



University of St Andrews
Scotland's first university – 1413



Access Annual Report

2019

2017-2018 has been a busy and active year for the Access team at St Andrews. We have engaged in a wide range of activities, locally and national, to raise the aspirations and attainment of under-represented groups in higher education.

Our strategy is twofold. Firstly, we have focused our attention on strengthening and developing our core outreach programmes to ensure we engage and target learners in the best ways possible. This year, our outreach programme has grown considerably through the expansion of our First Chances Foundation Programme to new Primary School cluster areas. First Chances Foundation provides long-term support for pupils at an early phase in their education and contributes to a growing pipeline of provision beginning in Primary 7 and continuing through to the end of secondary and beyond. In 2017-2018 a review of our Schools Outreach activity resulted in consolidation of some of our existing provision being incorporated into First Chances Foundation which will have a long term and meaningful impact on the pupils involved.

Secondly, in September 2018, we officially launched our Gateway to Arts Programme. The Gateway to Arts provides supported entry into degree-level study at St Andrews for applicants under 21 who have narrowly missed our minimum entry grades. The Gateway programme also offers advice and support through mentoring and a named person to provide pastoral support. This helps ensure that students make a successful transition into university life.

Partnership working is still at the heart of our approach. As a University we continue to invest significant resource into widening access activities supported by a strong network of local and national organisations enabling us to expand our outreach programme in ambitious ways. In 2017-2018, we invested £385,250 in operational spend across access, outreach and lifelong learning activities which included contributions from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), The Robertson Trust, Fife Council and the Sutton Trust. This was complemented by targeted financial support, through generous Scholarships, to attract lower-income students and a research based contextual admissions process, to facilitate their entry.

Detailed information about all our access projects and engagement can be found in our Access brochure and on our website.



Mike Johnson
Director of Access and UK Admissions

Our partners



Contextual admissions

The University is committed to fair, transparent and consistent admissions practices which select students based on academic potential, irrespective of their socio-economic background.

Our admissions process is progressive and uses multiple access markers to ensure we get this right – both in the selection of our projects and to enable us to put into context the achievements of all applicants and assess potential.

Our contextual admissions policy was implemented in 2011. The percentage of Scottish-domiciled entrants flagged with at least one access marker has increased by 3%, from 2017-2018, rising to 50% in 2018-2019. During this time, our intake for SIMD20/40 in relation to the total Scottish-domiciled percentage of entrants has risen from 19.6% in 2017-2018 to 21.6% in 2018-2019.

18% of our RUK-domiciled entrants (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) were flagged with an access marker and remained steady in 2018-2019.

As a University, we remain committed to using contextualized admissions in our policies and processes and believe that these multiple measures offer a truer picture of applicant's ambitions and achievements in widening access.

Undergraduate entrants with access code (Scottish domiciled only): five-year overview

Access Status	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Access Code	231	194	214	267	348
No Access Code	485	301	341	297	355
Total Intake	716	495	555	564	703
Access Coded	32%	39%	39%	47%	50%

Undergraduate entrants with access code (RUK domiciled only): five-year overview

Access Status	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Access Code	119	90	93	100	98
No Access Code	484	448	511	443	455
Total Intake	603	538	604	543	553
Access Coded	20%	17%	15%	18%	18%

Undergraduate entrants by SIMD quintile (Scottish domiciled only): five-year overview

SIMD Quintile	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
1	5.0%	5.2%	5.4%	7.4%	10.6%
2	8.3%	10.9%	11.7%	12.2%	11.3%
1+2	13.2%	16.1%	17.1%	19.6%	21.6%
3	15.2%	15.7%	15.3%	14.1%	16.0%
4	27.0%	24.3%	24.8%	24.5%	23.9%
5	42.5%	42.7%	42.3%	40.9%	38.3%
No Data	2.1%	1.2%	0.3%	0.9%	0.1%
Grand Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Schools Outreach

Primary and early secondary (P7-S3)

As part of a Strategic Review of the wide range of short term and standalone projects offered to local primary schools in 2017, we moved to consolidate our offering into a single and more sustainable, long-term project which has become embedded in our key outreach programme. This new strand, First Chances Foundation, not only extends our delivery of outreach in the local area, but also strengthens our partnership with The Robertson Trust, Fife schools, Fife Council and the Scottish Funding Council. First Chances Foundation now offers support in early stage education and introduces long-term engagement spanning across primary and secondary school. First Chances Foundation now encompass pupils in early secondary not previously included within the scope of our short-term projects.

Over the last year, our focused initiatives have created engagement with over 353 pupils across four primary cluster areas and 11 secondary schools in Fife. From September 2018, our focus will centre on the expansion of First Chances Foundation with the aim of rolling out this project to all ten First Chances cluster groups by 2020. Our aim is to increase the total number of pupils in P7 to S3 involved to around 887 within a sustained programme by this time.

“Working as part of the First Chances Principal Teacher team, I have witnessed first-hand the positive impact that this programme has had on our young people. Over the months I have seen pupils not only gain knowledge, understanding and skills, I have also seen them grow in confidence and conviction in their own abilities. This confidence can be seen when they are working both individually and collaboratively on the various tasks they are given, quite often in unfamiliar settings with unfamiliar people. It can be seen in their growing ability to present and share ideas to others and it can also be seen in the way that they are beginning to think critically and reflectively about how the First Chances programme can help inform their future choices beyond Secondary School.”

Principal Teacher First Chances (PEF Funded)

Senior phase (S4-S6)

Our senior phase work remains to be predominantly focused within our local community. Following significant expansion of First Chances in 2015, we have developed a cohesive framework of engagement with positive destinations and a pathway to access higher education incorporating pupils from S4 to S6. Over the last year, our First Chances Senior Phase programme engaged with over 253 pupils in 11 local schools; a figure which we expect to rise to approximately 730 by 2020.

First Chances is one of a number of key programmes focused on increasing the number of under-represented groups at St Andrews from across the UK. This year, the number of SFC funded places increased by five as a result of the success of our Access for Rural Communities (ARC) project and the SFC continues its commitment to Reach Scotland, of which we are a partner, to 2020. June 2018 also marked a 17-year partnership with the Sutton Trust and the delivery of summer schools to over **1,726** beneficiaries in St Andrews since 2002.

Working through these collaborative partnerships, we engaged with over 1,170 senior school pupils from under-represented groups in five higher education initiatives during 2017-2018.

Pupil participation 2017-2018 (S4-S6)

Initiative	Age Range	Area Focus	No. of Pupils
Access for Rural Communities Summer School (ARC)	S4 - S6	Argyll and Bute, Highlands, Western Isles, Orkney & Shetland Islands	41
First Chances Senior Phase	S4 – S6	Fife	253
Reach Scotland	S4 – S6	Fife	322
St Andrews Information Day	S5 – S6	Scotland	93
First Year Mentoring	S6	Scotland	67
Sutton Trust Summer School	S5/Y12	UK	124

“The work of the Widening Participation team at St Andrews is an excellent example of positive and forward-thinking access work. They are committed to improving social mobility and fair access to higher education. The Sutton Trust has for many years worked with St Andrews to run activities for students and teachers. The results have been great and we look forward to continuing our partnership for many years to come”

Sir Peter Lampl, Sutton Trust



Continued support

We remain committed to ensuring that St Andrews is accessible to all those who have the potential to succeed.

Gateway programmes

Since 2012, we have committed funding to ensure those whose circumstances make it difficult to achieve our minimum academic entry requirements have the opportunity to study at St Andrews. One of the ways in which we do this is through our Gateway programmes which offer a tailored first year (Gateway to Computer Science and Gateway to Physics and Astronomy) or a one-year bridging programme (Gateway to Medicine). During 2017-2018, 39 students were successful in receiving an offer to study at St Andrews through one of these routes which resulted in 26 entrants.

Care-experienced learners and young carers

We have dedicated significant time, thought and effort to the development of our Corporate Parenting Plan to outline the ways in which the University will support care-experienced young people. The number of those participating in our core outreach programme has increased significantly over the last 3 years from two in 2014-2015 to 49 by June 2018.

We also continue to work with local councils and partners to ensure that our policies and processes support the admission and retention of care-experienced young people and young carers to the university.

Scholarships

Together with the support of alumni and donors we offer a wide range of scholarships which continues to increase year on year. We are committed to offering £1,500 per academic year to any UK student with a household income of less than £34,000 per annum. Additionally, we have funds specifically aimed towards the cost of University-managed accommodation and bursaries for part-time students.

The total scholarship funds allocated to students in 2018 was in excess of £3.48 million, comprising almost 1,967 awards. Our Student Services team also awarded £287,197 in Discretionary Fund payments to current students in financial need, as well as providing £47,150 in Childcare Fund Payments to student parents.

First year mentoring

Our first year mentoring project aims to address the challenges experienced by students from under-represented groups as they transition into post-secondary education. Now in its third year, 67 entrants were paired with a current student in May 2018 – an approachable contact and source of advice and guidance whilst settling into University at St Andrews.

“Gateway to Medicine has had a tremendous impact, not only on my academic life but also on me as a person. It allowed me to pursue my dream field of studies as well as providing me with valuable life experience of independence and a solid basis in the sciences creating an incredible base I plan to build my medical career on.”

Jakub Sikora

Lifelong and flexible learning

Working closely with our local further education colleges and community groups we offer designated full-time and part-time degree routes to mature learners from all backgrounds and experiences.

The University has full-time undergraduate places available each year to those applying from further education colleges. These students are admitted to an MA or BSc FE:HE pathway.

In the most recent admissions cycle, 159 applicants were selected for interview. 60 of those were made an offer and 33 students went on to successfully meet the conditions of entry and matriculate into St Andrews.

The Lifelong learning team also delivered a range of events and activities focused on raising the aspirations of adult learners and supporting their progression to university level study. In doing so, we engaged with over 750 local HNC, SWAP Access and Certificate of Higher Education students.

Working with teachers

Teachers Together combines academic and admissions focused sessions to encourage discussion of curricular and resource matters including subject-related admissions advice and demonstrations of academic content. In addition to the three-day residential conference, one-day ‘On the Road’ events are provided to ensure we are accessible to all those who wish to attend.

Primarily aimed at teachers and advisers in Scottish state schools, as well as our colleagues in further education colleges, the conference provides an open and relaxed atmosphere in which we can share knowledge and best practice from across the education sector as well as inform colleagues about any changes in our admissions process, entry routes or access initiatives over the last year.

In June 2018, **50 delegates attended one of two conferences representing 36 state schools** and further education colleges from across the UK.

“Each year a number of our SWAP students are given a place at St Andrews. I’m especially pleased to see the 1:1 support they give to our widening access students once they take up a place at university. The support and guidance that the University of St Andrews staff give, especially in the first year, is crucial, and SWAP is extremely thankful to have such a great supporter in the SWAP partnership.”

Lesley Dunbar, Director, Scottish Wider Access Programme East

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