

Point Blank Music School: Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 Access and Participation Plan

What is an Access and Participation Plan?

An Access and Participation Plan (APP) sets out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.



You can see the full Access and Participation Plan for Point Blank Music School at [link](#).

Key points

The focus of our Access and Participation Plan is on improving outcomes for specific groups of students. Data shows that, compared to their peers at Point Blank Music School, certain groups of students (though not all group members) can struggle with their studies:

See pages 2 to 10 of the full plan

- Black students are statistically less likely to complete their studies
- Black, Asian or ethnic minority students are statistically less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above

Outcomes for the above groups of students have improved significantly since the implementation of our Access and Participation Plan in September 2020 and recent data indicates that there is now greater parity in completion and attainment rates between peer groups. However, we will continue to monitor and engage in activity to maintain and where necessary improve outcomes further.

Fees we charge

At Point Blank Music School, the maximum annual fees charged for home students are:

- £9,250 for full-time students on non-accelerated programmes
- £11,100 for full-time students on accelerated programmes
- £6,000 for full-time students on online programmes



You can see a full list of fees for London courses at Point Blank Music School at: <https://www.pointblankmusicschool.com/about-point-blank/about-london-school/funding/> and for online courses at: <https://www.pointblankmusicschool.com/about-point-blank/about-online-school/funding/>

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from under-represented groups on full-time higher education programmes studied at the London campus.

See pages 15,16 and 21 of the full plan

This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The number of bursaries available is detailed in the plan. The support includes:

- An **annual bursary** of £1,500 for the duration of the course if the student's household income is £46,000 or less and from one of our target groups for access

- **Annual women in music bursaries** of £1,500 London for the duration of the course for female students with a household income of £46,000 or less
- An **annual care leaver's bursary** of £1,500 for the duration of the course
 - who have been in local authority care for a minimum of 13 weeks before the age of 16 and,
 - who are under 25 years at the time they start undergraduate study
- A **hardship fund** of up to £1000 to support students from households with an income below £46,000 who experience financial hardship during their time at Point Blank

Information for students

See pages 20 to 21 of the full plan

- **Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as open days, through our website, and by email communications.
- **Current students** receive information about fees and the financial support available through our website, in person events, our student portal, internal communications campaigns and emails

For the most up-to-date information, see the [Point Blank](#) main website and our [Widening Participation](#) page.

What we are aiming to achieve

See page 11 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 students at Point Blank can achieve their full potential.

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

- **Students from low participation neighbourhoods.** By 2024-25, we will increase the number of students accessing higher education by 12%
- **Female students from areas with the highest levels of relative deprivation¹** By 2024-25, we will increase the number of students accessing higher education by 11%
- **Ethnic minority students from areas with the highest levels of relative deprivation.** By 2024-25, we will increase the number of students accessing higher education by 20%
- **Disabled students.** By 2024-25, we will increase the number of students accessing higher education by 5% (In 2021-22 this target was already exceeded by 5%)
- **Black students.** By 2024-25 we will improve:
 - the continuation rate (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course) by 27%
 - attainment of a good degree outcome of 2:1 or above by 15%
- **Asian students.** By 2024-25 we will improve the attainment of a good degree outcome of 2:1 or above by 5%
- **Minority Ethnic students.** By 2024-25 we will improve the attainment of a good degree outcome of 2:1 or above by 18%

In addition to the above we will also continue to develop our outreach activity to **support attainment and access to higher education**. We are already working with schools to raise pupil attainment and expectations to study for a higher education qualification. During 2022-23, we will evaluate current activity and look to develop the scheme more widely.

¹ Indexes of Multiple Deprivation - a measure of relative deprivation for small areas

What we are doing to achieve our aims

See pages 12 to 15 of the full plan

We have identified five programmes of activity to support achievement of our aims and targets.

1. Development of an inclusive curriculum, teaching and student support
2. Employability and skills development to support progression to careers and further study
3. Collaboration with schools and other organisations including outreach work to support GCSE attainment
4. Marketing and promotional activity to reflect diverse audiences and support recruitment of an inclusive student body
5. Offer financial support, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to [Student Finance England](#)

How students can get involved

We worked with students in the drafting of the plan and students are represented on our Access and Participation Steering Group, which is responsible for overseeing implementation of the plan.



To provide feedback, students can contact ediofficer@pointblankmusicschool.com
To become involved in this work, contact outreach@pointblankmusicschool.com

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

See pages 17 to 20 of the full plan

Our programmes of activity are informed by the best available evidence about what works for students. We will collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- Our programme design
- The impact of the programme of activity we are doing to achieve our aims
- The five programmes of activity outlined above
- The impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and an inclusive environment

The Widening Participation Working Group will monitor and report on these processes to the Access and Participation Steering Group, which reports to the Academic Board. The Steering Group will oversee implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against yearly milestones in our Access and Participation Plan. We will monitor impact on our target groups, to ensure we are addressing our aims. Where appropriate, we will adjust our interventions in the best interests of students.

We will publish evidence from our evaluations on [our website](#) by January 2024

Contact details for further information

You can contact the Widening Participation team at outreach@pointblankmusicschool.com for further information.