

The Royal Veterinary College, University of London:

Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 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. This supports under-represented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

You can see the full access and participation plan for the Royal Veterinary College [here](#).

Key points

The focus of our access and participation plan is to enable and support potential students from specific priority groups to make successful application to study at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC). These priority groups are:

See pages 1-3 and 14-16 of the full plan.

- Students from low-income backgrounds
- Students from areas of the country that do not have a high level of application to university
- Ethnic Minority students


Our own data show that there are significant percentage differences in applications and enrolments from these groups compared with other students.

Application and enrolment rates are improving for our priority groups, but we still have more work to do to close the gaps.

Fees we charge

The RVC charges £9,250 per annum for UK students on full-time undergraduate courses.

We do not offer undergraduate courses on a part-time basis and so have no part-time fees to publish.

 A full list of fees can be found on our website [here](#).

Financial help available

The RVC offers a range of support for students from underrepresented groups to support them whilst studying their course. This includes:

- An RVC bursary **for all** home/UK undergraduate students with a household income of below £35,000.
- A range of other bursaries that can be applied for. Details of these can be found [here](#).
- Our Student Support Fund is for students facing financial hardship. The Fund gives priority to students from low-income families (under £25,000 household income), as well as those who have a disability, are estranged or are care leavers. More information can be found [here](#).

See page 27 of the full plan.

Information for students

As we have clearly stated in all our access and participation plans, we do not wish any potential student to be discouraged from applying because of financial concerns.

Prospective students receive accurate and up to date information on fees and available financial support in a number of ways, including:

See pages 27-28 of the full plan.

- In-person and live online Open Days, Offer-Holder Days, Career Days and school and college visits.
- Through email communications, on our website and in our prospectuses.

Current students are informed through:

- Direct email communications.
- Website, intranet and on-campus communications.
- Engagement and promotion directly from specialist teams within our Learning and Wellbeing directorate with individual support provided by “Money Matters” staff who are accessible in-person, by phone, email or by video conference.

➔ Information on fees and funding is available to both prospective and current students on our website [here](#).

What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall aim is to increase access to higher education for students from our priority groups. We also want to support these students during their studies at the RVC so that they achieve their potential and progress to highly skilled employment or further study.

We have analysed our own data to identify what we need to improve to achieve this aim. This has shown us we need to focus our work on:

See pages 14-18 of the full plan.

- **Supporting pre-16 attainment at schools:**
We are supporting secondary schools to raise educational attainment in pupils up to GCSE. During 2022-23 we will establish links with specific schools local to our London and Hertfordshire campuses, as well as some in areas not close to a university, where fewer students progress to higher education. We will develop a new attainment programme in partnership with these schools, which we will start delivering in 2023-24.
- **Students from areas of the country that do not have high levels of applications to university:** By 2024-25, we will increase the number of students enrolling at the RVC by 10%.
- **Students from low-income backgrounds:**
By 2024-25, we will increase the number of students enrolling at the RVC by 10%.
- **Ethnic minority students**
The numbers of students at the RVC from ethnic minority backgrounds has increased during the period covered by our Access & Participation Plan. We shall work to continue this increase so that our diverse community is proportionate to that of the UK HE sector as a whole.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

See pages 18-24 of the full plan.

- Expanding our activities with schools to increase pre-16 attainment. In 2022-23 we will plan new projects which will be delivered to pre-GCSE groups from 2023-24.
- Continually developing our approach to flexible modes of learning and equipping our staff with skills in universal design, ensure that our learning is accessible and supportive for all. This is in collaboration with student representatives on our blended learning working group.
- Expanding our transition programme and developing support tools to improve success from a student's first day at the RVC. A data driven approach allows us to focus on students from our target groups. This is informed by our student representatives on our Student Development Committee.
- Developing more in-depth evaluation of our work and creating new ways for students to become involved in the development of our activities.
- Increasing the financial support we offer by expanding our range of scholarships, bursaries and hardship funds for students in our target groups.

How students can get involved

Student ambassadors and representatives are included in all stages of the planning of activities and programmes. The RVC Students' Union is involved in the development of the Access & Participation Plan and progress on widening participation is reported to the Student Development Committee on a termly basis.

➡ To provide feedback, students can [contact the RVC Students' Union Vice President: Welfare](#) who is the key student representative on the Student Development Committee.

➡ To become involved in this work, contact our [Access and Participation Lead](#).

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

See pages 24-26 of the full plan.

We will increase our data collection and feedback on activities to ensure we have a broad range of evidence to show what is working best for students. This includes evaluation of:

- The specific activities that we have put in place to achieve our aims, outlined above.
- The effectiveness of these activities in helping us to achieve our specific access targets for our priority groups outlined in our access and participation plan.

The Access and Participation plan data working group will continue to monitor and report progress to the Student Development Committee, who oversee the plan, to ensure progress towards our aims and targets. In turn, Student Development Committee reports this information to our Academic Board to ensure that the whole community is informed of progress. Collectively this process ensures that activities support our students and can be modified to achieve our aims.

Contact details for further information

➡ Anybody requiring further information on any aspect of the Access and Participation Plan or the Variance Request can contact outreach@rvc.ac.uk