

Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan sets out provisions that will be meaningful and effective in promoting equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups, as determined by the Office for Students.

You can see the full access and participation plan for University Centre Truro and Penwith College at <https://www.truro-penwith.ac.uk/study-with-us/university-centre/he-policies-and-procedures/>.

Key points

The University Centre Truro and Penwith develops and runs HE courses with the Universities of Plymouth and Greenwich as our main validating partners. We currently support 578 students on full-time, part-time and apprentice routes, studying for level 4, 5 and 6 qualifications and the PGCE. Our students are almost exclusively resident in Cornwall.

Our access and participation plan is focused on supporting specific groups of students to access our higher education courses and to improve their outcomes. Our data shows that students from some underrepresented groups at UCTP have lower outcomes than others.

Student groups that are less likely to access higher education courses:

- Students living in more deprived areas (using the Index of Multiple Deprivation which measures relative deprivation in local areas)

Student groups that are less likely to continue, complete and achieve their studies:

- Male students
- Students living in more deprived areas (using the Index of Multiple Deprivation which measures relative deprivation in local areas)
- Students with a reported disability, which includes learning difficulties

See pages 1-3 of our full access and participation plan for more information.

Fees for academic year 2025-26 are under review and any increases will be in line with the UK Government policy. For academic year 2024-25 we charged:

Foundation Degree (excluding FdSc Nursing Associate) or HNC/HND:

- Full-time Students - £8,224 p/a
- Part-time Students - £4,112 p/a

FdSc Nursing Associate:

- Full-time Students - £9,250 p/a

Full Bachelor's Degrees, Top-up Year or PGCE/Cert Ed:

- Full-time Students - £9,250 p/a
- Part-time Students - £4,625 p/a

See page 30 of the access and participation plan for more information. Full up to date fees information will be published on our website at [Student Finance | Truro & Penwith College](#).

Financial help available

Most of our student population fulfil one or more of the criteria as identified by the Office for Students which suggest they may be underrepresented in higher education. We offer financial support to our students which

helps them access higher education and to continue studying until their course is completed. The support at UCTP includes:

- An annual bursary of £720 for full-time students whose household income is less than £25,000 (as assessed by Student Finance England). All other full-time students receive £320 per year. All part time students who study at least 50% intensity of a full-time course receive £225 per year.
- An annual travel bursary of £300 is available for students from postcodes listed as POLAR4 quintile 1.

See page 30 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

The most up to date Information on fees and financial support is available on our website:

<https://www.truro-penwith.ac.uk/study-with-us/university-centre/student-finance/>

Our Admissions Team provides support throughout the application process and gives advice and support on fees and student finance to both prospective and current students:

heenquiry@truro-penwith.ac.uk

See page 43 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall aims are to support students from all backgrounds into higher education and to support all our students to successfully complete their studies with positive outcomes. We aim to create an environment at UCTP where all our students feel a sense of belonging and can thrive.

We have looked carefully at our performance, identifying key groups which show indicators of risks to equality of opportunity for us to focus on and we have created these objectives and targets:

- **Students from deprived socioeconomic backgrounds**
 - Increase access to HE from a baseline value of 10.1% to 13.1% by 2028-29.
 - Reduce the gap in completion rates (quintile 1 vs quintile 4) and for FSM-eligible vs non-eligible students from a difference of 14.3 and 14.7pp respectively, to 9.3pp and 9.7pp by 2028-29.
 - Reduce the difference in attainment rates (quintile 1 vs quintile 4) from 24.0pp to 16.0pp by 2028-29.
- **Male students**
 - Reduce the difference in continuation for male vs female students from 6.5pp to 3.5pp by 2028-29.
 - Reduce the difference in completion rates for male vs female students from a difference of 17.0pp to 8.0pp by 2028-29.
 - Reduce the difference in attainment rates for male students vs female students from 21.6pp to 11.6pp by 2028-29.
- **Students with a reported disability**
 - Reduce the difference in attainment rates for students with vs without a reported disability from 8.7pp to 3.7pp by 2028-29.

See pages 1-3 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are doing to address key risks to equality of opportunity

We have developed 7 intervention strategies to address each key risk to equality that we have identified at UCTP. Each intervention strategy is a set of planned and costed activities that are focused on specific

underrepresented groups and are designed to improve outcomes and reduce risks to equality of opportunity. These activities include existing activities but also include new planned activity.

Examples of new activity to support our 2025-26 to 2028-29 access and participation plan:

- Host a series of “Get Into...” events based around career progression routes of our courses
- Host a Higher Education Fair, to which universities from around the country will be able to send representatives.
- “Mythbusters” marketing campaign using current and past student profiles
- Study and soft skills support pre-entry to include outreach programme with local schools
- Post-entry academic skills development sessions
- Develop monitoring for attendance, participation, attainment and engagement with support services through new internal data dashboard
- Development of micro credential focused on workplace skills

See pages 4-40 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

Our access and participation plan was created in consultation with our higher education students. Moving forwards, our students will also be an important part of our new Access and Participation Working Group which will monitor progress against the targets and milestones in this plan. Student voice is essential to decision making at UCTP.

See pages 41-42 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We will use qualitative and quantitative data collected through our normal working practices, plus additional data gathering exercises throughout the academic cycle to make sure that we effectively evaluate what we are doing is working to help us achieve our aims and targets set out in our plan, and where this is not the case, modify our activities.

See pages 42-43 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact Kirsty Sincock (Deputy Dean of University Centre: Data Analysis, Policy and Regulatory Compliance) with oversight of Access and Participation, for more information.

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