# Annex I: Plan summary template

## University of Keele

### Summary of 2025-25 to 2028-29

#### 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 the University of Keele at <https://www.keele.ac.uk/access-plan/>

### Key points

See pages 3-4 of the access and participation plan for more information.

The focus of our plan is to support students from underrepresented groups, to access, succeed in, and progress from, higher education. Data shows that, compared to their peers at the University of Keele the following groups are less likely to:

* **Access** higher education: students from TUNDRA Q1 areas (a measure which classifies local areas into five groups, or quintiles, based on the proportion of young people who enter higher education) and students eligible for free school meals.
* **Attain** (achieve a degree award of a 2:1 or above): students of ethnicity type (Black, Asian, Mixed or Other), students from IMD Q1 (a measure of relative deprivation for small areas) and students with reported disabilities, specifically: mental health or multiple impairments.
* **Continue or complete** their studies: mature students (aged 21 and over when starting their undergraduate course).
* **Progress** from higher education to a ‘good outcome’ of professional or managerial employment, further study, travelling, taking up caring responsibilities for another, or retiring black students and students from IMD Q1 (a measure of relative deprivation for small areas).

### What we are doing to address keys risks to equality of opportunity

See pages 2-3 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Based upon both the sector Equality of Opportunity Risk Register, provided by the Office for Students, and our own internal analysis, a series of risks to equity of opportunity for students at Keele have been identified.

An institutional Equity of Opportunity Risk Register (EORR) has been established**.** Keele’s EORR aims to reduce risk and support the development of a sector-wide evidence-base concerning ‘what works’ to reduce risks to equity of opportunity. Our EORR has underpinned the development of interventions that the university has committed to throughout the Access and Participation Plan period to improve access, success, and progression.

### What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 3-30 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Keele strives to be a place where learning, living, and working is a positive experience for our entire community. We seek to ensure equity of opportunity to all our applicants and students with the potential and motivation to succeed, regardless of background.

Our Access and Participation Plan demonstrates our institutional commitment to embed work to support access, participation and success into wider university practice, structures, and strategies. We strive for equal outcomes, and we will provide resources, opportunities, and support in an equitable way, to support all to be successful.

We aim to achieve this by **working with Year 10 – 12 students** by providing opportunities to learn more about Higher Education through workshops, on campus visits, and programmes which are tailored to students interested in perusing Veterinary Science or Medicine at University. We will also work with **Teachers and Advisers in schools and colleges** to provide opportunities to enhance their subject knowledge and understanding of admissions and transitions to university.

We will work with students in developing a range of interventions to support on-course success through **pre-arrival and transition support, academic skills support and building peer learning communities.** Keele will also **work with data** to enhance signposting to support available to students, whilst also providing training for university staff on use of data, evaluation and opportunities to learn more about the support available to our students.

We will support students progressing from Keele by providing a range of **employability related interventions** such as application workshops, networking advice sessions, guest speaker sessions, 1-2-1 careers consultant meetings, and guaranteed access to placements and experiential opportunities for all students.

### Financial help available

See pages 33-35 of the access and participation plan for more information.

We offer financial support to students from our Access and Participation Priority Groups. The support aims to help students to continue studying until they have completed their course. This support includes:

* **Access and Success Fund** a needs-based support fund, offering eligible students up to £1,500 to mitigate financial issues to accessing the ‘university experience’
* **Care Leavers’ and Estranged Students’ Bursary** which offers all eligible students a cash award of £1000 per year of study and £500 upon graduation
* **Article 26 Scholarships -** two annual scholarships for eligible applicants wishing to study an UG degree, that provides: full tuition fee waiver for up to 4-years, cash award of £1,200 each year towards living costs, £250 loaded to the students Keele Card and personal support.
* **Keele Hardship Fund** which provides support for students experiencing severe financial hardship during their time at Keele University
* **Emergency Loans** available to students experiencing urgent financial hardship
* **Food Voucher Scheme** providing support for students experiencing financial difficulties
* **Support and Guidance** available to students throughout their studies through the University Financial Support Team.

Further details can be found at: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/studentfinancialsupport/>

### Fees we charge

See page 87 of the access and participation plan for more information.

* Full Time Undergraduate Degree / Foundation Year: £9,250
* Accelerated 2-year Degree: £11,100
* Part Time Foundation Year or Undergraduate Degree: £6,935

Please note that we will increase fees subject to the maximum fee limits set by government regulation. You can find a full list of fees for courses at Keele University at: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/tuitionfeesandfunding/undergraduatetuitionfees/>

### Information for students

See pages 32- 35 of the access and participation plan for more information.

**Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support at events, such as our open days, and by email.

**Current students** receive information about fees and the financial support available through our student portal, internal communications campaigns, and emails.

### How students can get involved

See pages 31-32 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Keele has embedded Student Voice throughout the Access and Participation Plan process, by:

* Embedding KeeleSU Sabbatical Officers within: Access and Participation Plan committee structures and Access and Participation Plan intervention working groups
* Undertaking consultation with students led by the KeeleSU around Access and Participation Plan interventions, with particular efforts in gathering feedback from students within Access and Participation Plan groups

Students will continue to partner with us at all stages of delivering our Access and Participation Plan, through co-creation and involvement in our interventions, student consultation and feedback and through the formation of a Student Advisory Group on the theme of Mental Health. KeeleSU Sabbatical Officers are members of the Access and Participation Plan Strategy Group and wider committee structures, providing oversight of the plan and its implementation.

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

See page 32 of the access and participation plan for more information.

The University will evaluate intervention activities within the Access and Participation Plan throughout the Access and Participation Plan period and has committed to publication of results either annually from 2027, or via a mid-point and end-point report. All interventions contained within the Access and Participation Plan are underpinned by a Theory of Change which provides an overview of why a desired change is expected to happen as a result of the intervention.

The university will adopt an institutional framework for evaluation, which will be developed in accordance with the Office for Students good practice guidance. The University will continue to develop links with external networks to support the robustness of evaluation and increased understanding of sector evidence base.

### Contact details for further information

Please visit our webpage for further information about the University of Keele’s Access and Participation Plan: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/access-plan/>

For further information, you can contact:

Academic Registrar at v.macfarlane@keele.ac.uk

Head of Student Participation and Success at r.lancett@keele.ac.uk