



EQUAL ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL

WHAT IS THE **EQUAL ACCESS** SURVEY?

The Equal Access Survey is an annual **voluntary** survey of first year full-time and part-time undergraduate new entrants to Higher Education Authority (HEA)-funded colleges.

WHO CONDUCTS THE **EQUAL ACCESS** SURVEY?

The Equal Access Survey is conducted by your college and data from the survey is returned to the HEA for analysis purposes¹.

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

With information obtained from the Equal Access Survey, the HEA can **measure equality of access to higher education** and allocate the resources needed to support students of all backgrounds and abilities. This will help progress the goal of equal access to higher education for all.

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 community), lone parenthood status** and commute time of new entrants to higher education².

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

While all new entrants are encouraged to complete the Equal Access Survey, it is **not mandatory**. However, non-response may have implications for the amount of State funding allocated to your college.

If you would like further information, or an accessible version of this leaflet, please contact access@hea.ie

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, the Programme for Access to Higher Education and the Springboard+ initiative.

¹ Only aggregate anonymous data is published.

² 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.