



Canterbury
Christ Church
University

Access and Participation Plan Summary

2026-2030

Our Commitment to Fairness and Opportunity

At Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU), our mission is to transform lives through education. We are deeply committed to being a university for everyone, ensuring that a person's background or circumstances do not limit their potential.

This document summarises our four-year Access and Participation Plan to improve equality of opportunity for all our students, from before they apply until after they graduate. This plan marks a strategic shift to a more sophisticated, risk-based approach, focusing on the underlying causes of inequality rather than just on numerical targets.

What is an Access and Participation Plan?

An Access and Participation Plan or APP sets out how a university will ensure all students, regardless of their background, have an equal chance to succeed. It covers support from before university through to graduation. Our full approved plan is available on our website:

[canterbury.ac.uk/about-us/access-and-participation](https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/about-us/access-and-participation)

Key points

Canterbury Christ Church University has over 38,000 students. We serve a unique student community. Nearly two-thirds of our undergraduates come from neighbourhoods with lower rates of participation in higher education. We also support nearly three times the national average of mature undergraduates.

Our plan focuses on improving equality of opportunity. We have moved to a more focused, risk-based approach. This means we target the root causes of inequality. Our work will support students from under-represented groups at every stage of their journey.

Fees charged

The maximum fees for our full-time undergraduate home students for courses starting in the 2026-27 academic year are £9,535 per year and £6,355 for part-time students. Tuition fees may be subject to inflationary increases in subsequent years. More details can be found in our annual fee information summary on our website. <https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/about-us/access-and-participation>

Financial help available

We offer a range of financial support to help students. This includes:

- The CCCU Grant: £600 per year for students from households with an income of £25,000 or less.
- The Care Leaver Bursary: £1,200 per year for students who have been in care.
- The Access to Learning Fund: Support for students facing extreme financial hardship.
- Career Development Fund: Up to £500 to help with work experience costs.

Eligibility criteria apply. More information is in the 'Investment' section of our full plan on pages 80-81 and on our [webpages](#)

Information for students

We provide clear information on fees and financial support to all prospective and current students. This information is available on our website, in our student financial support booklet, and at Open Days. We also communicate directly with applicants through email.

What does the Access and Participation Plan aim to achieve?

Our main goal is to remove barriers to student success. We will focus support on groups where our data shows gaps in opportunity. These include students from low-income backgrounds, Black and Asian students, and students with a disability.

Our key objectives are to:

1. Improve access to higher education for under-represented groups.
2. Help students from all backgrounds continue and complete their degrees.
3. Close the gap in degree awards between different student groups.
4. Ensure all students have an equal chance of a graduate job or further study.

We have set measurable targets to achieve these aims by 2030. More details on our objectives and targets are in the 'Objectives' section of our full plan on pages 12-14.

What we are doing to address key risks to equality of opportunity
Our activities target the main risks to student success. These risks include financial pressures, mental health challenges, and a lack of sense of belonging.

Our actions include:

Schools outreach programmes: Raising attainment and aspirations through activities like our 'Change Makers' Oracy project.

Enhanced support: Providing tailored mental health and wellbeing services and initiatives to close our ethnicity awarding gap.

Inclusive curriculum: Working with students and staff to make teaching and assessment fairer for everyone.

Career support: Embedding real-world projects into courses and offering targeted employability programmes.

A full summary of our intervention strategies is in the 'Intervention Strategies' section of our full plan, starting on page 15.

How students can get involved

Students are central to our plan. We have an Equitable Outcomes Student Advisory Panel. This panel helps shape, monitor, and evaluate our work. To sign up students can register their interest by email studentsuccess@canterbury.ac.uk. Our Students' Union is also a key partner. Students can get involved through the Union and by becoming Student Curriculum Partners. More information is in the 'Student Consultation' section of our full plan on page 78.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We are committed to measuring the impact of our work. We will use evidence from across the sector and our own research. We have new dedicated roles to evaluate our activities. We will share what we learn about what works on our website and with other organisations. This helps us improve and ensures our spending is effective. More details on our evaluation approach are in the 'Evaluation of the Plan' section of our full plan on pages 74-77.

Contact details

If you have questions about our Access and Participation Plan, please contact us at: studentsuccess@canterbury.ac.uk