

## University College Birmingham

### Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 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 University College Birmingham [here](#).

#### Key points

Our access and participation plan focuses on improving outcomes for specific groups of students. Data shows that, compared to their peers at University College Birmingham, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students. For example:

- Male students from a variety of ethnic backgrounds (White, Black & Black British Caribbean, Black & Black British African or Asian & Asian British Pakistani) are less likely to continue from the first to second year of their studies.
- Male students from the lowest socio-economic backgrounds are less likely to complete their programme of study.
- Black and minority ethnic males and black female students are less likely to be awarded an upper second class or first-class honours degree.
- Those who received free school meals are less likely to secure graduate level jobs or progress to postgraduate study after completion of their undergraduate studies.

#### Fees we charge

At University College Birmingham, the maximum fees charged for UK students on regulated courses from September 2025 are:

- £9,535 for full-time students, or £11,440 for students on the accelerated degree.
- £7,145 for part-time students.

You can see a full list of fees for courses at University College Birmingham [here](#).

#### 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:

- An annual Kick-Start award of £300 for all eligible students, with an extra £500 if the student's household income is below £25,000. This can be spent on books, equipment, and campus services such as food.
- A laptop or tablet for students studying specific courses. Access Funds to help with the cost of diagnostic tests to support an application for the Disabled Students Allowance or with the contribution fee towards obtaining equipment from the DSA.
- A hardship fund to support students who experience financial hardship during their time at university.

- A rent contribution of £275, a starter pack for halls of residence, and a £200 cash payment in the second semester for care leavers.

Eligibility details for all of these forms of financial support are [on our website](#).

### **Information for students**

Potential new students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, and by email communications.

Current students receive information about fees and financial support through the student portal, emails, and Canvas notifications. For the most up-to-date information, see [our university website](#).

### **Whole provider approach**

The mission of UCB is to ‘promote and provide the opportunity for participation in the learning process by those with the ambition and commitment to succeed and to maintain a learning community that meets the diverse needs of our students, the economy and society at large’. It is an expectation that all staff and stakeholders commit to this vision and that it permeates our approach to everything we do. This is reflected in UCB’s commitment to both the University Mental Health Charter and the Disabled Students’ Commitment.

A whole provider approach steered by cross-University teams will be taken to the implementation and evaluation of the Access and Participation Plan. These cross-University teams will include not only representatives from our academic and professional services areas, but also representatives of our student body.

### **What we are aiming to achieve**

Our overall aim is to support students to access, and succeed in, higher education. We also want to create an environment where students at University College Birmingham can achieve their full potential.

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

#### *Support attainment at school and access to higher education.*

- We are working with local schools to establish the most effective ways for us to do this. Much of this work will be in partnership with other local universities providing collaborative outreach funded by the Aimhigher programme, but also through our support for the establishment of an Into University provision in the East of Birmingham in partnership with the University of Warwick from 2024-25.
- We aim to increase the proportion of disabled students studying on our programmes by 4% by 2030 by working in partnership with Into University, Aimhigher West Midlands and awareness raising campaigns for staff and students.

#### *Support students to continue in their studies.*

- We aim to increase continuation rates for “Males – White, Black & Black British Caribbean, Black & Black British African and Asian & Asian British Pakistani” to 90.3% by 2030/1 through interventions to ensure inclusive and authentic curricula and

assessments, the provision of 1:1 academic skills development support and targeting financial, mental health and engagement support towards these groups.

*Support students to complete their studies*

- We aim to increase completion rates for “Males from lower IMD1&2 quintiles” by 5% to 82.6% by 2030/1 by targeting curriculum, assessment, academic skills development and financial, mental health and engagement support towards these groups.

*Support students to attain ‘good’ degrees (upper second and first-class awards)*

- We aim to increase attainment rates for “BAME Male & Black Female graduates” to 76.8% by 2030/1 through the interventions outlined above, plus intervention activities with classification borderline students at Level 5 (Foundation Degree) and Level 6 (Bachelor’s Degree students).

*Increase progression for students into graduate level jobs or postgraduate study.*

- We aim to increase progression outcomes of those eligible for free school meals to 65% by 2030 by targeted employability support, including the Warwick/ UCB Award and incentives to progress to postgraduate study.

**Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved**

UCB is building a comprehensive evaluation plan for the APP, with individual interventions evaluated in terms of both process and outcomes. We use the best available data and feedback to evaluate:

- The design of our courses.
- The immediate impact of the specific activity we do to achieve our aims, such as transition events and targeted support for some underrepresented groups.
- The long term impact of actions outlined above using Theory of Change methodologies.
- What impact we have had on creating an inclusive environment where all our students can succeed.

Our Access, Participation and Equal Opportunities Committee will monitor the progress of our Access and Participation plan and oversee the implementation of the actions within the plan to ensure we are making progress. The Committee will report on this to the Student Services and Standards Committee. Student representatives are on these committees.

We will continue monitoring the impact on our target groups to ensure we are to achieve 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 2029**.

**Contact details for further information**

You can contact Helen Poole on [hpoole@ucb.ac.uk](mailto:hpoole@ucb.ac.uk) for further information.