

EQUAL ACCESS

Access to Higher Education for all

To help make progress on this equality goal, your college gathers Equal Access information each year on the socio-economic background, disability and ethnicity of new entrants to higher education and returns it to the Higher Education Authority (HEA).

With the information, the HEA is able to measure equality of access to higher education and allocate the resources needed to support students of all backgrounds and abilities.

The information gathered is protected by robust data protection policies in your college and in the HEA, in full compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and data protection legislation, and subject to audit by the Data Protection Commission.

Anonymous Equal Access data is shared with the HEA to support the allocation of funding for access programmes and students. The data is also analysed to advise national access policy. Only aggregate anonymous data will be published. No individuals or small groups can be identified in this analysis.

All new entrants are encouraged to respond to the Equal Access questions, however it is not mandatory and non-response will not prevent your registration at college or affect your eligibility for financial support.

Non-response may, however, have implications for the amount of State funding that is allocated to your college, and to the supports available to students who need them.

The HEA is responsible for funding higher education institutions and advising the Minister for Education and Skills on policy formulation to develop the highest standards in our higher education system. The HEA promotes equality of access to higher education for people with disabilities, mature students who previously had not the opportunity to access higher education, those facing social and economic barriers and minority groups, including the Traveller community. The HEA also administers the Fund for Students with Disabilities, the Student Assistance Fund and the Springboard Initiative.

If you would like further information please contact

Access Policy, HEA, 3 Shelbourne Buildings, Crampton Avenue, Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 C2 Y6