



CASE STUDY — HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY CHANGE

SAMANTHA MORGAN · HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY & ACCESS

ID Inclusion

Winning Fairer Bursary Access for Part-Time Students

A part-time student excluded from support she was entitled to initiated a university-wide policy change at the University of Essex — and a wider conversation about discrimination in higher-education funding.

1

university-wide policy rewritten

2nd

university revised disability disclosure

100s

of part-time students newly eligible

2

national/regional press features

THE BARRIER

Bursary rules at the University of Essex excluded part-time students from support full-time students received by default — a route disproportionately used by disabled, neurodivergent and disadvantaged students juggling health, work and caring responsibilities.

THE CHALLENGE

Over months of extensive research, Samantha evidenced how this did not meet the Equality Act. She challenged the exclusionary practice directly with the university, drawing on her own experience of studying part-time with the Open University while managing disability, disadvantage and a late autism and ADHD diagnosis.

THE OUTCOME

The University of Essex rewrote its bursary policies, opening fairer access to funding across its bursary scheme for part-time students previously excluded, not just for a single bursary.

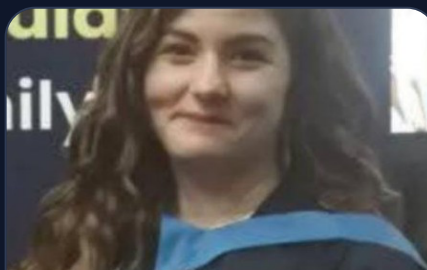
AND CAMBRIDGE

Samantha applied the same lens to her own postgraduate disclosure process at Cambridge — she raised it directly with the university, and Cambridge changed its wording as a result, reshaping how the language of disability disclosure shapes trust from the first interaction.

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Inclusion consultant Samantha Morgan highlights unfair university policies after challenging the University of Essex over autistic student support.

SUFFOLK NEWS



Suffolk News / Haverhill Echo

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Bursaries only for full-time students discriminatory.

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION

FEATURED & PRESENTED AT

BBC News · BBC Radio Suffolk · British Psychological Society · British Sociological Association · Times Higher Education · Suffolk News · East Anglian Daily Times · Open University · Alcohol Change UK · Alcohol Health Alliance

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