Widening Participation
Student Engagement Fund
What is the Widening Participation Student Engagement Fund?

The Widening Participation Student Engagement Fund allows students to carry out widening participation initiatives and events to help the University achieve a more diverse student community.

The fund gives students the opportunity to bid for an idea they have for widening participation. £10,000 is available in total for students and student groups to help run their projects. Applicants can bid for funds of up to £1,000 per bid.

Who can apply?

The Widening Participation Student Engagement Fund is open to any current University of Bristol student. Applications can be made by individuals, groups or student societies.

What can be funded?

- Initiatives which aim to diversify our undergraduate student body. Successful bids will be clearly targeted and aim to work towards the priorities and targets outlined below.
- Projects which work with non-fee-paying schools in the UK only
- Work with students of any age from Year 6 – mature students
- Non-salaried work. Salaries cannot be funded, though the fund can be used to pay staff on an hourly basis for ad hoc work
- Initiatives that focus on the UoB Widening Participation Priorities and the additional outreach team priorities will be considered favourably
Widening Participation Priorities

Widening Participation at Bristol and diversifying our Undergraduate student body is essential to the future of the University. In order to charge full tuition fees, all universities must make a commitment to diversify their undergraduate student body with the Office for Students, outlining several challenging targets in an Access and Participation Plan. The plan for 2020 intake onwards has been approved and focuses on the following:

### Non-fee-paying

Increasing the numbers of students from schools which are non-fee-paying. The 2018 intake of home students from non-fee-paying schools was 67.3%.

### BAME students

Increase the percentage of our intake from Asian and Black students. Currently Asian students account for 6.9% of the student body, and Black students 2.3%. By 2024-25, we are aiming for 9.5% and 4.8% respectively.

### POLAR4 Quintile 1

Increase the number of POLAR4 Quintile 1 students studying at Undergraduate level at the University of Bristol. POLAR4 is a measure of likelihood of individuals from a particular postcode attending university. People living in the postcodes in Quintile 1 are the least likely to attend university, whereas those in POLAR4 Quintile 5 are the most likely. You can check postcodes [here](#).

### Mature students

Raise the percentage of intake from mature students, from 5.9% currently to 8% in 2024-25.

### Venturers Trust

Increase the numbers of students recruited from the [Venturers Trust](#). This is the Multi-Academy Trust that the University of Bristol sponsors.

In addition, the central outreach team continues its work with these underrepresented groups:

- Care-experienced students and care leavers
- Students living within one hour of Bristol
- Students attending an [Aspiring State School](#)
Expectations for funded projects

Guidance will be given on the areas below. You will be supported and trained on targeting, impact and evaluation. All funded projects must:

- **Have clearly identifiable aims** that fit with the WP priorities
- **Be targeted** appropriately towards one or more of the target groups identified in the WP priorities
- **Collect data** in a specified format on the students attending the initiative
- **Evaluate the success** of the project against its aims with an achievable evaluation plan

**Key dates**

- **Wednesday 20\textsuperscript{th} November:** Launch event
- **Wednesday 11\textsuperscript{th} December:** Pitch
- **Sunday 8\textsuperscript{th} December:** Application deadline
- **Friday 13\textsuperscript{th} December:** Announcements

**How to apply**

To apply, please complete the [Widening Participation Student Engagement Fund proposal form](#). Application forms should be completed by midnight, Sunday 8\textsuperscript{th} December. Applicants should also prepare a 10-minute pitch to be presented to the Fund panel on Wednesday, 11\textsuperscript{th} December. During the pitches, applicants are expected to draw on their applications but give more detail concentrating on both the delivery and evaluation of the project, as well as how participants will be targeted.

If you have any questions about the Widening Participation Student Engagement Fund then please email [uob-outreach-projects@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:uob-outreach-projects@bristol.ac.uk)