

University of Roehampton

Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 Access and Participation Plan (APP)

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 to graduate employment from higher education.

Underrepresented is the term used to refer to students who in the past have not accessed higher education in high numbers including mature students, disabled students, care leavers, Black, Asian and minority ethnic students, students from low-income families and those from areas where fewer people go on to higher education

Roehampton's access and participation plan: key points

For too many, university is still what other people do.

The University of Roehampton supports students, whatever their background, to go to university and be successful in their studies and careers after they graduate.

Roehampton has a great track-record on access. More than half our students are the first in their family to go to university. Our plan is to help more students who do not see university as being for them to study and experience the benefits of higher education. This includes mature students, care leavers and students from places where people are less likely to go to university.

Roehampton's access and participation plan is not just about getting to university, it is also about getting on at university – and getting on to a great graduate career path after students finish their studies. For some students underrepresented in higher education, including disabled students, their academic and graduate success at Roehampton is excellent. But we still have some gaps to close.

Our plan is to improve the number of Black, mature and students from low-income backgrounds continuing into their second year; and the number of Black, Asian and students from low-income backgrounds graduating with a first or 2.1 degree. Our plan is also to improve the number of our Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic students and those from low-income backgrounds to go on to graduate jobs or further studies

You can see the full access and participation plan for the University of Roehampton at <https://www.roehampton.ac.uk/globalassets/documents/corporate-information/access-and-participation-plan-2020-21.pdf>

Fees we charge

At the University of Roehampton, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,250 for full-time students

You can see a full list of fees for courses at the University of Roehampton at:

<https://www.roehampton.ac.uk/undergraduate-courses/tuition-fees/>

Financial help available:

Roehampton provides financial help to students to access higher education and to complete their studies, as well as targeted support for students from underrepresented groups, like our care leavers bursary. Information on what we provide to prospective and current students is clear and transparent and available on our website.

More details on financial support is here:

<https://www.roehampton.ac.uk/student-support/financial-support-and-guidance/>

Information for students

Prospective 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 the financial support available through our student portal, internal communications campaigns, and emails.

For the most up-to-date fee information see:

<https://www.roehampton.ac.uk/undergraduate-courses/tuition-fees/>

What we are aiming to achieve

We aim to support students, whatever their background, to go to university and be successful in their studies and in their careers after they graduate.

Based on our record of recruitment and academic and graduate achievement, the targets in our plan are:

- To increase the proportion of mature students, students that come from a neighbourhood where fewer people go on to higher education and care leavers joining Roehampton
- To improve the number of Black, mature and students from low-income backgrounds continuing into their second year of studies
- To improve the number of Black, Asian and students from low-income backgrounds graduating with a first or 2.1 degree
- To improve the number of our Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic students and those from low-income backgrounds to go on to graduate jobs or further studies

What we are doing to achieve our aims

To support access to higher education, Roehampton works in partnership with schools, colleges and other organisations on a series of projects to boost attainment and to inspire people from all backgrounds to apply to university, including from our target groups.

As a top teacher training college, we work with teachers on the curriculum and learning materials to raise pupil attainment and expectations to study for a higher education qualification.

Roehampton offers places to study that take into consideration the background of applicants (so-called 'contextual offers').

We are also making more routes into higher education available with excellent graduate career prospects, including short courses in early years education and a new teaching apprenticeship.

When students join the university, we make sure they see themselves in the academic, college and student communities they join. Student mentors and college wardens help 'newbies' feel at home. We make sure students stay on track with their studies – and get them the help they need quickly whether this is support with an assignment, a trained counsellor for their wellbeing or a hardship grant to tide them over.

Roehampton students from backgrounds underrepresented in higher education are more likely to travel to study, not live on campus. There is also a good chance they will have to juggle their studies with paid work and caring responsibilities. We provide flexibility in how they can study, including access to the library, recordings of classes and online academic support. And we make available IT hardware and software so these students can access these services.

Most of our students do not have the confidence and connections to walk into a graduate career when they finish their studies. From the first day of their studies, 'career registration' means we provide tailored support to students to help them prepare for the future, including careers advice, work experience opportunities and networking events. This helps us target the support to where it is needed most.

How students can get involved:

- We work with Roehampton's Students' Union (RSU) on the design and monitoring of our access and participation plan.
- Student members of our Student Engagement Working Group (SEWG) help to assess the effectiveness of university's support initiatives and interventions to the wider student body.
- If you are a student and want to get involved, please contact the RSU Vice President Education who is the sabbatical officer leading on access and participation.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved:

- The university has an access and participation plan group that monitors and reports on progress to the university's Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee (LTQC) which oversees the implementation of our plan
- Our interventions have been designed to benefit our students based on evidence and good practice from across the sector.
- We will monitor impact on our target groups and adjust our interventions in response to our findings and evaluate the impact on the success outcomes of our students.
- Outcomes and impact will be peer reviewed by colleagues across the sector and shared with students and staff and published on our website.

Contact details for further information:

You can contact Shoba Sait at shoba.sait@roehampton.ac.uk for further information