

# Annex H: Plan summary template

## Edge Hill University

### Summary of 2024-25 to 2027-28 access and participation plan

#### 1. 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 Edge Hill University at <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/documents/EHU-OfS-Approved-APP-for-2024.5-to-2027.28.pdf>

#### 2. Key points.

Edge Hill University is a campus University located in the Northwest of England. We have always attracted and supported a diverse student body with approximately 70% of our students having one or more underrepresented characteristic.

Having reviewed our data, we identified the following targets as the focus of our access and participation plan:

##### Access (supporting students' pre-entry)

- Increase the proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Students from 8.8% of entrants in 2021/22 to 11.2% of entrants in 2027/28

##### Student Success (supporting Edge Hill University students to succeed on their course)

- Reduce the gap in completion between those who have been eligible for free school meals and those who have not from 6.6% for 2017/18 entrants to 4.5% for 2024/25 entrants.
- Reduce gap in completion between those from areas of deprivation and those who are not (IMD Q1 & IMD Q5) from 8.6% for 2017/18 entrants to 4.3% for 2024/25 entrants.
- Reduce gap in attainment between those from areas of deprivation and those who are not (IMD Q1 & IMD Q5) from 11.8% for those awarded in 2021/22 to 8.2% for those awarded in 2027/28.
- Reduce gap in continuation between those who have studied BTEC and those who have studied A-Levels from 6.6% for 2020/21 entrants to 4.3% for 2026/27 entrants.
- Reduce gap in attainment between those who have studied BTEC and those who have studied A-Levels from 23.9% for those awarded in 2021/22 to 18.9% for those awarded in 2027/28.
- Reduce gap in attainment between care experienced and non-care experienced students from 18.7% for those awarded in 2021/22 to 14.7% for those awarded in 2027/28.
- Decrease the gap in attainment between Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Students, and White Students from 8.9% for those awarded in 2021/22 to 5.9% for those awarded in 2027/28.

##### Progression (supporting Edge Hill students into further study or graduate employment)

- Reduce gap in progression between those from areas of deprivation and those who are not (IMD Q1 & IMD Q5) from 3.3% for those who graduated in 2019/20 to 2.1% for those graduating in 2026/27

See pages 5-7 of the access and participation plan for more information on our objectives and targets.

### **3. Fees we charge.**

At Edge Hill University, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,250 for full-time students
- £9,250 for full-time foundation year students
- £6,935 for first-degree part time students
- £6,165 for foundation degree part time students

You can find out more about tuition fees and funding via our fee summaries at <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/document/access-participation-plan/>

See page 51 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### **4. Financial help available.**

We regularly review financial support and therefore recommend going to our website for the most up to date financial support information and eligibility criteria:

<https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/students/financial-wellbeing-support/>

Our Financial Support includes, but is not limited to:

- The Student Support Fund is a means tested fund for those in financial difficulties which may prevent their engagement with their studies. A maximum payment of £4,000 is paid to eligible students following a financial assessment.
- The Student Opportunity Fund awards up to £2,000 to support students to participate in an employment-enhancing opportunity.
- A Care Leaver Bursary is available to UK care leaver students joining a full-time or part time programme and are under the age of 25 at the start of their course. The maximum award is £1,000 per academic year (£500 per annum for part-time students).

See page 32-33 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### **5. Information on fees and financial support for students.**

#### Prospective students

We produce an undergraduate Finance Guide which details our fees and financial support information. The guide is available at all Open Days and Offer Holder events and is mailed out to those who booked but could not attend. During Open Days and Offer Holder Days we include information regarding fees and financial support in our welcome talks and sessions for parents and supporters.

#### On-course students

Once on-course, students can engage with our Money Advice Team, Scholarships Team, Student Life Team (for queries regarding our Student Opportunity Fund) and Student Support Team (for queries regarding our Care Leaver bursary).

## **6. What we are aiming to achieve, and how we are addressing key risks to equality of opportunity.**

Our overall aim is to contribute to a fair and transparent sector where all those with potential have equal access to Higher Education and receive the right support to succeed and fulfil their potential. Utilising the Office for Students Equality of Opportunity Risk Register alongside our assessment of performance data we developed five Intervention Strategies (which can be found on pages 7-22 of the plan), which all take a student lifecycle approach to supporting the student groups identified.

1. To reduce the gap in completion between those who have been eligible for free school meals and those who have not.
2. To reduce the gap in completion, attainment, and progression between those from the most economically deprived areas and those from the least economically deprived areas
3. Reduce the gap in continuation and attainment between those who have studied a BTEC and those who have studied an A-Level.
4. Reduce attainment gap between those who have care experience and those who do not.
5. Increase the proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Students and to decrease the gap in attainment between our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic students and our White students.

## **7. How students can get involved.**

Central to our planning, construction and delivery of this Access and Participation Plan is our Student Advisory Panels. The panels allow for genuine co-production with our students. They have direct input into all our access and participation work and act as a critical friend to the University, providing feedback and input on a wide variety of university policies, structures, and processes.

Many of the initiatives included within this plan have been constructed with input from one or more of our Student Advisory Panels. When delivering our plan, panel members will support in the implementation, delivery, and evaluation of some of our initiatives.

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

## **8. Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved.**

Edge Hill University is committed to understanding whether the interventions we deliver to support our underrepresented students are successful, so we can learn from what works, and amend our approaches accordingly to have maximum impact. We have a dedicated member of staff for evaluation, with strategic oversight sitting with the Head of Access and Participation.

We do not intend to evaluate each activity within the strategy. We will focus our efforts on evaluating new activity, those with an emerging evidence base or those which require most resource. We have an evaluation framework which details the outcomes we measure against at each stage of the lifecycle and provides example questions for each.

In addition to sharing findings internally, where we feel we have particularly innovative practice to share we will do this via our Uni-Connect partners, national conferences, professional networks, and via the North West Widening Participation Research and Evaluation group (which was established by Edge Hill in July 2019),

See pages 29-31 of the access and participation plan for more information.

## **9. Contact details for further information**

Please contact Dr Heather Lloyd, [heather.lloyd@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:heather.lloyd@edgehill.ac.uk) for more information.