

Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 Access and Participation Plan

What is an Access and Participation Plan?

All universities and colleges are required to produce their own Access and Participation plans, known as an APP. Access and Participation Plans set out strategies, activities and support that will be used to ensure that young people from under-represented groups in our society have equal opportunity to gain a place on and be successful in their chosen course and career. You can see the RVC full Access and Participation Plan [here](#).

Key points

The RVC is the only free-standing veterinary school in the UK and is recognised as a world-leading specialist provider, attracting students from all parts of the UK and from many other countries. We believe that diversity makes us a strong and successful institution and our APP sets out our plan to ensure that students from all backgrounds are able to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

In analysing our data, we have identified a number of key priority areas for our APP.

- Students from black and minority ethnic backgrounds are less represented at the RVC compared with other universities.
- Students who were eligible for free school meals (FSM) are also less likely to study at the RVC.
- Students from some lower socio-economic groups (including those eligible for FSM) face challenges which made it more difficult for them to succeed in their studies and/or progress to graduate employment or further study compared to other universities.
- Students with mental health disabilities were less likely to complete their degrees, be awarded the highest grades and progress to graduate employment or further study compared to students without a disability.

More details on this can be found on pages 2&3 of our plan. There is also more statistical data in Annex A of the plan on pages 31-42.

Fees we charge

The annual fee we charge for UK students to attend an undergraduate course in 2024/25 is £9,250. This rate could change in subsequent years, in line with fee limits set out by the Office for Students. More information about the fees that the RVC charges can be found [here](#).

Financial help available

We are committed to providing financial support to help students from under-represented groups be successful at the RVC. All full-time undergraduate students from the UK with a household income below £39,000 per year receive a bursary. Further information about other financial support can be found on page 30 of the Access and Participation plan and on the RVC Fees and Funding webpage [here](#).

Information for students

Our team of specialist advisors is available both in-person and online to provide advice and guidance on all of our support offering, including applying for financial help. Information can also be found on our website, in our prospectus and through open days, recruitment fairs and online events. See page 29-30 of the Access and Participation Plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

Having analysed our data and considered the issues we need to address, we have set a number of objectives that can be briefly described as follows:

- Increase the percentage of those eligible for free school meals (FSM) and from black and minority ethnic (BAME) groups enrolling at the RVC.
- Increase completion and attainment rates for students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds so that they are similar to the equivalent groups in the sector.
- Increase completion and attainment rates for students with a mental health disability so that they are more similar to students without a disability at the RVC.
- Improve progression for students from the most disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds compared to the least disadvantaged and also students with mental health disabilities compared to those without a disability at the RVC.

See pages 2&3 of the Access and Participation Plan for more information.

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

To reduce the risks to equality of opportunity we will undertake a range of activities with the following objectives:

- Increase applications from and admission of students from FSM and black and ethnic minority backgrounds by providing targeted high-quality advice, guidance, and support and by changing perceptions of HE and the veterinary professions.
- Increase completion and attainment rates for students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds through targeted academic, personal and financial support.
- Increase completion and attainment rates for students with a mental health disability through enhanced wellbeing, mental health and disability support services and flexible learning provision.
- Improve progression for students from the most disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and students with mental health disabilities through supporting the development of a wide range of transferable employability skills.

See pages 2&3 of the Access and Participation Plan for more information on the activities we will be undertaking.

How students can get involved

RVC students are actively involved in all aspects of our work. Representatives from the RVC Students' Union sit on committees that discuss, monitor and evaluate access and participation work; students become "ambassadors" and run activities that support the APP. The student-led "Animal Aspirations" project works specifically with black and ethnic minority groups.

See also pages 28-29 of the Access and Participation Plan.

Students can find out more about these activities using the contact details below.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Evaluation is embedded into all our planned activities. We will monitor and evaluate each of our activities and interventions and report on the outcomes to RVC committees and senior management. This information will also be disseminated throughout RVC to further harness support for access and participation. As the period of the plan moves forward, we will refine our evaluation methods and seek to publish results externally on our website and through other appropriate channels.

See pages 10-13, 19, 23, 26 and 29 of the access and participation plan for further information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact the RVC on outreach@rvc.ac.uk for further information.