

The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama

Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 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 for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.



You can see the full access and participation plan for The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (Central) on our [website](#).

Key points

The focus of Central's access and participation plan is to increase the number students from underrepresented groups into creative arts subjects in higher education.

Fees we charge

At Central, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,250 for full time students

You can see a full list of fees on the student funding page of our [website](#).

Financial help available



See page 18 of the full plan

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

- **Free auditions** for the BA (Hons) Acting programme to students from low income households.
- **Widening participation bursary** for first year undergraduate students from low income households.
- A **hardship fund** to support students who experience financial hardship during their time at Central.
- An annual **bursary** of £1,000 a year for **care experienced** students.
- A range of **scholarships** and **bursaries** is available for prospective and current students. Further information can be found on the [Scholarships and Bursaries page](#) on our website.

Information for students

 See page 20 of the full plan

- **Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, external events (such as UCAS Fairs), and by email communications.
- We regularly update our information for **care leavers** on the [Propel](#) website and our own [website](#).
- **Current students** receive information about fees and financial support available through our student portal, internal communications campaigns and emails.

For the most up-to-date information, see our [website](#).

What are we aiming to achieve?

 See pages 12 to 21 of the full plan

Our overall aim is to support students to access the creative arts curriculum in higher education and the creative arts. We also want to ensure we create an environment where students at Central can achieve their full potential.

We will do this through supporting the national creative arts curriculum in schools and through providing access programmes to higher education. We are working with schools and colleges to raise awareness and actively encourage young people to take part in creative arts subjects. During 2022-23, we will continue to work with schools and colleges from where fewer pupils access higher education. We will continue to review, monitor and evaluate our programme of work year on year.

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

To increase students from underrepresented backgrounds. By 2024-25 we will improve:

- access to higher education from low participation neighbourhoods rate by 7%
- access to higher education from disadvantage backgrounds rate by 6.3%
- access to higher education for Black and global majority students rate by 5%
- reduce the gap in progression into employment/further study rates between students from black and global majority backgrounds and students from white backgrounds to 5%.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

 See pages 15 to 16 of the full plan

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

1. Extend our **programme of work with schools and colleges** – to support more pupils from underrepresented groups to access the creative arts, attain good grades and progress to study for a higher education qualification.

2. **Engage external partners** to collaborate on improving access to higher education, to continue successfully in the chosen course of study, and to progress towards employment or further study.
3. Enhance **support for study** throughout the institution so all students can access tailored support.
4. **Engage students** in their own development of personal, social and professional skills.
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

 See page 19 of the full plan

We worked with the Students' Union to provide student input into the design of our access and participation plan. Students are represented on our Access and Participation Plan Working Group, which is responsible for overseeing implementation of the plan.

- To provide feedback, students can contact the [Student Union President](#).
- To become involved in this work, contact our [Access and Participation Manager](#).

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved?

 See page 19 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 actions outlined above
- the impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and an inclusive environment.

The Access and Participation Plan Working Group will monitor and report on these processes to the Executive Management Group and to the Governing Body. The Working Group will oversee implementation of any 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 our student community.

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

Contact details for further information

You can contact Verna Rhodes at verna.rhodes@cssd.ac.uk for further information.