

Northeastern University London: Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 Access and Participation Plan

What is an access and participation plan?

The Access and Participation Plan (APP) sets out how we will support students from underrepresented groups to access higher education, succeed in their studies and progress to the best outcomes. The full plan can be viewed at nulondon.ac.uk/academic-handbook/widening-access-and-participation/plans/.

Introduction

Part of Northeastern University's Global Campus Network, Northeastern University London (NU London) seeks to provide a personalised and experiential education that supports diverse learners and empowers them for personal and professional success to make a meaningful impact in the world. As a smaller university, we pride ourselves on our personalised approach to education, ensuring that every student receives the support and resources they need to succeed.

In September 2023, we launched our brand-new undergraduate degree programmes offering our students the unique and exciting experience, to study alongside a global student body, with the option to study in both the UK and the US. Students can also customise their degrees with a range of elective subjects and pathways. A key feature of our degrees is experiential learning, which integrates classroom learning with wider world experience.

Using the Equality of Opportunity Risk Register provided by the Office for Students, we assessed our performance and identified key areas for improvement. These are:

- There is a lower percentage of IMD Q1 students at NU London in comparison to the university sector average, and the national population
- There is a lower percentage of Global Majority, particularly Black and Asian, students at NU London when compared to the university sector average, and to the national population (especially when compared to our local London population).

Definitions:

IMD: (Index of Multiple Deprivation) is a measure that ranks every small area of the U.K, based on various factors, from most deprived area to least deprived area. Neighbourhoods in quintile 1 are the most deprived areas.

Global Majority: refers to people from Black, Asian, mixed and other ethnic groups. The term emphasises that these groups collectively represent most of the world's population and is used as an alternative to the term "ethnic minority".

See pages 4-6 of the APP for more detailed information.

Fees we charge

Our tuition fees for full-time UK (home domiciled) students are £9,535 per year.

The most up to date information about fees can be found on our website: nulondon.ac.uk/undergraduate-fees.

Information for students

NU London offers clear and accessible information on fees and financial support through multiple channels, including on campus events, in prospectuses, and through tailored workshops for schools and colleges. Offer holders receive information through emails, offer packs and resources such as the BlackBullion

platform providing financial education. Dedicated teams, including Widening Participation (WP), Financial Student Aid and Student Support, are available to assist students at every stage.

See pages 32-33 of the full plan for more details.

Financial help available

To support NU London students from underrepresented groups we offer financial support, including:

Financial support	Eligibility criteria	Level of support
<p><u>NU London Travel Fund</u> To support young people from underrepresented backgrounds to attend in person events before coming to university</p>	<p>UK (Home fees) domiciled who meet one or more of our WP criteria, which can be found on our website: nulondon.ac.uk/admissions/travel-support</p>	<p>Up to £200 reimbursed per event attended at the University.</p>
<p><u>NU London Bursary</u> To support NU London students from lower income backgrounds whilst they are at university.</p> <p>The bursary can be taken as cash, a discount in university affiliated housing or as a discount from fees. Students are required to reapply each year of study and will be assessed for eligibility based on circumstances</p>	<p>UK (Home fees) domiciled and a household income of less than £63,500.</p> <p>Bursary Uplift eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care experienced Estranged from parents or guardians Forced migrant, refugee or asylum seeker Young adult carer 	<p>Household income up to £31,250: £3,750 bursary</p> <p>Household income £31,251 to £63,500: £2,500 bursary</p> <p>Students who meet the eligibility criteria for a Bursary Uplift will receive a further £1,250 to their award.</p> <p>Students who can evidence childcare responsibilities to dependents under 18 will be eligible for a further one-off bursary award uplift of £500.</p>

Our financial support and the eligibility criteria are subject to change. For the most up to date information please visit the University website: nulondon.ac.uk/undergraduate-fees.

What we are aiming to achieve

We will address the key areas of improvement and by 2029, we will:

- Increase the percentage of students at the university from the most deprived areas (IMD Q1) to 14.1% from a baseline of 12.9%
- Increase the percentage of Global Majority students at the university to 29.6% from a baseline of 28.4%. We will particularly focus on increasing the percentage of Black and Asian students.

For further information, see page 7 of the full plan.

What we are doing to address key risks to equality of opportunity

Our plan outlines the two intervention strategies that we will implement to address the risks to equality of opportunity, this includes:

1. Targeted outreach and partnerships (Intervention Strategy 1):

- Building long-term relationships with schools, colleges, and third sector organisations (IntoUniversity, The Princes Trust) through hosting on campus schools visits and “Discover Days”, and providing workshops on applications, student finance, academic skills and more
- Continuing delivery of our Year 11 Summer School to foster a sense of belonging and prepare young people for starting sixth form or college, as they begin to think about applying to university

- Delivering the Aspire coaching programme in schools through our partnership with Innerscope to support academic attainment
- Expanding on our partnership with The Brilliant Club and the East London Parent Power Group, bringing together local parents and carers by facilitating one-to-one and group meetings on our campus.

2. Holistic application and transition support (Intervention Strategy 2):

- Creation of NU London Plus, an application readiness and support programme. This will be a series of sessions, both on campus and online offering pre-application workshops, personal statement support, and contextual admissions guidance
- Enhancing transition support from offer through to Year 1 of study through pre-entry academic skills workshop, 1-2-1 support for offer holders, and academic advising
- Expanding our financial support offer through our pre-entry travel fund, the NU London bursary, and reduced accommodation costs for eligible students.

For a detailed breakdown, see pages 8-20 of the full plan.

At NU London we are committed to creating and sustaining a diverse and inclusive culture within our community where each student and staff member feels supported and valued. Our whole provider approach ensures consistency for all students throughout the student lifecycle and the student experience.

Further details about this can be found in pages 21-26 of the full plan.

How students can get involved

Student engagement is central to NU London's approach, and we will continue to develop engagement through key governance groups and the development of a student advisory panel for students from underrepresented backgrounds. Student ambassadors play a key role in designing and delivering our WP access programmes and workshops. We also maintain open communication through our Students Union – NUSU and other student representatives.

More information is available on pages 26-28 of the full plan.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Evaluation and research are part of our whole institution approach to access and participation. Our evaluation plan is developed through our membership with SEER (Specialist Evidence Evaluation & Research), providing us access to academic experts in evaluation. Key methods include:

- **Monitoring intermediate and longer-term outcomes:** Regular assessment of both intermediate and long-term outcomes of our intervention strategies to track progress and inform strategic decisions. Findings from evaluations will guide continual improvements
- **Stakeholder feedback:** Regular surveys and focus groups with students, parents, staff and community partners to gather insights and identify areas for improvement.
- **Annual reporting:** Providing progress updates on intervention strategies and outcomes
- **Ongoing review and publication:** Through our membership in networks such as SEER, UniConnect, FACE, GuildHE, NEON and HELOA we will share and present findings and best practices.

For detailed evaluation plans, see pages 9-21 and 28-31 of the full plan.

Contact details for further information

For more information, please contact Alice Reilly, Head of Widening Participation at alice.reilly@nulondon.ac.uk.