

KEY TERMINOLOGY & ABBREVIATIONS

APPs	Access and Participation Plans. Universities are required to fulfil a widening access and participation plan to support underrepresented groups into Higher Education. They do these through a variety of methods, projects and events.
DSA	You can apply for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) to cover some of the extra costs you have because of a mental health problem, long term illness or any other disability.
FE	Further education (FE) refers to educational choices made after your 16th birthday. It covers all qualifications lower than a degree. Everyone must study FE until they are 18.
HE	Higher education (HE) is most often the continuation of study post the age of 18, usually from a level 4 upwards.
HEI	Universities, colleges, and conservatoires are sometimes referred to as higher education institutions.
High Tariff HEI/University	This refer to universities often charging higher course fees, requiring higher entry requirement, often considered Russell group and/or highly prestigious universities.
OfS	The Office for Students (OfS) is the independent regulator of higher education in England. They are also the regulator responsible for widening participation.
POLAR	POLAR is the data used by the OfS to measure the participation rates in higher education for local areas, this is what is used to determine which areas fall within the Uni Connect Programme.
SFE	Student Finance England (SFE) is the body which organises student finance in England on behalf of the Student Loans Company (SLC), which is a non-departmental public body that provides and collects student loans.
Social mobility	Social mobility is about breaking the link between an individual's parental background and their opportunities to reach their full potential in terms of income and occupation. It is about better opportunities for each generation and making access to these opportunities fairer, regardless of background. Social mobility is usually measured through income or social class.
Student Services	Student Services (also known as Student Support) is a department of a university dedicated to supporting students with things such as counselling, mental health, disability support and money management.
Student Union	The Students' Union represents students to tackle any issues arising between them and their university. Student union officers organise clubs, societies, and opportunities.

SUN	The Southern Universities Network is a collaborative partnership comprising of universities, local authorities, colleges and schools in Dorset, Hampshire, and the Isle of Wight. The SUN is a part of the Uni Connect Programme.
UCAS	UCAS or the University and Colleges Admissions Service is an independent charity which provides information advice and admissions services for FE and HE. They host the application process for most undergraduate courses in the UK.
Underrepresented Groups	This refers to students or groups who are less likely to attend higher education compared to the overall population.
Uni Connect	Supports young people from specific postcode areas deemed to be low participation areas with regards to higher education (formerly the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP)).
Uni Connect Student	A student who lives in an area recognised as low participation by the Uni Connect Programme (formerly NCOP student).
Widening Participation	Widening participation (WP) is an attempt to increase the proportion of students in higher education from under-represented groups.