


University of Oxford: Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 Access and Participation Plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan 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 University of Oxford at <https://academic.admin.ox.ac.uk/app>.

Key points

See page 1 of the full plan

Oxford University offers intellectually stretching degree courses, equipping our graduates with the knowledge and skills to enable them to achieve their full potential and make outstanding contributions to society. Nearly all the students we admit complete their degrees and a very high proportion immediately go on to further study or graduate-level jobs.

While our admissions criteria for undergraduate study are demanding, we are committed to **making Oxford accessible and attractive** to students with high academic potential from all backgrounds. We aim to address risks to equality of opportunity for students from disadvantaged backgrounds by **supporting attainment at school** and **improving opportunities for admission**.

Through our tutorial model of teaching, the University provides a rigorous and personalised undergraduate education. We aim to foster **an inclusive environment** and provide **personal, financial and academic support** to enable all students to demonstrate their full academic ability.


Fees we charge

The course fee for full-time Home undergraduate students who started in or after 2016 is £9,250 in the academic year 2025-26, according to the current government fee cap in place.

The course fee for students undertaking a compulsory year abroad, whether studying or working abroad, is £1,385 (15% of the full course fee, according to the current government fee cap in place).

Fees for full-time Home undergraduates are set at the maximum level permitted by the government and any annual increases are subject to government fee caps.¹ For other categories of students, where courses continue for more than one year, fees usually increase annually and will not exceed whichever is higher from 6% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Fees for part-time Home undergraduates are listed on individual course pages at www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/undergraduate-award-courses and will not exceed the government fee cap in place.

 You can find information on fees for full time courses at the University of Oxford at www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/fees, including links to information on changes to fees in subsequent years of a student's course.

¹ As at 10 September 2024 this cap has not been confirmed for the academic year 2025-26.

Financial help available

See pages 26-8
of the full plan

Oxford offers generous financial support to first-degree UK students from lower-income households. The support includes:

- A non-repayable **annual bursary** worth up to £6,090 a year depending on household income. Around 20% of UK undergraduate students at Oxford currently receive a bursary.
- **Extra support** of up to £3,000 a year for UK students with **additional needs** such as those who are care experienced or studying without family support.
- A **travel supplement** for UK bursary holders of up to £550 if the student's home is over 80 miles from Oxford.
- **Additional financial support** to help UK students on course depending on their particular circumstances, including those with caring responsibilities. Colleges and departments also provide financial assistance, such as support funds and book/travel grants.



You can find more information on financial help available at ox.ac.uk/funding.

Information for students

See page 41 of
the full plan

- **Prospective students** can find information on fees and financial support on our website, through our access programmes, and at outreach events such as open days. We produce information specifically aimed at parents and carers, estranged and care-experienced students, mature students and disabled students.
- **Offer holders** receive information on fees and support through e-newsletters to prepare them for their arrival, including a dedicated guide to fees and funding support at Oxford.
- **Current students** receive information on our fees and funding website as well as a fortnightly news bulletin.

For the most up-to-date information, see www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding for current students, and www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/fees-and-funding for prospective students.

What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 2-4
of the full plan

Our overall aims are to attract applications from all individuals with the potential to study at Oxford; to inform them fully about their choices and life here; to admit those with the highest potential; to educate them in a world-class teaching system; and to support them while at Oxford and in their progression to graduate study or employment.

We have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

- **Admit more students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds**
 - increase the proportion of entrants from IMD quintiles 1 and 2 to 23.0% by 2028 (IMD stands for Index of Multiple Deprivation, a measure of relative deprivation assigned to geographical areas. Q1 and Q2 are the most deprived areas)
 - increase the proportion of entrants to Oxford with free school meal (FSM) eligibility to 10.7% by 2028
- **Support students with certain characteristics to achieve good degree outcomes (ie classifications of 2:1 or higher)**
 - increase the proportion of students with eligibility for free school meals awarded good degrees to 94% by 2028/29
 - increase the proportion of disabled students awarded good degrees to 94% by 2028/29
 - increase the proportion of Black students awarded good degrees to 94% by 2028/29

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

See pages 5-38
of the full plan

Programmes of activity to support our aims and targets will:

1. extend our collaborations with schools and other organisations to support raising pre-16 attainment with initiatives such as [BeUNIQ](#), [Explore Home of Big Questions](#) and [Explore Teach](#);
2. encourage and support post-16 students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds to make competitive applications to Oxford, with initiatives like our [UNIQ](#) residential programme, and [Target Oxbridge](#) for students with Black African and Caribbean heritage;
3. improve access to transition and skills support including expanding our [Opportunity Oxford](#) bridging programme and [Astrophoria](#) foundation year;
4. provide extensive [financial support](#);
5. develop more inclusive [teaching and assessment practices](#);
6. deliver joined-up commitments and [services for disabled students](#);
7. work in partnership with students to inform our policy and practice.

How students can get involved

See pages 40-1
of the full plan

We have worked with students to develop the access and participation plan at all stages: in the setting of targets, design of our priority access and on-course support programmes, and monitoring their progress and effectiveness.

We are committed to continuing our work with students to better understand how they experience and participate in education at Oxford, and to identify barriers to engagement. We are also committed to working with students to co-create interventions to address the risks to their equality of opportunity.



To provide feedback, students can [contact their student union representative](#).
To get involved in access/outreach work email ambassadors@admin.ox.ac.uk.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

See pages 4-38
and page 41 of
the full plan

Our programmes of activity are informed by the best available evidence about what works for students. Our intervention strategies are grounded in research, and evaluation is built in from the beginning of each activity, ensuring that each one is as effective as possible in addressing risks to equality of opportunity. Evaluations will be shared both internally and externally as appropriate.

We have dedicated teams focusing on evaluation and research, drawing expertise from various departments. Our approaches to designing and evaluating evidence-based interventions for access have been recognised nationally. For example, our evidence-based approach to raising attainment in schools has been shared by the Office for Students as an example of effective practice.

Evaluations of transition and on-course support interventions have focussed on working with students to understand their experiences, alongside engagement with the latest relevant academic research. Plans to enhance the University's in-house evaluation capacities have been informed by an initial survey of current projects and exploration of an Evaluation Self-Assessment tool from the Office for Students. The access and participation plan includes commitments to ensure we continue our progress in the vital area of evaluation.

Contact details for further information



You can contact edccomms@admin.ox.ac.uk for further information about access and participation matters.