

# Supporting under-represented and disadvantaged learners to access and succeed at university

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# Ice Breaker

What do universities mean by disadvantaged learners?

Which groups of students does this refer to?

Log on to [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and use the code to connect

# Disadvantaged and under-represented learners in higher education

- students from areas of low higher education participation
- students with a low household income
- students with a low socioeconomic status
- Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) students
- mature students
- disabled students
- care leavers
- carers
- people estranged from their families
- people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities
- refugees
- children from military families.



*Source: Office for Students*

# Why do universities want to support under-represented students?

Part of widening participation activity

Account for social and educational disadvantages

Generate a diverse study body that represents society

Ensures students are not limited in their ambitions

Regulatory directives stipulated by the OfS

Help to contribute to greater diversity in all levels of society

# Regulatory framework

## Access

- Eliminate the gap in participation at higher-tariff providers between the most and least represented groups by 2038-39

## Continuation

- To eliminate the unexplained gap in non-continuation between most and least represented groups by 2024-25, and to eliminate the absolute gap by 2030-31


## Attainment

- To eliminate the unexplained gap in degree outcomes (1sts or 2:1s) between white students and black students by 2024-25, and to eliminate the absolute gap by 2030-31
- Reducing the gap in degree outcomes (1sts or 2:1s) between disabled students and non-disabled students

## Progression

- 60 per cent of students to go on to further study, professional work, or other positive outcomes, within 15 months of graduating





# Pre-entry outreach support

Offered in many shapes and sizes

Run by:

- Universities
- Charitable organisations
- National partnerships
- Regional partnerships

Consist of:

- Subject specific
- General
- Specific groups

Targeted at Primary through to Post-16 and mature learners

# Contextual admissions

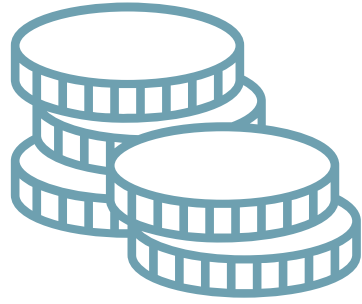
Contextual admissions is the practice of using additional information, such as where a potential student lives or which school they go to, to assess their attainment and potential.

Offers can be made on the basis of contextual data or participation in an outreach event. This might include:

- an offer based on advertised grades
- an offer at a grade or more lower than advertised
- an unconditional offer
- an offer linked to a foundation year.



# On-course support



## Additional funding

Money towards living costs

May also contribute to travel, accommodation, fees etc

## Enhanced inductions

Give students a 'head start'

Opportunity to network and get to know the campus



## Peer mentoring

Meet other students from similar backgrounds

Create networks and friendships







## **Academic support**

Drop-in sessions on different topics  
Study skills sessions

## **Enhanced careers support**

Flagged internships  
Networking with employers  
Support with CVs and assessment centres



## **Other opportunities**

Support with study or work abroad  
Guidance on placement years



# Over to you

Which access programmes  
and/or schemes are you  
aware of?

How do you sign post your  
students to these? What are  
the challenges in doing so?



# Access programmes and information



For teachers & careers advisers ▾

For students ▾

For parents & guardians ▾

For university partners ▾

Type ▾

☐ Online events only

Keyword search



## **LUMS UG Masterclass Week – A Green Career**

Lancaster University



Thursday 10 November 2022, 4:00pm to 5:00pm. Join us for our Undergraduate Masterclass week as part of Green Careers week. We have lots of great sessions for you to sign up for.

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Delivered Online

[View event](#)

## **Biosciences Taster Session**

University of Sheffield



The Biology of Ageing: Are you interested in learning about how ageing works and the potential impact of understanding ageing? Then join Dr Mirre Simons from the School of Biosciences at the University of Sheffield for this online interactive session.

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Delivered Online

[View event](#)

[Cookie Policy](#) X

look like.



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

# University of Birmingham Access programmes

## PATHWAYS TO BIRMINGHAM

YEAR 12

YEAR 13

ROUTES TO THE  
PROFESSIONS

INSPIRED@ BIRMINGHAM

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT  
PROGRAMME

NATIONAL ACCESS  
SUMMER SCHOOL

ACCESS TO BIRMINGHAM

- Established for over 20 years
- For students from the wider West Midlands and beyond
- Access support with university applications
- Help make informed choices
- [www.birmingham.ac.uk/p2b](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/p2b)



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

## Access Support

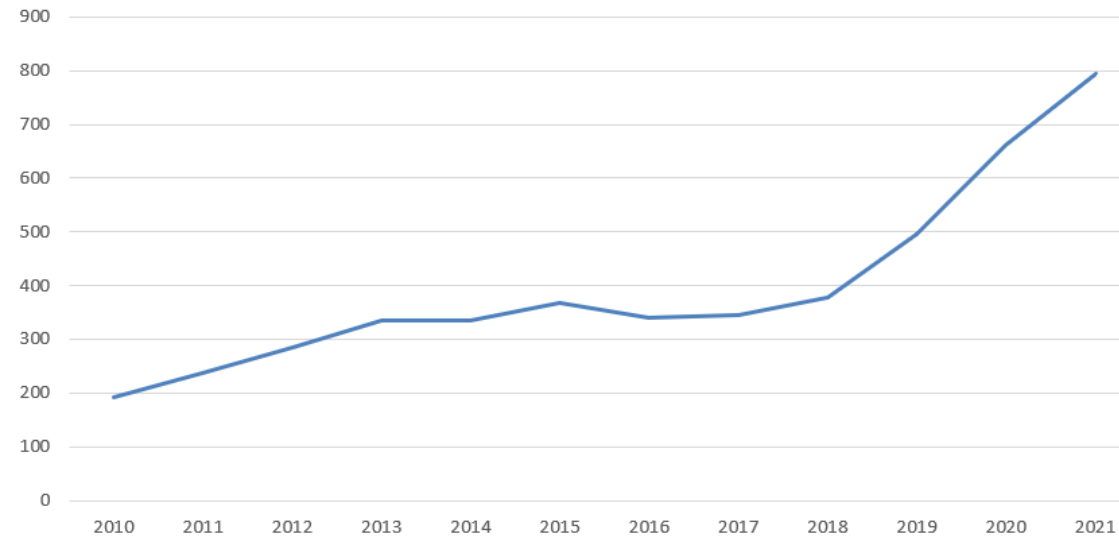
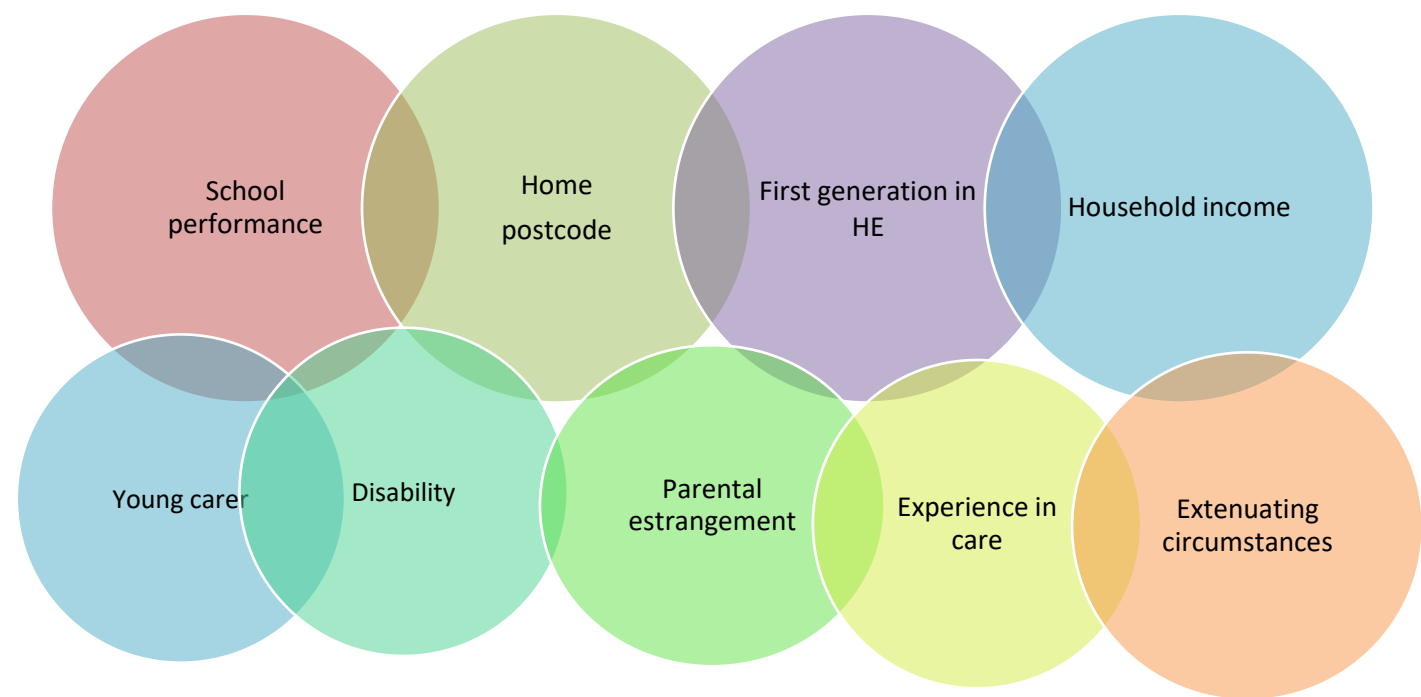
- Alternate offer (typically two grades below standard)
- Extra consideration from Admissions
- Interview support

## Transition Support

- Study skill development
- Increase university awareness and readiness

## Financial Support

- Chamberlain Award £2000/year
- P2B Scholarship £1500/year



# Contextual Offers

Nationwide opportunity

Recognises the potential of students whose personal circumstances may have restricted achievement

For students in certain home postcodes or those who have spent time in care

One grade reduction in the standard offer

Automatically applied if an offer is received



# UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS ACCESS PROGRAMMES

Access to  
Leeds

Contextual  
offers for low  
participation  
neighbourhood  
applicants

Extended  
degrees with a  
Foundation  
Year

Programmes  
for mature and  
part time  
students

External  
partnership  
programmes

Plus Programme





# UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS: ACCESS TO LEEDS



## Applicants could be eligible to a reduced grade offer if:

- They are from a household with an annual income of £25,000 or below **OR** in receipt of 16-19 Bursary Fund or Discretionary Learner Support with an income threshold of £25,000 **OR** in receipt of free school meals during your GCSE studies
- Their parents did not go to university
- They attended a school achieving below the national average at GCSE (Attainment 8 score)
- They live in an area with low progression to higher education ([use our online postcode checker](#))
- They live or grew up in public care





# Over to you

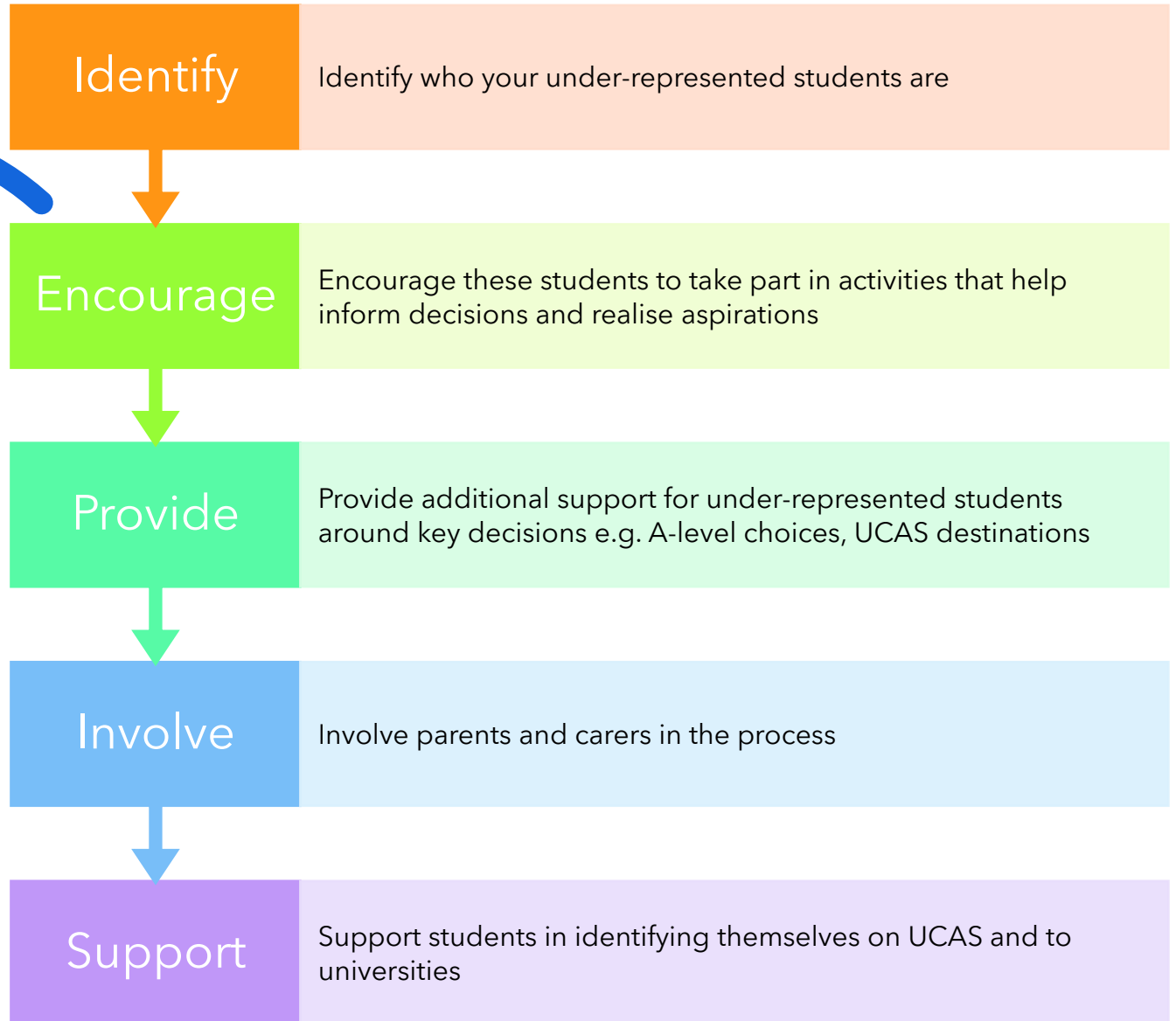
How do you support  
disadvantaged and under  
represented learners?

How do you identify them?

Are there any gaps in HE outreach  
provision?



# Hints for teachers and advisors





## Beyond undergraduate study

- Universities recognise that disadvantage in access isn't just at undergraduate level
- Challenges in access at masters and PhD levels
- Extension of student loans for masters study and financial support from universities
- New areas of work looking at progression to PhD study from disadvantaged groups

# Further information

## UCAS

[Widening access and participation](#)

[Contextual admissions: what it means for your students](#)

[Adviser toolkit: Supporting students with individual needs](#)

[2023 entry: new questions on UCAS application form to support widening access](#)

## Other links

[University of Leeds: Access to Leeds scheme](#)

[University of Birmingham: Pathways to Birmingham](#)

[Futurelearn: study skills MOOCs](#)

[Office for Students Access and Participation Glossary](#)





Thank you

[www.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.leeds.ac.uk)

[educationoutreach@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:educationoutreach@leeds.ac.uk)

[www.birmingham.ac.uk](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk)

[outreach@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@contacts.bham.ac.uk)