City, University of London

Summary of City’s 2020-21 to 2024-25 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans (APPs) 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 City, University of London at [www.city.ac.uk/access](http://www.city.ac.uk/access) and a summary of our aims and how we will achieve them below.

Key points

City students come from a diverse range of backgrounds, reflecting our London location. Black and Minority Ethnic students make up 63.2% of our student population and over 50% of our UK undergraduates come from areas with high levels of deprivation. Looking into our student data, we have identified that compared to their peers at City, outcomes are lower for some groups of students. From this analysis we know that:

- Young people living in areas where there are low levels of progression into higher education from school and college are less likely to study at City
- Students who have a declared disability (meaning they tell us they have a disability), those who are over the age of 21 or care leavers are less likely to complete their course of study than their young, non-disabled classmates who have not been in care.
- The number of students who receive a 2:1 or a first is lower amongst some of our Black and Ethnic Minority students than their white peers, and also lower for students who live in areas of deprivation
- White students are more likely to progress into graduate level employment and further study than Black and Minority Ethnic students. The same applies to students who live in the most deprived parts of the country compared to those who live in wealthier areas.

We have used this analysis to put together our action plan.

Fees we charge

You are charged a year fee to attend university, at City the maximum fees we charge are:

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

You can see our full list of fees for courses on our [website](http://www.city.ac.uk/access).

Financial help available

To help students on low incomes we provide financial support for those we have identified as most in need. The following bursaries are available for specific undergraduate students:

City Education Grant

- This £1,500 grant is available for new UK undergraduate students whose household income has been assessed by Student Finance England (SEF) as zero. This grant is paid for up to 3 years assuming household income remains zero.

City Cares Bursary

- This £3,500 bursary is for Home/UK undergraduates ordinarily resident in England who have experience of being in local authority care, are irreconcilably estranged from their family or have unpaid caring responsibilities. This bursary is for up to three consecutive years for students with a household income of less than £25,000 (as assessed by Student Finance England)

City Cares discretionary bursary
A number of bursaries to support students on our CityCares programme are available throughout the year to support extracurricular activities, graduation packages and hardship support.

City Hardship Fund

- Provides financial support for students who are in financial hardship or who face an unexpected financial emergency during their course.

City Remote Learning Fund

- 1st year undergraduate students from low-income families can apply for funding towards hardware to support their studies, such as a laptop, headset, keyboard or other periphery item.

For full eligibility criteria, terms and condition and information about student finance and support please visit our funding pages on the Student Hub.

Information for students

Prospective students can find out more about our fees, financial support, our courses, student support and life at City via:

- Our prospectus, website and our student hub
- In-person events and fairs, campus visits and open days
- Our ask a student online Unibuddy platform
- Our blogs – Widening Participation Blog and School Liaison Blog
- City’s goingtouni.city.ac.uk website

School and college staff can support their students to engage with City through our School Liaison team and our Widening Participation Programmes and Initiatives

What we are aiming to achieve

We are aiming for all students to achieve positive outcomes at City no matter their background, ethnicity, disabilities, age, personal or family circumstances. We measure our success by working to reduce the gaps in access to City, attainment (degree awarded), continuation (successfully progressing through each year of the course to complete the degree) and progression into employment or further study.

Through our relationships with schools and colleges our Widening Participation Outreach Programmes aim to develop students who are well informed, have realistic expectations about higher education, understand how to achieve their goals and have the grades, confidence, and resilience to succeed.

Detailed targets and milestones of what City are trying to achieve by 2024/25 are laid out in full in our current Access and Participation Plan

What we are doing to achieve our aims

There are a range of high priority university led projects based around enhancing our student experience, education, our approach to student support and mental health, as well as targeted work across City to reduce the awarding gap between different groups of students.

Below are some examples of the programmes and initiatives City are delivering to achieve our aims across Access and Participation.

How do we support students before they start at City?

- City has a well-established programme of widening participation outreach activities from primary school upwards including:
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- Tutoring in Maths and English
- Mentoring
- Careers information advice and guidance
- Events and programmes that provide age appropriate, challenging higher education experiences, including subject specific learning, professional networks and industry insights

- **Contextual Admissions**, offering students from specific backgrounds a lower offer at application

How do we support students to successfully complete their course?

- **City Buddies** - 2nd and 3rd year students mentoring new students during their first term at City
- Setting students up for success through a supportive approach to [student attendance monitoring and engagement](#), which identifies students who are at risk of disengaging from their studies and proactively offers them support
- An integrated approach to personalised student support, including targeted student welfare support in each of our academic schools
- Assistive technology equipment loans for students with a disability
- **Digital education support** and laptop loan scheme to ensure all students have the equipment they need to study

How do we support student into employment or further study?

- Our **Employability Development Plan** ensures that all undergraduate students have professional work experience and careers education as part of their course
- Careers mentoring and E-mentoring opportunities for Black and Ethnic Minority students who have been identified as having less access to a professional network outside of university
- **Professional Mentoring Scheme** that matches current undergraduate students with professionals from a range of graduate careers in a 6-month mentoring relationship

How students can get involved

Student can get involved by applying to work for City as an [ambassador](#), supporting our widening participation work with local schools, maths and English [tutoring](#) and our [Student Voice ambassadors](#) who provide feedback and student insights around new and developing work across the university.

**The Students’ Union** have representation on a number of the groups and boards that oversee the progress and monitoring of our Access and Participation plan, including our APP working group, Education and Employability Board and the Student Partner Board whose membership is made up of City Students. The SU also play a key role in the development and success of strong student communities across City.

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

Our approach to access and participation is informed by evidence, best practice from across the sector and the understanding we have of our students and our context.

Our targeted programmes are reviewed using our evaluation framework, this enables us to collect data and feedback on the impact and success of our programmes in the short, medium, and long term.

Our Access and Participation Plan working group will monitor progress towards our aims, milestones and targets and reports into the Education and Employability Board.

**Contact details for further information**

For further information you can contact sarah.wood.1@city.ac.uk Head of Student Inclusion and Engagement