

Goldsmiths College, University of London

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 underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

You can see the full access and participation plan for Goldsmiths at:

<https://www.gold.ac.uk/media/docs/public-information/ofs/Access-and-Participation-Plan-2020-25.pdf>

Key points

Goldsmiths has improved access for students where they come from a neighbourhood where not many people go on to higher education and increased the proportion of Asian, black, mixed, and other ethnicity students studying with us. The focus of our access and participation plan is on supporting specific groups of students whilst studying at Goldsmiths and improving their outcomes. Data shows that, compared to their peers, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students.

- Students from neighbourhoods where not many people go on to higher education and Black, Asian and minority ethnic students are less likely to complete their studies.
- Students who have been in care before coming to university and mature students are also less likely to complete their studies.
- Black, Asian and minority ethnic minority students are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above and do not always progress to highly skilled employment or further study.

We have more to do to support these specific groups once studying at Goldsmiths.

See pages 1 – 5 of the full plan

Fees we charge

At Goldsmiths the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,250 for full-time students
- £6,935 for part-time students

You can see a full list of fees at: <https://www.gold.ac.uk/students/fee-support/>

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from specific groups who are underrepresented in higher education. This helps students to access higher education and continue studying until their programme is completed. This support includes:

- **Annual Equity Award** of £3,000 for black, Asian and minority ethnic students for the duration of the programme.

- A **travel bursary** for students from low-income backgrounds to support the costs of an annual travelcard to Goldsmiths in the first year of study.
- Annual Bursary of £1,000 to support any **student who has been in care or kinship care at some point or estranged from their parents or legal guardian**.
- A **mature student scholarship** of £3,000 per year for the duration of the programme.
- **Goldsmiths Student Hardship Fund, including a Childcare Fund**, to assist disadvantaged students experiencing financial hardship.

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 during the admissions process.
- **Current students** receive information about fees and the financial support available through our internal communications campaign.

For the most up-to-date information, see our website:

<https://www.gold.ac.uk/ug/fees-funding/>

What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall aim is to support students to access higher education and to achieve successful outcomes. We have assessed our performance and have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

- **black, Asian and minority ethnic students** – by 2024-25 we will increase the continuation rate of (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their programme) black students, increase the good degree outcomes of black and Asian students and increase the numbers of Asian students entering highly skilled employment and further study. We will do this by:
 - halving the gap in continuation between black and white students to 2%
 - reducing the gap between black and white students' good degree outcomes by 90%
 - reducing the gap between Asian and White good degree outcomes from 26% to 9.6%, and
 - eliminating the gap in progression into highly skilled employment and further study between Asian and White students.
- **mature students** – by 2024-25 we will improve the continuation rate for mature students (those aged over 21 years) by 6%.
- **students from low participation neighbourhoods and low-income backgrounds** – by 2024-25 we will increase the number of good degree outcomes for this group of students.

See pages 2-3, 5-7, 12 and 26-27 of the full plan

What we are doing to achieve our aims

We have a range of programmes and activities to deliver our aims:

- **programme of work with schools** – this delivers an increased programme of activities across pupils' progression through their school years to achieve good grades and progress to study for a higher education qualification.
- **Liberate our degrees** – this activity delivers inclusive programmes of study to students at Goldsmiths, ensuring what they study, how they study and the resources to support study are inclusive.
- **Engage students** - through our targeted student mentoring programme and engaging students as community leaders and student ambassadors our students are supported to develop their personal, social, and professional skills.
- **Enhance support for study** - our digital student engagement system helps to ensure we identify and address our students' academic and pastoral support needs.
- **Employability Strategy** – ensures that employability skills are delivered in all programmes of study, with targeted careers support for specific student groups. Our Interns on Campus scheme offers paid internships to students at Goldsmiths to gain work experience.
- **Offer financial support** – including bursaries as well as hardship funding for students, and practical advice for students applying to Student Finance England.

See pages 9-18 of the full plan

How students can get involved

We worked with the Goldsmiths Students' Union and student focus groups to gather student input into the design of our plan. Students are represented on our Student Access Participation and Outcomes Subcommittee.

See page 9 of our plan

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our programme of activities is informed by knowledge of good practice of what works for students at Goldsmiths and for students studying at other universities. We collect data and feedback to evaluate our progress through:

- **Departmental Development Plans** – each academic department at Goldsmiths produces an annual Action Plan identifying what projects it will deliver to make improvements. These are considered by the Student Access Participation and Outcomes Subcommittee and performance is measured against targets.
- **Evaluation and impact strategy** – ensures that data informs how we design, deliver, and evaluate our work to have a positive impact on student outcomes.

See pages 19-21 of the plan

Contact details for further information

You can contact the Deputy Academic Registrar at d.badger@gold.ac.uk for further information.