
APP Variation Summary 2020-25

Provider Name: **Backstage Academy**

Provider **UKPRN: 10036456**

10/10/2022

Summary of 2020-25 Access and Participation Plan

What is an Access and Participation plan?

Access and participation plans set out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

You can see the full access and participation plan for Backstage Academy at <https://backstage-main-production.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/access-and-participation-plan-2020-25.pdf>.

Key points of Backstage Academy's Access and Participation plan 2020-25

As a small and specialist provider, with limited financial and personnel resources, the focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes for specific groups of students to effectively tackle the largest gaps in equality.

Our plan seeks to

- Reduce gaps in participation between most and least represented groups (Ethnic Minorities, Mature, Disabled Students)
- Reduce Gap in attainment of good degree outcomes (1sts or 2:1s) between disabled students and non-disabled students
- Reduce the gaps in equality of progression into highly skilled employment or higher study for mature students.

Our intention is to develop additional support for our target groups throughout the student life cycle and that will allow us to provide a more detailed and evidence-based assessment of the impact of our access and participation activities.

Fees we charge

At Backstage Academy, the maximum fees charged are

- £9,000 for full-time Undergraduate Students
- £9,250 for full-time Postgraduate Students
- £4,625 p/year Part Time Postgraduate Student

The above fee's are accurate for students registering in the 2022-2023 academic year, but we will review fees on an annual basis and provide details of current fee levels on our website. You can see a full list of fees for courses at Backstage Academy at <https://www.backstage-academy.co.uk/study/degrees/financing>

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes:

Brooks Bursary

This Bursary aims to support and enable students who are 21 and over at the start of their undergraduate course to access Higher Education.

Production Park Bursary

This bursary is focused on support for students with a disability, learning difficulty or prior health condition that are also from areas of low university participation.

Xplor Bursary

UK Black, Asian and minority ethnic practitioners are currently under-represented across the creative industries and this bursary aims to support and enable these students access to our undergraduate degree courses

The Production Park Scholarship (Fee Waiver)

This scholarship aims to support and enable a student who identifies as an independent student (Care Leavers, etc) to access and succeed in Higher Education.

Information for students

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

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

What are we aiming to achieve?

Our overall aim is to support students to access higher education. We also want to create an environment where students at Backstage Academy can achieve their full potential. We have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

Support attainment at school and access to higher education

We are working with schools to raise pupil attainment and expectations to study for higher education qualifications. During the academic year 2021-22, we identify other local schools from where fewer pupils access higher education. We have developed a programme of work that will be implemented at the start of the 2022-23 Academic year

- By 2024-25 we will reduce the gap in attainment of good degree outcomes (1sts or 2:1s) between students of the lowest (1) and highest (5) IMD quintile groups by 25%
- By 2024-25 we will reduce the gap in attainment of good degree outcomes (1sts or 2:1s) between students of the lowest (1) and highest (5) POLAR 4 quintile groups by 18%

Disabled students

- By 2024-25 we will reduce the attainment gap between students from POLAR4 Q1&2 who are disabled and students from POLAR4 Q1&2 who have no known disability by 12%.

Ethnic minority students

- By 2024-25, we will increase the number of ethnic minority enrolled students by 25%

Mature students

- By 2024-25 we will increase the proportion of enrolled students who are categorized as Mature by 29%
- By 2024-25 we will reduce the gaps in equality of progression into highly skilled employment or higher study for mature students by 20%

What are we doing to achieve our aims?

We have a variety of programme activities that support our aims and targets in creating an environment where students at Backstage Academy can achieve their full potential.

- Extended our **programme of work with schools** – creating awareness of the creative industries for pupils from underrepresented groups to attain good grades and progress to study for higher education qualifications.
- Enhanced **support for study** throughout the institution so all students can access tailored support.
- **Tailored programme** of induction to assist the transition to Higher Education
- **Engage external partners** to collaborate on improving access to higher education, success in the chosen course of study
- **Enhanced coaching and mentoring** for employment during and after graduation
- Offer **financial support**, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England.
- **Engage students** in their own development of personal, social and professional skills.
- **Invest in specialist staff development** for the student services team in supporting specific learning difficulties

How can students get involved?

In the development of this Access and Participation Plan students particularly from underrepresented groups were invited to give their feedback on the draft plans as we did not have a formally constituted students' union however, we do have a system of student representation.

Before each annual Access and Participation Plan Monitoring report is submitted, it will be presented to elected student representatives at the appropriate Student Experience Committee which is one of the apparatuses of feedback available to students

To provide feedback or to become involved, students can contact our [Access and Participation Lead](#)

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved?

Our programmes of activity are informed by the best available evidence about what works for students. We will collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- Programme design
- Graduate progression
- Student Retention
- The impact of the programme of activity
- Financial Support
- Student Services
- The impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and an inclusive environment.

The Access, Progress and Participation Plan will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team; with input from the Academic Board in policy approval and the Backstage Academy Board in approving our strategic aims and target groups. SLT delegates responsibility for the continuous assessment of the APP to the Equality Diversity & Inclusion committee, which will convene focus groups and distribute surveys to supplement the review of strategic outcomes.

SLT delegates responsibility for the delivery of Access, Progress and Participation activities to members of the Academic, Operations or Marketing departments as appropriate.

SLT ensures that all evaluation activities are undertaken in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and that the

ED&I Committee assesses any ethical considerations arising from supplementary data collection

We will publish evidence from our evaluations on our website

Contact details for further information

You can contact our student experience team at enquiries@backstage-academy.co.uk for further information