

# Futureworks Training Limited t/a “Futureworks”

## Summary of 2024-25 to 2027-28 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 underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education. Futureworks’ full access and participation plan can be found on our website along with our tuition fee summary: <https://futureworks.ac.uk/access-and-participation/>

### Key points (see pages 5 and 6 of the full plan)

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving access to higher education for specific groups of people. We want to enable all students to successfully complete their degree courses.

Data show that:

- ❖ students from low-income households are less likely to study at Futureworks and, when they do, are less likely to finish their degree.
- ❖ people who are over 21 years old are less likely to study at Futureworks.
- ❖ students who are Asian, Black, Mixed or any other non-White ethnicity are less likely to study at Futureworks and, when they do, are less likely to finish the first year of their degree.
- ❖ students with a disability are less likely to finish the first year of their degree, are less likely to achieve a first or 2:1, and are less likely to be in professional employment 16 months after the completion of their course.

### Fees we charge

Tuition fees for Futureworks degree courses are £9,250 per year. You can find out more about Futureworks’ tuition fees on our website, here: <https://futureworks.ac.uk/how-to-apply/degree-course/tuition-fees-degree/>

### Financial help available (see pages 34 to 35 of the full plan)

We offer financial support to students from the groups outlined above. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes:

- ❖ An **open day and interview travel subsidy** of up to £50 to help with the costs of attending an open day or interview.
- ❖ A **bursary** of £1,500 to help students from low-income households, or who are care-experienced, with any costs incurred at the start of their degree course, for example, by providing money towards a deposit for student accommodation, or to buy a laptop for their studies.
- ❖ A **hardship grant** of £500 to support eligible<sup>1</sup> students experiencing financial difficulties.
- ❖ A **disability assessment fee subsidy** to cover the costs of a disability assessment following a referral from our Student Services team.

Full eligibility criteria for financial support are set out in detail in section 8.1 of the Access & Participation Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> To be eligible for a hardship grant under this scheme students must meet one or more of the following criteria: (1) be from a low-income household, (2) be Asian, Black, Mixed or an other non-White ethnicity, (3) have a recognised disability.

## Information for students (see pages 33 to 34 of the full plan)

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at our open days, at UCAS fairs, from our prospectus, by email, and through our website: <https://futureworks.ac.uk/student-life/student-services/financial-support/>

Current students receive information on fees and financial support through our student portal, from our Student Services team and through emails and on-campus awareness campaigns.

## What we are aiming to achieve (see pages 5 to 6 of the full plan)

Our overall aim is to support students to access and succeed in higher education. We want to create an environment where all students can achieve their full potential.

Based on an assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

By 2028 we aim to increase the number of **new students from underrepresented groups**:

- ❖ from low-income households (by 6 percentage points).
- ❖ who identify as Asian, Black, Mixed or an other non-White ethnicity (by 17 percentage points).
- ❖ who are aged 21 or over (by 9 percentage points).

By 2028 we aim to increase the proportion of students who **continue into the second year of their course**:

- ❖ with a declared disability (by 11 percentage points).
- ❖ who identify as Asian, Black, Mixed or an other non-White ethnicity (by 7 percentage points).

By 2028 we aim to increase the proportion of male students who **complete their degree**:

- ❖ from low-income households (by 19 percentage points).

By 2028 we aim to increase the proportion of students who **achieve a 2:1 degree or better**:

- ❖ with a declared disability (by 6 percentage points).

By 2033 we aim to increase the proportion of students who **progress into highly skilled employment**:

- ❖ with a declared disability (by 17 percentage points; and by 10 percentage points by 2028).

## What we are doing to address risks to equality of opportunity (see pages 7 to 26 of the full plan)

To improve **access to higher education**, we will:

- ❖ Work with schools, colleges and community groups to provide information, advice, guidance and hands-on workshops to improve the quality of information available to parents, teachers, leaving care teams, careers advisers and influencers.
- ❖ Work with educators to help their GCSE-age students achieve the best grades possible.

To support students to **complete their course and achieve the best degree possible**, we will:

- ❖ Provide financial support to students to help with the costs of being in higher education.
- ❖ Build stronger student communities both within Futureworks and with students at other higher education institutions.

To help students to **find professional employment** after they graduate, we will:

- ❖ Provide targeted academic and pastoral support to maximise students' employability when they graduate.
- ❖ Build strong relationships with industry employers and support students to seek work after graduation.

### **How students can get involved (see pages 29 to 30 of the full plan)**

We worked closely with our student partners in the design of our access and participation plan. Students are integral to the oversight and operation of our strategy, and there are opportunities to take part through our widening participation ambassador programme. To become involved in this work, or to find out more, you can contact us at [widening.participation@futureworks.ac.uk](mailto:widening.participation@futureworks.ac.uk) for further information.

### **Evaluation and measurement (see pages 30 to 33 of the full plan)**

Our programmes of activity are informed by the best available evidence about what works for students. Working with our partners at [SEER](#) we collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- ❖ Our programme design, and the impact of activities we are doing to achieve our aims.
- ❖ The actions outlined above, including our access measures, learning and teaching activities, the financial support we provide. We will also evaluate our collaborative partnerships and the work we do to improve student progression into employment.
- ❖ The impact on achieving our overall aim of improving access and degree completion.

We will publish evidence from our evaluations through SEER - <https://collaborativehe.com/>

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

You can contact our access and participation team at [widening.participation@futureworks.ac.uk](mailto:widening.participation@futureworks.ac.uk) for further information.