

St George's, University of 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 universities will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access university, achieve good degrees, and progress into the careers they desire. You can see the full access and participation plan for St George's, University of London at: <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/study/widening-participation/st-georges-access-and-participation-plan>

Key points

St George's, University of London is the UK's only specialist health university. We have a prestigious history of providing excellent education in medicine, healthcare and science. We aim to ensure that our student body is as diverse and successful as possible, producing a healthcare workforce which reflects the population it serves.

Our Widening Participation team work hard to ensure that applicants from all backgrounds are supported to access higher education, at St George's and beyond. Current students are supported to fulfil their potential through a range of inclusive education initiatives.

We have looked at data on different groups of students at our university, and identified that for some, we are not yet providing a truly equal education. We recognize that:

- Students from postcodes which the government identifies as deprived, or where few people go to university, are less likely to enrol at St George's than other students.
- When they do enrol at St George's, students from these areas tend to achieve lower scores in their degrees than other students.
- Although a majority of our students comes from Black, Asian, or Minority Ethnic backgrounds, students from White backgrounds tend to be awarded better grades.

We are determined to address these inequalities. For more information on differences in outcomes see pages 1-9 of our Access and Participation Plan.

Fees we charge

At St George's, University of London, the maximum fees charged for home (UK) students are:

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

Home students will not usually need to pay the tuition fees up front as non-means tested tuition fee loans are available from Student Finance England.

For more information on fees we charge see p30 of our Access and Participation Plan, or the course pages on our website.

Financial help available

- [St George's Opportunity Fund Grant](#) is an annual bursary for students from lower income backgrounds. You don't need to apply for this bursary separately, it is automatically calculated based on your student finance information. This grant includes bursaries for care leavers and estranged students.

- Hardship funds are available if you experience financial difficulties during your course.

Information for students

Full details of funding available to support students with tuition fees and living costs are available on our website. This includes guidance on how to apply for a tuition fee loan, a maintenance loan and extra help if you have a disability, or if you financially support other people. For the most up-to-date information see:

<https://www.sgul.ac.uk/study/undergraduate-study/fees-and-financial-support>

What we are aiming to achieve

Our aim is to be a diverse and inclusive university, where a person's demographic and protected characteristics (such as their ethnicity, economic background or whether they are disabled) do not influence their likely success. To achieve this, we have identified the following priority areas of activity:

- **Removing barriers to entry:** In 2019, we reviewed our admissions data to assess whether all applicants had an equal chance of success. We identified that students from socioeconomically deprived areas, and neighbourhoods where few people go to university, were less likely to enrol at St George's, and we have committed to improving on this.
- **Removing barriers to degree success:** In 2019 we also reviewed our degree awarding data, and identified that we routinely award better degree grades to White students, and those from socioeconomically advantaged areas. We have committed to investing in inclusive education and aim to halve each of these gaps by 2024-25, eradicating them entirely by 2031.
- **Supporting school students:** We recognise that school achievement is crucial for young people wishing to progress to university, and have a successful attainment-raising programme of tuition for GCSE pupils. During 2022-23 we will run tutoring both in person and online, reviewing each approach in order to further develop and enhance this programme. We will then aim to expand to greater numbers of pupils in 2023-24.
- **Developing flexible courses:** We want to enable more people to enter the healthcare workforce by developing flexible courses. By 2024 we will have reviewed our existing degree apprenticeships, and scoped out additional flexible options to help more people enter university.

For more information on our aims see pages 10-13 of our Access and Participation Plan.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

- **Contextual admissions** – We want to ensure that our admissions system takes account of students' academic potential, rather than any pre-existing privilege. We are therefore developing our processes for considering the context behind each application – such as if an applicant is from a poor performing school or disadvantaged background – to enable adjusted offers.
- **Inclusive education** – We are developing a framework for all programmes to follow to ensure their teaching delivers equality of opportunity. This includes the need to represent

diverse identities within teaching materials, and to identify and remove any barriers students may face during learning and assessment.

- **Outreach** – As a specialist health university we are proud of our role developing a diverse NHS workforce, which represents the communities it serves. We also strive to serve our local community through partnership work with local schools, particularly raising attainment in GCSE Science.
- **Flexible provision** – We want to enable a greater variety of people to enter the healthcare workforce. We aim to do this by splitting our existing programmes into smaller components, so that students who do not wish to attend full-time can complete a degree at their own pace. We also want to consider additional flexible options to help more people enter university, and will explore these over the next few years.

For more information on what we are doing to achieve our aims see pages 13-22 of our Access and Participation Plan.

How students can get involved

The members of St George's Students' Union are passionate about access and participation. They represent students' interests in university meetings such as the Access and Participation Steering Group and the Inclusive Education Steering Group. Students also lead many of our outreach activities working as Student Ambassadors, and provide GCSE Science tuition within our Science Stars programme. If you would like to get involved in any of these activities please contact our Head of Outreach and Widening Participation, Danielle Russo drusso@sgul.ac.uk

For more information on student involvement in access and participation see pages 23-24 of our Access and Participation Plan.

Evaluation: how we will measure what we have achieved

To ensure the best outcomes for our students, applicants and partner schools, it is crucial that we evaluate the success or failure of each of our activities.

Our Science Stars programme is evaluated by our non-profit partners ImpactEd, who use multiple methods to determine the impact of St George's tutors on pupils' GCSE grades. Findings so far have been very promising, suggesting that pupils enrolled in Science Stars achieve better GCSE science grades than originally predicted.

The Access and Participation Steering Group oversees the evaluation of our work in improving access, success and progression for our students. In 2023-24 we will publish a full evaluation report covering each of the activities described above in [the Access and Participation section of our website](#). For more information on how we evaluate see pages 24-27 of our Access and Participation Plan.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Rosie MacLachlan at rmaclach@sgul.ac.uk for further information on any aspect of this document.