THINK MODERN

Aspiration, opportunity, inclusion

Modern universities have increased the opportunities for people from all walks of life to experience the transformative impact of higher education.

Mature learners, people already in work, and all those who thought higher education was only for others have been able to **unlock their potential** and **create new careers for themselves and new lives for their families.** This diversity of approach and student profile is a key pillar of the modern university sector.

LEADING THE WAY IN WIDENING PARTICIPATION...

96% of entrants to modern universities went to a state school.

In England...

65% of all HE entrants from a low participation background were studying at modern universities.

Modern universities accounted for **81%** of full-time mature entrants to higher education.

In Scotland...

A third of universities are modern, but they account for **56%** of full-time entrants to university from the most disadvantaged backgrounds and **68%** of mature students.[1]

In 2020–21, **64%** of Black students in the UK were at modern universities.

All modern universities identified widening participation/access as one of the principal areas in which they contribute to the local economy.

...AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

89% of modern universities provide distance learning courses.

88% of modern universities provide continuous work-based learning courses.

226,163 people attended free performance arts events organised by modern universities in 2020–21.

37,025 people attended paid exhibitions at modern universities.

34,646 people attended paid performance arts events at modern universities.

906,427 people attended free public lectures at modern universities.

635,307 people attended free public exhibitions at modern universities.

[1] Scottish Funding Council, Report on Widening Access 2020–21.
All data taken from **HESA records 2020–21** and refer to undergraduates unless otherwise stated.