and Participation Dataset](#) to inform progress monitoring and target setting.

Annually we will complete an impact report and action plan that will be submitted OfS and published on our website. Monitoring itself will be continuous throughout the year, taking a whole institution, data-driven, risk-based approach.



All universities and providers of higher education who wish to charge the higher tuition fee level must have an Access and Participation Plan in place and published on their website.



Plans must be approved by the Director for Fair Access and Participation.



We must complete and submit to OfS an Impact Report annually, as part of the monitoring of our plan.



Our students and University Council are involved in the monitoring process.



Continuous improvement must be evidenced by institutions.



Use of high-quality, timely analytics is paramount for effective monitoring and evaluating impacts.

Related links:

[Office for Students](#)

[OfS: Access and Participation dataset](#)

[OfS: Find an APP](#)

[Plus Programme](#)

[Strategy & Planning intranet](#)

[Student Education Service](#)

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