

York St John University

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 York St John University at:

<https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/media/content-assets/document-directory/documents/10007713-YSJ-APP.pdf>

Key points

The focus of our Access and Participation Plan is to improve access and participation, including student success, for all students, particularly students from underrepresented groups.

Our data shows that, when compared with their peers at York St John University (YSJU), students from underrepresented groups are less likely to:

- **Apply to YSJU.** This particularly impacts students from Asian, Black, Minority and Other backgrounds.
- **Continue their studies at YSJU after their first year.** This especially impacts students from the following underrepresented groups:
 - Students from low-income backgrounds
 - Students arriving at YSJU with vocational qualifications only
 - Students previously eligible for free school meals
 - Mature students
 - Students with a declared mental health condition
- **Complete their studies at YSJU.** In particular, this impacts students from the following underrepresented groups:
 - Students from low-income backgrounds
 - Students arriving at YSJU with vocational qualifications only
 - Mature students
- **Achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above.** This specifically impacts students from the following underrepresented groups:
 - Students from low-income backgrounds
 - Students arriving at YSJU with vocational qualifications only
 - Asian students
 - Black students
- **Progress from higher education into employment or further study.** This particularly impacts students from the geographical areas most underrepresented in higher education.

See *Annex A: Further information and analysis relating to the identification and prioritisation of key risks to equality of opportunity* of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

At YSJU, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,535 for full-time students
- £7,145 for part-time students

You can see the full list of fees for courses at York St John University at:

https://www.yorks.ac.uk/media/content-assets/document-directory/documents/Fee_Summary_2526_10007713.pdf

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups to help them access and succeed at YSJU.

A full list of current funding opportunities and information on financial help is available at:

<https://www.yorks.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/funding-opportunities/>

See page 29 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

Our Student Recruitment and Widening Participation team provides **prospective students** with information, advice and guidance on the education we offer through open days, campus tours, fairs and other national events so students can make informed decisions about their future.

Current students can find all available information on the university's website, the MyYSJ Student App and via tailored email communications throughout the year.

See pages 28 and 29 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall aim is to improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups at YSJU. Based on our assessment of performance and the [Equality of Opportunity Risk Register](#) published by the OfS, our access and participation plan sets six objectives to be achieved by 2030 and three commitments on which to show progress within the timeframe of the plan:

Objective 1 - To increase the proportion of undergraduate home students from Asian, Black, Minority and Other backgrounds at YSJU

Objective 2 - To reduce the awarding gap between students with at least one A-level and students with vocational qualifications only

Objective 3 - To reduce the continuation, completion and awarding gaps between students from low-income backgrounds and students from more affluent backgrounds and reduce the progression gap between students from the most underrepresented areas and students from well-represented areas in higher education.

Objective 4 - To reduce the University's ethnicity awarding gaps

Objective 5 - To reduce the continuation and completion gaps between young and mature students

Objective 6 - To eliminate the continuation gap between students with a declared mental health condition and students without a declared mental health condition

Commitment 1 - Continue to build strong partnerships with schools to raise pre-16 attainment in York and North Yorkshire

Commitment 2 - Ensure young people from military families have equality of opportunity to access and succeed at YSJU

Commitment 3 - Identify gaps and barriers faced by commuter students

See pages 3 and 4 of the access and participation plan for more information, including specific information about our new access and participation plan targets.

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

Our access and participation plan sets out how specific activities are designed to deliver the objectives and address the commitments outlined above. The plan also contains information about university wide initiatives that will support our access and participation work.

Specific activities include:

- Expanding our contextual offer scheme. This scheme assigns points to prospective students based on factors in their background which may disadvantage students during the admission process. Our contextual offer scheme enables students from underrepresented groups to receive a reduced tariff offer.
- Delivering enhanced and targeted assessment support for students arriving at YSJU with vocational qualifications only.
- Targeted offer of graduate internships to students from underrepresented areas or groups.
- Bespoke induction activities for mature students during Welcome Week.
- Engaging with our students from military families and commuter students to build knowledge about their experiences and challenges accessing and succeeding at YSJU.

University wide activities include:

- A Student Hub designed to deliver a rapid-response student triage, support and information service that will reduce wait times, improve query resolution rates, and empower students to access self-service support.
- YSJ Scholarship Plus. This offer invites scholarship recipients to take part in a range of opportunities designed to enhance belonging, confidence and engagement.
- Embedding our Inclusive Education Framework to empower staff and students to work together in building a truly inclusive living and learning environment encompassing accessible teaching, learning and assessment; transparent structures and processes; partnership working and personalised support; and clear pathways to success.

See pages 5-22 of the access and participation plan for information about all activities.

See pages 22-25 of the access and participation plan for information about all university wide activities

How students can get involved

Students are represented on our Access and Participation Plan Steering Group by a Students' Union President. We work closely with the Student Voice Coordinator to develop activities in which students can be involved during the implementation of the new plan.

To get involved in this work, contact our APP team at APP@yorks.ac.uk.

See pages 26 and 27 of the access and participation plan for more information about how students were consulted during the preparation of the new plan.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our access and participation plan sets out how each activity will be evaluated. We will collect quantitative and qualitative data at different stages of the activities, which will be analysed by an evaluation team composed of staff with different evaluation expertise in data analysis and interpretation. All findings will be shared internally and externally on the access and participation plan page of the university's website.

See pages 27 and 28 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

You can contact the APP team at APP@yorksj.ac.uk for further information.