

# University Centre South Devon, at South Devon College

## 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 University Centre South Devon at <https://www.ucsd.ac.uk/student-life/essential-information/access-and-participation-plan/>

### Key points

See pages 2-10  
of the full plan

The focus of our Access and Participation Plan is on improving outcomes for specific groups of students.

Data shows that, compared to their representation in the community, fewer students with a Black, Asian or minority ethnic heritage and who are care experienced are represented in University Centre South Devon's student population. Data also shows, compared to their peers, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students at the University Centre South Devon. The following groups of students are less likely to achieve good degree than their peers:

- Students from low participation in HE (a proxy for deprivation) neighbourhoods at Level 6
- Students with disabilities at Foundation Degree and Level 6

The UCSD Access and Participation Plan is design close these gaps in access, success and participation for students from underrepresented groups.

### Fees we charge

See page 30  
of the full plan

At the University Centre South Devon, our fees range from:

- £8,400 - £9,250 for full-time students
- £5,600 - £6,935 for part-time students

You can see a full list of fees on our website at <https://www.ucsd.ac.uk/student-life/funding-finance-and-bursaries/>

### Financial help available

See pages 24-25  
of the full plan

We offer [financial support](#) to students from underrepresented groups. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes:

- £1000 bursary (paid in instalments and subject to engagement in learning) for Level 4 students progressing from local schools or colleges, and those who are care-experienced.

- Bursary (paid in instalments and subject to engagement in learning) for students from households with an income of less than £25,000: at Level 4 - £1000, at Level 5 - £400 and at Level 6 - £1000.
- A hardship fund for students who are experiencing financial hardship during their time at university.

## Information for students

See pages 24-25  
of the full plan

- Prospective students and applicants received information fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our Open Events and Applicant Events, by email communication, and on our website
- Information about support for students who are disabled, parents and/or carers and those who are care experienced is available on our website <https://www.ucsd.ac.uk/student-life/support/>
- Current students receive information fees, funding and financial support via our internal communications and emails.

For up-to-date information see <https://www.ucsd.ac.uk/student-life/funding-finance-and-bursaries/>

## What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 9-12  
of the full plan

Our overall aim is to support students to access, succeed in and progress from higher education into employment. We want to create an environment where all students feel that they belong and can achieve. Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas to support the success of our students:

- **Students from Black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) heritages.** We will increase University Centre South Devon's BAME population to 3.5% to reflect the local community.
- **Students from low participation neighbourhoods and low income backgrounds.** By 2024-25, we will improve the Level 6 degree outcomes by eliminating the awarding gap between students from low participation in higher education postcode quintiles 1 or 2 and their peers from quintiles 3, 4 or 5.
- **Disabled students.** We will reduce the degree awarding gap between disabled students and their peers at both Foundation Degree (to 5pp) and Level 6 (to 15pp) by 2024-25.
- **Support attainment at school and college to facilitate access to higher education.** We will continue working with colleagues in primary, secondary and further education colleges to support raising learners' attainment and expectations for study in higher education.
- **Diversifying our provision.** We continue to work with academic and employment partners to explore opportunities for diversification into Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) and higher and degree apprenticeships, and non-degree academic qualifications.

## What we are doing to achieve our aims

See pages 13-22  
of the full plan

We have identified six programmes of activity to support the achievement of our aims and targets:

1. **BAME development:** To increase the population of Black, Asian or minority ethnic heritage students at SDC, we will provide targeted HE application support for Level 3 students at SDC and facilitate outreach work in partnership with Next Steps South West
2. **Care leavers development:** To increase the population of care experienced students at SDC, we will provide targeted HE application support for Level 3 students at SDC and facilitate outreach work in partnership with Next Steps South West. All [care experienced students](#) entering higher education at SDC receive a £1000 bursary in Level 4.

3. **Widening access:** To maintain levels of other underrepresented students at SDC, we will continue to partnership with Next Steps South West to provide school and college outreach, engage Level 3 students at SDC in taster and master classes, deliver high quality and flexible degree and non-degree Level 4 or above courses that meet local student and employer needs, and work in partnership with local schools and colleges to support raising attainment by supporting staff continuous professional development.
4. **Persistence:** To have equal continuation rates for underrepresented students, we provide [pre-entry workshops and resources](#), enhanced transition for [direct-entry Level 5/6 students](#), means-tested and engagement-based annual [bursaries of £200-£1000](#), one to one [study skills support](#), a comprehensive tutorial programme including academic, professional and personal development activities, and targeted support for at-risk students.
5. **Grade improvement:** To have equal achievement rates for underrepresented students, we provide [study skills](#) and [wellbeing](#) support to all students, and targeted support for young students and those [with disabilities](#).
6. **Progression improvement:** To have equal progression into [employment and further study](#) rates for underrepresented students, we embed subject-specific and soft skills employability activities into our tutorial programme and curriculum studies.

### How students can get involved

See pages 22-23  
of the full plan

We worked with the UCSD Course Student Reps via the Student Consultative Forum to gather input into the design of our access and participation plan and activities. The Lead Student Rep is a member of the Equality, Diversity, Access and Participation Committee who oversee the implementation of the plan.



To provide feedback, students should contact their Course Student Rep

To become involved in the work, contact our Access and Participation Lead on [university@southdevon.ac.uk](mailto:university@southdevon.ac.uk)

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

See pages 23-24  
of the full plan

Our programmes of activity are evidence informed about what works for students. We will collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- Our programmes of activity to achieve our aims
- The impact of those activities on access, success and progression
- The impact of the access and participation plan on promoting equality, diversity and inclusion

The SDC Equality, Diversity, Access and Participation Committee monitor and report on the milestone progress of the activities towards our targets and report to the Board of Governors. We will monitor impact on our target groups, to ensure we are addressing our aims. Where appropriate, we will adjust our interventions in the best interests of our students.

We will publish evidence from our evaluations on [our website](#) by January 2024.

### Contact details for further information



You can contact our Access and Participation Lead, Issy Hallam at [university@southdevon.ac.uk](mailto:university@southdevon.ac.uk) for more information.