

# EQUAL ACCESS

## TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL

### WHAT IS THE **EQUAL ACCESS SURVEY**?

The Equal Access Survey is an annual, **voluntary** set of questions asked of first year full-time and part-time undergraduate students to Higher Education Authority (HEA)-funded institutions. The questions are asked as part of the registration process at the start of the academic year.

### WHO CONDUCTS THE **EQUAL ACCESS SURVEY**?

The Equal Access Survey is conducted by your institution and data from the survey is returned to the HEA for analysis purposes<sup>1</sup>.

### WHY IS THE **EQUAL ACCESS SURVEY CONDUCTED**?

With information obtained from the Equal Access Survey, the HEA can **measure progress on national targets relating to equity of access to higher education and can develop the evidence base to inform policy in this area.**

### WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED?

To help progress the goal of equal access to higher education for all, information is gathered on the **disability, ethnicity (including members of the Irish Traveller and Roma communities), lone parenthood status** and commute time of students to higher education<sup>2</sup>.

### IS COMPLETING THE **EQUAL ACCESS SURVEY MANDATORY**?

While all students are encouraged to complete the Equal Access Survey, it is **not mandatory**. However, answering the survey questions will help in developing a better understanding of the student population and their needs. Non-response may have implications for the amount of State funding allocated to your institution.



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

HEA

HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY  
AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS

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 and Roma communities. The HEA also administers the Fund for Students with Disabilities, the Student Assistance Fund, the Programme for Access to Higher Education and the Springboard+ initiative.

If you would like further information, please contact [access@hea.ie](mailto:access@hea.ie)

<sup>1</sup> Only aggregate anonymous data is published.

<sup>2</sup> The information gathered is protected by robust data protection policies in your institution 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. Please see the HEA's Data Privacy Notice at [https://hea.ie/about-us/data\\_protection/](https://hea.ie/about-us/data_protection/)

