

# City, University of London

## Summary of 2025/26 – 2029/30 access and participation plan

### What is an access and participation plan?

City's Access and Participation Plan (APP) sets out our commitment to ensuring everyone has a fair chance to succeed at university, regardless of their background. This includes how we are working to address risks to equality of opportunity within our university and across the higher education sector. Our aim is to help students from all backgrounds access university, thrive in their studies, and successfully move into the graduate employment or further study of their choosing.

You can see the full access and participation plan for [City, University of London on our website](#).

### City St Georges Merger

Following the merger of City, University of London and St George's, University of London on August 1, 2024, this APP only applies to students based at the Clerkenwell and Moorgate campuses of City St George's, University of London. Students based at Tooting campus is covered by the [St George's Plan](#). An APP covering all of City St George's provision will be in effect from 2026/27, subject to approval by the OfS (Office for Students).

### Key points

City students come from a diverse range of backgrounds, reflective of our London location. Black, Asian, and other minority ethnic students make up 75.8% of our undergraduate population and over 50% of our home undergraduates come from areas with high levels of deprivation. We have identified key areas of focus to reduce inequality at City and support positive outcomes for our students.

- We have a lower-than-expected number of students joining City with a reported disability
- Students of colour and those living in areas of high deprivation are less likely to be awarded a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2:1 or to complete their course than their white peers or those living in the least deprived areas.
- White students are more likely to progress into graduate level employment and further study than students of colour. The same applies to students who live in wealthier areas compared to those who live in the most deprived parts of the country.
- Some groups of students, such as care leavers, young carers and students estranged from their families, face complex and persistent barriers to their success and therefore benefit from targeted personalised support.
- Poor mental health and wellbeing remains a significant and growing barrier to students' ability to succeed, engage and thrive in higher education.

See pages 1-5 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### Fees we charge

You are charged a yearly fee to study a degree, at City the maximum fees we charged are:

- £9,250 for full time students and £6,930 for part time students

*Please note, fees for 25/26 are set to rise in line with the max. chargeable fees permitted by the government.*

### Financial help available

The cost-of-living crisis is negatively impacting our student's ability to access education and thrive at university. To help those on the lowest incomes we provide financial support for those we have identified as most in need. The following bursaries are available for specific undergraduate students:

**City Education Grant** - First year students who are ordinary residents of England are eligible for the following each year of their course, unless their household income goes above the thresholds stated.

- a) £1000 per academic year to students with a Student Finance England (SFE) assessed household income of zero.

- b) £500 per academic year for students with an assessed SFE household income of £10K or less (1000 awards available)

**Hardship Funding** targeted students from low-income backgrounds who face financial barriers to engaging with their education can apply to this fund.

**City Cares bursary** - £3,500 each academic year for UG students registered with City Cares who are under 25 and care leavers, estranged students, or young carers (limited to 100 awards overall).

There are also bursaries available to support students to take advantage opportunities overseas and short-term working placements ([Mirco-Placements](#) Programme).

For full eligibility criteria, terms and condition and information about student finance and support please visit our [funding pages on the Student Hub](#). Students will receive either the City Education Grant and the City Cares bursary not both.

See pages 12, 17 and 24 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### Information for students

Prospective students can find out more about our fees, financial support, our courses, student support and life at City via:

- Our [prospectus](#), website [www.city.ac.uk/prospective-students](http://www.city.ac.uk/prospective-students) and our [Welcome Microsite](#)
- In-person [events and fairs](#), campus visits and [open days](#)
- our [ask a student online](#) unbuddy platform and City's [goingtouni.city.ac.uk](http://goingtouni.city.ac.uk) website

School and college staff can support their students to engage with City through our [School Liaison team](#) and our [widening participation outreach provision](#).

Current students can access information via the [Student Hub](#), or speak to university staff at our Student Support Hub on campus.

See pages 30-31 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### What we are aiming to achieve

Our plan aims to actively work to mitigate the following risks to equality of opportunity that we have identified at City:

- Lack of knowledge and skills
- Insufficient information and guidance
- Negative perceptions of higher education or opportunity to fully engage in university life
- Lack of inclusive teaching and support
- Mental health challenges
- Financial hardship
- Difficulties progressing into employment or further study.

By addressing these risks, we aim to create a more inclusive and equitable learning environment where all students can thrive.

See pages 3-5 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

#### Before joining us

- Working with students from an early age, our [widening participation team](#) engage with students from primary school onwards through tutoring, mentoring, careers guidance, and events that offer higher education insights and subject-specific learning.
- Eligible students may receive a conditional offer with lower entry requirements. These offers consider each student's individual circumstances against our [contextual offer](#) criteria.
- We are developing our educational offer, and support with, the academic transition to university level study across all undergraduate teaching and learning.

- Students can share information about their health and wellbeing through [our online form](#). This can be done at any time before or after joining City.

### **Life and learning at City**

- Our Assessment for Learning Code of Practice and Inclusive Curriculum Framework ensure that learning, teaching, and assessment practices at City are designed to meet the needs of our students and support success.
- The newly developed Student Support Hub offers an accessible space as the first point of contact for students who need help, support, or advice.
- [Student Health and Wellbeing service](#) provides practical, emotional and specialist disability related support to our students.
- Our Sensory Room is a welcoming space where neurodiverse students can take a well-deserved break whenever they need it
- The [Uni wellbeing](#) and [Togetherall](#) apps help students to build healthy habits to support their health and wellbeing, including access online peer support.
- Progression Pathways supports Black and Mixed students to achieve success via development workshops and networking opportunities and to build a community whilst studying at City.

### **Your career beyond City:**

- Our [Career Activation Programme](#) embeds careers education across all undergraduate teaching, with the opportunity to gain practical industry experience through micro-placements.
- [Careers and employability](#) deliver range of schemes including mentoring, mock assessment centres, and the GradVantage academy that offer both general and for targeted career support.

See pages 6-25 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### **How students can get involved**

Students can apply to work on one or more of our ambassador schemes. For example, Widening Participation Student Ambassadors support events and programmes targeting young people from local schools and colleges, Widening Participation Tutors work in primary or secondary schools tutoring in English or Maths and Student Voice ambassadors provide vital feedback on a range of City activity and policy.

Students can also become active members of The Students' Union, who have representation on the committees and boards that oversee our Access and Participation plan, including our Access and Participation Committee, Education & Employability Board and Student Partnership Boards.

The Students' Union also play a key role in the formation and success of strong student communities across City.

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

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

Each of the programmes or initiatives will be evaluated over the course of this plan to ensure that they are achieving the aims they have set out to and ensure continuous improvement.

Progress reports will be reviewed by our Access and Participation Committee, Education and Employability Board and senior leadership team.

Reports will also be published externally via Transforming Access and Student Outcomes (TASO), to further understanding within the wider Higher Education sector of what programmes are effective at improving equality of opportunity and why.

See pages 29-30 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

Please contact Sarah Wood, Head of Student Inclusion and Engagement ([sarah.wood.1@city.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.wood.1@city.ac.uk)) for more information.