

King's College 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 to the best possible outcomes.

You can see the full access and participation plan for King's College London at [OFS Access & Participation Plan - King's College London \(kcl.ac.uk\)](#).

See pages 1-7
of the full plan

Key points

Our Access and Participation Plan focuses on improving access and outcomes for specific groups of students. Data shows that there are gaps in the rate of access to King's between different groups. Outcomes are also lower for certain groups.

- We have made strong progress in recent years. However, students from certain areas where not many people go to university are less likely to come to King's. There is also a gap in access to King's for students from disadvantaged areas of the country.
- Overall the rate of students continuing and completing their degree at King's is good. Mature students are slightly less likely to continue into second year than young students.
- We have found that white students are more likely to get a good degree outcome (a First or 2.1) than students from some ethnic minority backgrounds and Black students in particular.

Fees we charge

At King's College London, the maximum fees charged are £9,250 for full-time students

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of the full plan

You can see a full list of fees for courses at King's College London at [Undergraduate - King's College London \(kcl.ac.uk\)](#).

Financial help available

See pages 23-24
of the full plan

We offer support to students who face financial challenges. This helps them access higher education and continue studying until their course is complete. Our support includes:

1. *King's Living Bursary*:
 - An annual payment of £1,600 for the duration of their course if the student's household income is below £25,000.
 - An annual payment of £1,500 for the duration of their course if the student's household income is between £25,001-£33,500.
 - An annual payment of £1,200 for the duration of their course if the student's household income is between £33,501-£42,875.Income thresholds will increase in line with Student Finance means testing thresholds.
2. *Care Experienced and Estranged Students Bursary*: An award of £1,000 for students who have been in local authority care or who are no longer in a relationship with or supported by their family. The bursary is paid each year of a course in addition to King's Living Bursary.
3. *Access To Professions Bursary*: An annual payment of £3,000 for the first three years of study for students on the Extended Medical Degree Programme or the Enhanced Support Dentistry Programme.

4. A *hardship fund* to support students in financial difficulty is also available. Awards are between £100-£3,500.
5. Money & Housing Advisors help students access their full student finance and welfare entitlements. Advisors assist students who are care-experienced, estranged, in mental health crisis, parents, carers and/or disabled.

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Information for students

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, and by email. We provide UCAS and the Student Loan Company with the necessary information to ensure students can make informed decisions. Timely, accurate and clear information is made available to prospective students in a range of accessible formats. This information covers academic courses, their entry requirements and their structure (including placements, internships, study abroad options and assessment methods).

We regularly update information for care-experienced students on the Propel website [Propel | King's College London](#)

Current students receive information about fees and financial support through our student portal, internal communication campaigns and emails. King's Student Services Online [Home · Student Services Online \(kcl.ac.uk\)](#) provides information on student life, admissions, enrolment, money and housing, student support and other issues affecting new and re-enrolling students. [King's Money Mentors Instagram](#) provides financial information for students at all stages of study.

For the most up-to-date information, see our university website www.kcl.ac.uk

What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 7 and 10 of the full plan

Our aim is to support students to access higher education and successfully progress to the best possible outcomes. We will continue to reach out and recruit students with great potential from diverse backgrounds. Through academic, financial and other support we will ensure they are all able to flourish. This is part of our mission to make the world a better place.

We have assessed our performance and identified the following areas to focus on:

- Students from areas where university participation is lower.
By 2024/25, we will:
 - Reduce the gap for students coming to King's from areas where fewer people go to university by eight percentage points.
 - Close the gap completely for students coming to King's from disadvantaged areas.
- By 2024/25, we will increase the number of Black students coming to King's to at least the national average (11%).
- We will eliminate the gap between white students and ethnic minority students gaining a degree outcome of a First or 2.1.
- We will close the gap between white students and Black students gaining a degree outcome of First or 2:1 by nine percentage points.
- By 2024/25, we will completely eliminate the gap between young and mature students continuing from the first year to the second year.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

We will take the following actions to achieve our aims and targets:

See pages 13-17 of the full plan

1. *Extend our programme of work with schools:* We are working with schools to raise pupil attainment and self-efficacy to study at degree-level. Our King's Scholars programme works with pupils in years 7-9 to boost their confidence and decision-

making, and to get good grades to progress to degree study; Scholars+ is our GCSE tutoring programme to improve participants' grades in maths and English. This has been core to our work for a number of years.

2. *Enhancing how we support schools in a strategic way:* During 2022/23, we will use our partnerships to improve our activity. We will develop our digital and regional work to support schools more effectively. This will be through our King's Scholars school partners and partnerships such as The Elephant Group, King's College London Maths School and the University Schools Trust. In this way we will expand where we work, through both in-person and online programmes.
3. *Diversifying our education:* We expect the first enrolments for our Clinical Pharmacology integrated degree apprenticeship from September 2022. We will explore more new routes such as apprenticeships in 2022/23 to provide an alternative way for students to access King's.
4. *Evaluation:* We will expand and enhance the remit of our What Works research team. What Works at King's will focus on producing evidence that what we are doing is having impact. This includes work to increase access to King's, and activity to ensure all students can successfully participate in their education and student life.
5. *Ensuring successful student outcomes through a focus on quality:* We will provide a mix of tried and tested student support and new and creative activity. This includes personal tutoring, Student Mental Health strategy, workplace opportunities and improving students' entry, experience and outcomes. When we review the quality of our degree programmes we will look at them in terms of the targets we set here.
6. We offer financial support, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England.

See pages 12, 19-23 of the full plan

How students can get involved

See pages 25-27 of the full plan

We worked with the Students' Union to involve students in the design of our plan.

We developed an action plan for how we can support the elected Students' Union officers to engage with fair access and participation. We also presented our strategy in this area to a panel of 100 King's students to get their feedback.

To get involved, contact our team who lead on this work: outreach@kcl.ac.uk

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our programmes of activity are informed by the best evidence about what works for students each step of the way. We will collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- how our programmes are designed
- the actions outlined above
- the impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and student success.

See pages 27-30 of the full plan

We will prioritise causal evidence and action-focussed research and evaluation.

The Social Mobility & Widening Participation steering group will monitor and report on this work. They will report to a more senior group chaired by the Vice President (Education & Student Success). The steering group will oversee the plan and make sure we are meeting our commitments. We will monitor the plan's impact on our target groups. We will act on our findings and adjust our activity to meet the needs of current and future students. We will publish evidence from our evaluations on our website on an ongoing basis.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Michael Bennett at michael.j.bennett@kcl.ac.uk for further information.