


# University of Oxford: Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 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 students from all backgrounds to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

 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 2 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 go on immediately to graduate-level jobs, with no measurable differences between students from different backgrounds.

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 **support attainment at schools** and **improve the opportunities for admission** for those from disadvantaged backgrounds who may currently fail to receive an offer, or who, because of prior academic achievement, are not able to make competitive applications.

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


## Fees we charge

See pages 28 and 29 of the full plan

At the University of Oxford, the course fee for full-time Home undergraduate students who started in or after 2016 is £9,250 in academic year 2022-23.

The course fee for those students undertaking a compulsory year abroad, whether studying or working abroad, is £1,385 (15% of the full course fee). The maximum annual course fee charged to a Home student studying part-time is £4,625.

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. For other categories of students, where courses continue for more than one year, fees usually increase by no more than 4% a year.

 You can find information on courses fees at the University of Oxford at [ox.ac.uk/ugfeestatus](https://ox.ac.uk/ugfeestatus)

## Financial help available

See pages 24 and 25 of the full plan

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

- A non-repayable **annual bursary** worth up to £5,500 a year depending on household income. Around one in four UK undergraduate students at Oxford currently receives a bursary.
- To help with the **rising cost of living**, bursary levels will increase by up to £500 in 2022-23.
- **Extra support** of up to £3,000 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 £500 if the student's home is over 80 miles from Oxford.
- **Additional financial support** up to £750 a year to help UK students on course depending on their particular circumstances. Colleges and departments also provide financial assistance, e.g. hardship funds and book grants.



You can find more information on financial help available at [ox.ac.uk/funding](https://ox.ac.uk/funding)

### Information for students about financial support

See pages 28 and 29 of the full plan

- **Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, as well as in the digital undergraduate prospectus and via the university website. We produce brochures containing fees and funding information specifically aimed at parents and carers, mature students, international students and disabled students.
- **Offer holders** receive information on fees and financial support via an electronic guide and monthly newsletter.
- **Current students** receive information via a fees and funding website as well as a fortnightly news bulletin.

For the most up-to-date information, see our [university website](https://www.ox.ac.uk).

### What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 11 to 15 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 university life at Oxford; 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:

- **Support attainment at school and widen access to higher education**
  - We are working with schools to raise pupil attainment and readiness to study for a university qualification. In particular, our work encourages students to explore beyond the school syllabus and to address large, open questions.
- **Improve admission rates to Oxford**
  - By 2024-25, we will reduce the ratio between students admitted from the most and the least advantaged regions of the UK to 3:1, and the ratio between students admitted from areas of the UK with the highest and the lowest rates of progression to university to 8:1.
  - By 2023-24, we will eliminate the gap in offer rates for applicants of Asian heritage.
- **Improve the attainment rates for good degree outcomes at Oxford**
  - By 2024-25, we will halve the gap in attainment rates for good degree outcomes (2:1 and above) to 6% for black students, and eliminate the gap for disabled students.

### What we are doing to achieve our aims

See pages 16 to 25 of the full plan

We have identified programmes of activity to support achievement of our aims and targets. These include:

1. Expand our [bridging programme](#) – this helps to prepare students from under-represented backgrounds for study at Oxford.
2. Introduce our [foundation year programme](#) - this supports students who have had severe personal disadvantage or disrupted education. The one-year programme will help to bring students' academic achievement to the level required to start an undergraduate degree at Oxford.

3. Offer financial support for UK undergraduate students, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students.
4. Expand our [residential summer school](#) – this currently offers 1350 students a year from disadvantaged backgrounds an opportunity to experience life at Oxford and to explore the subjects that interest them.
5. Our colleges work with [schools in different UK regions](#) to help pupils enter higher education and to demystify Oxford.
6. Work with [external partners](#) to help black and mixed race students from disadvantaged backgrounds to gain places to study at Oxford or Cambridge
7. Strengthen the admissions process to ensure all applicants are treated fairly and admissions decisions take full account of each applicant's school background and circumstances.
8. Create a [new academic development centre](#) to improve teaching and assessment at Oxford.
9. Publish guidance on inclusive teaching for staff who teach, including guidance on supporting disabled students.
10. Use digital education to support inclusive teaching and development of [reading and writing skills](#)
11. Improve ways for offer holders and current students to access [academic support](#) available across the University
12. Expand advice and guidance on [study skills and training](#)

### How students can get involved

We have worked with student representatives to develop the Access and participation Plan at all stages: in the setting of targets, design of major access and on-course support programmes, and monitoring of their progress and effectiveness.

See pages 25 and 26 of the full plan



To provide feedback, students can [contact their student union representative](#).  
To become involved in this work, contact our Outreach team via [\(ambassadors@admin.ox.ac.uk\)](mailto:ambassadors@admin.ox.ac.uk)

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

Our programmes of activity are informed by the best available evidence about what works for students.

See pages 26 to 28 of the full plan

An expert group of academic and professional staff monitors the impact of the access programmes and reports to the University Education Committee which oversees implementation of actions to ensure progress against yearly milestones in our access and participation plan.

The University publishes a detailed breakdown of admissions data each year (see [2022 report](#)). The bridging programme and the foundation year are monitored by expert working groups and subject to independent external review.

A team of experts provides guidance on the design of outreach activities, as well as on monitoring and evaluation, data analysis and reporting. The team delivers training sessions and workshops for outreach staff across the University, and reviews of educational research.

An expert panel monitors the impact of the programmes to strengthen on-course support for new and continuing students, and reports to the University Education Committee which oversees progress against yearly milestones in our access and participation plan.

### Contact details for further information



You can contact [uaopolicy@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:uaopolicy@admin.ox.ac.uk) for further information about access and participation matters.