

Regent's University London
Access and Participation Statement 2021/22

Overview

Regent's University London offers students a supportive and personal environment to achieve our purpose of developing tomorrow's global leaders. Our vision is to build long-term commercial and reputational growth, driven by rising enrolments and great graduate outcomes and our proposition is to deliver a well-connected, future-facing, entrepreneurial, cosmopolitan and personalised university education in the heart of London.

The University's strategic plan commits to achieving three key objectives:

1. Providing a well-connected, future-facing, entrepreneurial, cosmopolitan and personalised education whereby every student can achieve their full potential.
2. Growing an agile, collaborative and data-led culture whereby every employee can contribute with purpose.
3. Improving our financial performance so that we can continue to invest in our future.

Our practical, industry-led degrees enable our students to flourish as individuals, professionals and global citizens. The multitude of nationalities represented on campus benefit from small group teaching alongside a culture of internationalism, enterprise and entrepreneurship.

Access and Participation

The Regent's offer is a unique one and it is our ambition to increase access to a global education, while empowering our students to realise their potential at university and beyond. This statement, guided by the Office for Students (OfS) regulatory advice, details an assessment of current performance around access and participation, outlines current provision and sets out ambitions and strategy for the future.¹

In 2019/20, the University's student body comprised 2,241 full time equivalent students, including 1,560 undergraduates and 425 postgraduates, as well as students on study abroad, other postgraduate pathways and language courses. In 2019/20, 26% of the student body were UK domiciled.

i. Assessment of Current Performance: Access, Attainment and Progression

¹ Office For Students (2019) *Regulatory Advice 6: How to prepare your access and participation plan- effective practice advice*. Available from https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/be7f0bd1-cf28-49dd-ba2f-012fee5fdf01/regulatory-advice-6_how-to-prepare-your-access-and-participation-plan-guidance.pdf

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Access

Regent's receives no public or Government funding and generates most of its annual income through tuition fees. As one of the most internationally diverse campuses in the UK, the University puts internationalism at the heart of its mission statement and doesn't differentiate fees between home/EU and international students.

Regent's is classified as an Alternative Provider under the terms of Student Loans Company entitlements and students are therefore entitled to a tuition fee loan of no more than £6,000 per year. Funding is limited to UK, EU national students or those with the status of Migrant Worker. In 2019/20 the University supported eight UK domiciled undergraduate students from lower-income backgrounds with a full fee-waiver bursary and an additional stipend for international exchange. To assist incoming students with access to higher education, the Inner Circle Educational Trust, a registered charity, has established the Student Support Fund, a discretionary charitable fund for new students who will be studying at Regent's in 2021/22. Support is directed towards improving students' wellbeing and to facilitate their transition into higher education so as to ensure they are in the best possible position to advance their University education.

In 2019/20, the gender balance at Regent's showed 58% female against 42% male and parity has been observed from 2013/14 to 2017/18.

Attainment

The University recognises a BAME attainment gap consistent with the UK higher education sector. Male attainment is also lower across the student body. We will continue to benchmark and monitor disparities in access, attainment and progression at Regent's. The smaller student body at Regent's allows the University to define interventions on a one-to-one basis through our Student Success Team. The awarding gap will be further addressed through the University's Strategic Plan 2021-2025, and the development of the Regent's Curriculum Model. There is no consistent difference in attainment for students with disabilities and provision is in place for continued success in this area.

Progression

The recent graduate outcomes survey for 2018/19 showed 56% of undergraduate students were in full-time employment after graduation, 86% continued into education, employment or a combination of the two and 7% were unemployed. For taught postgraduate students, 74% were in full-time employment, 86% continued into education, employment or a combination of the two and 5% were unemployed.

Our Graduate Level Employment measure, a headline percentage of surveyed graduates who were (a) in highly skilled employment, (b) in Professional or Postgraduate Education, or (c) who had completed Professional or Postgraduate

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Education in the 15 months after graduating, was 79% for undergraduates and 73% for taught postgraduates.

The Graduate Outcomes Survey also showed higher levels of unemployment across EU national and overseas students in comparison to UK domiciled.

ii. **Current Provision: Outreach and Financial Support, Student Success and Progression**

Outreach and Financial Support

Covid-19 Financial Support

In January 2021, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, a student support fund was created from the formation of the Inner Circle Education Trust (ICET) to support students with the financial costs of undertaking their studies at Regent's. These applications have been assessed by the Access, Participation and Achievement Manager to ensure the financial effects of the pandemic do not hinder students enrolling for 2021/22. This fund will conclude in July 2021.

The Regent's Promise was created to support current students with the financial difficulty as a result of Covid-19, offering students the opportunity to discuss their hardship with the university with the aim of finding a solution to aid them to continue studying.

Scholarships and Awards

Former means tested bursaries and scholarships have been discontinued for 2021/22. Regent's continues to provide support to these legacy scholarships until the students have completed their studies. The University still offers a range of scholarships and other financial awards to support entry and reward excellence. Through our financial awards offer, the University supports international students in studying in the UK who would otherwise not have been able to fund their studies. These scholarships have also been utilised to support students through economic hardship due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Youth Model UN

In keeping with the University's commitment to internationalism, Regent's delivers the Youth Model UN, a two-day conference in which we invite more than 100 students from schools across the UK, as well as several international schools, to find solutions to real world problems through a conference simulation. Attendees gain an understanding of international politics, conflict resolution and contemporary global issues.

Preparatory workshops are delivered in local schools and pre-programme training is offered to teachers. An integral part of the programme is bringing together students from local state, independent and international schools.

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This conference was put on hold in 2020/21 due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and will be reviewed in 2021/22.

Schools and Colleges

Regent's welcomes requests from schools and colleges for information, advice and guidance workshops, as well as campus visits. The University is continuing to review the way we work with schools in 2021/22 to advertise our offer to UK domiciled students.

Hardship Fund

The University makes available a discretionary Hardship Fund to provide some relief from financial hardship for students who experience unexpected emergencies or health costs. The Hardship Fund eases the financial burden faced by students who have no recourse to other sources of financial assistance.

Information, Advice, and Guidance

Our Student Support teams collaborate with our Finance Office to deliver 1-1 support to those students seeking support around funding their studies, living costs and applications to the Student Loans Company.

Student Success

Our Student Success team offers a comprehensive range of information, support and specialist advice to help students reach their potential. The team oversee the provision of practical and academic support tailored to the needs of Regent's students.

Student Achievement

Regent's takes a whole university approach to student success, working across faculties, student and professional services to foster attainment. The Learning Experience team includes a Student Success team with two Student Achievement Officers (2.0 FTE) dedicated to supporting all students at Regent's in reaching their potential. Student Achievement Officers offer tailored learning support plans, working 1-1 with students and teaching staff to foster academic potential.

Academic Skills

The Student Success Team within Learning Experience also appoints three Academic Skills Officers (2.0 FTE) to provide personalised and tailored academic support to students in order to complete their assessments and succeed on their chosen programmes.

Student Support

Our Student Support Team provide mental health and wellbeing support to our student population, with specialist support depending on the needs of the student.

Wellbeing and Mental Health

The Student Support team appoints Student Support and Welfare Officers (2.0 FTE) who are a first port of call for students with questions or concerns around health,

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mental health, well-being and any other pastoral issues which arise throughout the student journey. We partner with the Marylebone Health Centre and refer students for specialist counselling where appropriate.

Disability Support

Regent's appoints a Senior Student Support and Welfare Officer (1.0 FTE) who, alongside their welfare duties, supports participation and success amongst students with disabilities. On behalf of students, our Senior Student Support and Welfare Officer works to:

- Provide information, advice and guidance for disability related concerns;
- Liaise closely with teaching staff to communicate needs and set up Student Support Agreements;
- Organise exam concessions such as, extra time and specialist equipment;
- Assist with applications for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA);
- Arrange screenings for specific learning difficulties (SpLDs) such as, dyslexia and dyspraxia;
- Advise staff on reasonable adjustments so disabled students are not disadvantaged;
- Arrange 1:1 sessions with the SpLD specialist;
- Book counselling appointments;
- Arrange in class support (Non-Medical Helpers) such as note takers.

All teaching staff at Regent's are advised by the Student Services team in relation to declared disabilities and necessary adjustments.

Regent's also appoints a SpLD specialist on a part-time basis (0.2 FTE) to work with students with diagnosed and non-diagnosed specific learning difficulties in the completion of their assessments.

Student Consultation and the Student Union

Regent's has an active student union, through which the student body are involved in decision making. The President of Regent's University London Student Union is an elected position and a paid sabbatical role held by a Regent's student. Their remit is to consult and lead the student body and enhance the student experience. The postholder is employed by the University. The Student Union influences all aspects of student life, from enhancing sports services and leading anti-bullying campaigns, to informing mental health provision on campus and supporting new student clubs and societies.

Progression

Graduate Outcomes Survey 2018/19

The recent graduate outcomes survey for 2018/19 demonstrates good outcomes for our student population with the majority moving onto further education or employment, which is assisted by the below outlined support.

Peer Mentoring

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Regent's offers current students the opportunity to be mentored by peers of the University to benefit from their academic, professional and personal experience and expertise. The connections made in the programme help prepare our students for a successful future and leave a lasting impact on the Regent's community.

Graduate Outcomes Team

Our Graduate Outcomes team can support students and alumni throughout their academic journey and beyond. This includes:

- Career exploration and development – embedded throughout the curriculum with the support of industry – for students and alumni at all stages of their journeys
- Character development and skills transferability through online and offline sessions
- Digital careers support to build relationship capital and active self-learning, which can support with placements and internships
- Career Coaching
- Mentoring and Peer Mentoring
- Insight sessions with support from Industry
- Integrated and closely aligned with Student Support to positively encourage action on Mental Health and Wellbeing as well as with Disability and Counselling
- Entrepreneurial learning throughout within and outside the curriculum
- A specific entrepreneurial extra-curricular programme to support our most enterprising students
- Bookable co-working space for start-ups, as well as for those interested in this arena (even if they don't have a specific start-up idea)
- Support and advice on entrepreneurship visas where needed

The Graduate Outcomes team also work closely with the Student Union on all aspects of career and enterprise development. We have a coworking space for the University's centre for entrepreneurship, offering students ideation and development space and masterclasses, as well as advice sessions and competitions.

Student Ambassador Programme

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, the student ambassador programme was put on hold. This programme will be reviewed in 2021/22. It will offer students the opportunity to gain valuable paid work experience around their studies and will include training and ongoing professional development.

Postgraduate Progression Scholarships

To support progression to postgraduate studies we offer all undergraduates at Regent's a discount to continue their studies with us.

iii. **Ambitions and Strategy**

Renewed access and participation focus

From January 2021, the University appointed an Access, Participation and Achievement Manager (1.0 FTE) with a focus on ensuring fair access and participation while fostering achievement across the student body with the support of the Student Success Team. This role will have clear focus on embedding fair access and participation throughout the university experience. They will also oversee the Achievement Officers who act as mentors to students throughout their university experience to enable achievement from students from all backgrounds.

The Regent's Model

As part of Regent's Curriculum Model project, the Access, Participation and Achievement Manager will work closely with the Head of Learning Experience to build fair access and participation into curriculum as well as integrating the student voice into its design.