

Access and Participation Strategy 2020+

Aim: To reduce the gap in participation in Higher Education for students from underrepresented groups.

Objectives

To significantly increase the number of entrants from areas with low levels of participation in Higher Education

To significantly increase the number of mature entrants

To support students in receipt of pupil premium to meet or exceed their GCSE English and Maths targets

Strategy

Brunel's diverse student population reflects the considerable success of our outreach work to date and we will build on current activities to offer a sustained outreach package to primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and community groups. We envisage students engaging with multiple activities which aim to focus aspirations and raise attainment.



Aim: To ensure that all students, regardless of background, have an equal opportunity to succeed during their studies at Brunel University London.

Objectives

To eliminate the non-continuation gap between mature and young students

To reduce the attrition rate for Care Leavers

To reduce the attainment gap between White and Black students

To reduce the attainment gap between White and Asian students



Strategy

Our strategy is to engage academic departments and professional services, which we believe is key to successful transition into university: to engender a sense of belonging; to deliver an inclusive and positive student experience; and a joined-up approach to academic support and mental health and wellbeing.

We are committed to responding to the Universities UK Step Change Framework (2017) and will provide sufficient opportunity, resource and strategic guidance to embed positive mental health and wellbeing awareness, messages and interventions into all areas of University life as set out in our Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Students.

We will continue to focus on closing the ethnicity attainment gap by developing inclusive curricula, using the student voice to guide our activities and engaging staff and students to talk directly about race, racism and the attainment gap. In line with guidance from the OfS we will also target specific support and interventions to students where appropriate.

In order to support a joined-up approach, our access and participation priorities will be embedded into our annual education review practices and we will seek to improve our approach to data, allowing us to identify students in need of support and to target interventions effectively.

Target groups

Brunel is committed to supporting estranged students and plans to support this group is outlined in our Stand-Alone Pledge. In addition, care-experienced students and young carers will be supported by targeted pastoral support.

Through an inclusive and curriculum-focussed approach we are addressing identified gaps in retention and attainment outcomes. We provide excellent support and facilities for our disabled students and will continue to do so via our Wellbeing service.

How we'll measure success

In order to measure the impact of our activities related to success we will embrace a wide range of methodologies. In addition to seeking feedback from students through tools such as surveys and focus groups we will measure impact using pre-post intervention measures, wherever possible drawing on existing inventories, constructs, and theories. We aim to build on our improved data collection processes and conduct statistical analysis in order to both guide the selection of our interventions and measure their long term impact.

Aim: To improve the progression rates of students from underrepresented groups into professional employment or higher study

Objectives

To reduce the progression gap between White and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic students

To reduce the progression gap between students from the most deprived areas and least deprived areas¹

Strategy

As pioneers of work placements, Brunel University

¹ As defined by the English Index of Multiple Deprivation



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