

The City of Liverpool College

Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans set out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

You can see the full access and participation plan for the City of Liverpool College on the College's website, [here](#).

Key points

The City of Liverpool College is a large further education College offering higher education courses up to degree level.

Our cohort includes a high proportion of students who live in neighbourhoods where very few people study in higher education and where there are significantly high levels of disadvantage. We also have high numbers of mature students (aged 21 and above) and a higher-than-average proportion of disabled students.

We have identified that, compared to their peers at the City of Liverpool College, the following groups of students are less likely to successfully complete their studies:

- Students from neighbourhoods where very few people study in higher education
- Asian, Black, mixed and other minority ethnic students
- Students with a declared disability

Fees we charge

At the City of Liverpool College, the fees we charge vary according to a student's course and mode of study.

The maximum fee we charge is:

- £8410 for full-time students
- £5607 for part-time students

You can see a full list of fees in the 'Fee Summary' document on [this webpage](#), under 'Information for new students and applicants'.

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from some underrepresented groups. This support includes the following bursaries:

- £500 for full-time students with a household income of up to £25,000 and in receipt of additional grants or allowances from Student Finance
- £250 for part-time students with a household income of up to £25,000 and in receipt of additional grants or allowances from Student Finance

Care-experienced students are automatically entitled to a bursary, without needing to meet the other eligibility criteria.

We also have a fund for students to access when they are experiencing unexpected financial difficulty.

Information for students

Prospective and current students receive information on fees and financial support through the College website, the College's higher education prospectus and their admissions letters.

What we are aiming to achieve

The aim of our access and participation work is to ensure that all students reach their full potential regardless of their background and identity.

Based on an assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

- **Students from neighbourhoods where very few people study in higher education –** By 2024-25 we will improve:
 - the proportion of students from these neighbourhoods accessing higher education at the College to 33%
 - the continuation rate (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course) to 89%
- **Students with a declared disability –** By 2024-25 we will reduce the gap in continuation rates between students with a declared disability and those with no known disability to 0%
- **Asian, Black, mixed and other students (ABMO) –** By 2024-25 we will reduce the gap in continuation rates between ABMO students and white students to 0%
- We are working to increase progression to graduate employment for all underrepresented groups.

We have also identified some additional areas where we will be focusing our work, starting in 2023-24:

- **Raising attainment in schools -** we will share our technical expertise and specialist facilities to make sure pupils reach the skills-based standards to enter further education and progress to higher technical pathways.
- **Part-time study and short courses –** we will increase the amount and range of courses we offer on a part-time basis and we will grow our options to study one unit at a time. This will target mature students who need more flexibility in their study options.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

We have set out a range of strategies to deliver our aims. These relate to different areas of a student's higher education journey and include the following:

Access (entering higher education)

- Enhanced progression guidance and support for further education students within the College, including in-house taster sessions.
- Actively engaging with a partnership of other local higher education providers called 'Shaping Futures' to promote different pathways into and through higher education.
- Peer support programmes working with student ambassadors, including mentoring schemes.
- Raising attainment in technical and specialist subjects through masterclasses, skills competitions and teacher CPD.

Success (completing a programme of study)

- Assessing all students at the start of their programme and identifying students from groups where there are identified gaps in success so that they can receive appropriate guidance from different College teams.
- Individual pastoral and academic support and progress monitoring for all students, and enhanced support for students from groups where there are identified gaps in participation.
- 'Achievement Coach' study support for all students identified to be at risk of not continuing or not achieving.
- Facilitating good practice and innovative approaches in teaching and learning, such as through independent study tasks and research skills.
- Delivering provision in small teaching groups, allowing for more individualised support and monitoring of progress and early identification of barriers to success.
- From 2022-23, the development of a social and cultural curriculum framework to provide interventions and teaching that remove barriers to student engagement and learning.

Progression (moving on to graduate employment or further study)

- Strong partnerships with employers who are leaders in their chosen sectors that inform the design of the curriculum.
- Employability and enterprise skills delivered through the tutorial system and through placements, careers talks and advice and guidance activities.
- Recruitment of staff with relevant industrial experience and expertise.
- Additional careers and study progression events for students who are unsure of their future destinations.

How students can get involved

We work with Student Representatives to gather student input into the design of our Access and Participation Plan. This takes place through Boards of Study and Focus Groups.

We also seek all students' views on their experience of accessing higher education, continuing with their studies and progressing into graduate employment through surveys and questionnaires.

Our Access and Participation subgroup oversees our delivery of the plan and we welcome students to be part of this.

To get involved in the work we do to realise our Access and Participation plan, you can contact: HEOffice@liv-coll.ac.uk

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our activities are informed by research from universities, government and organisations who are experts in widening access to higher education and supporting student success.

We gather data and feedback to evaluate the progress and impact of our activities. This helps us to identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement and create action plans to address them.

We measure what we have achieved through our Data and Information Subgroup who monitor our progress during the academic year and against yearly milestones.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Katherine Davey (Dean of University Centre) through the Higher Education Office for further information: HEOffice@liv-coll.ac.uk