

NELSON COLLEGE LONDON

Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation sets out provisions that will be meaningful and effective in promoting equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups, as determined by the Office for Students.

You can see the full access and participation plan for Nelson College London at <https://nelsoncollege.ac.uk/access-and-participation-plans>

Key points

Nelson College London (NCL) has campuses in Ilford, Gants Hill, and Broadstairs, offering HND, Foundation degrees, BA Top-Up, and Master's qualifications in Business and Hospitality Management. The college is dedicated to providing equal opportunities for all underrepresented groups to access, succeed in, and progress in higher education. Key risks to equality include low enrolment of young ethnic minority students and students with disabilities, lower continuation rates for Black, Asian, and young students under 21, and lower completion rates for students from high-deprivation areas. Our plan highlights our commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive environment, equipping students with the skills needed for professional employment or further study. The college also offers financial support for eligible students in the form of bursary and hardship fund.

See pages 1 to 2 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

Our course fee for undergraduate courses is £9,250 per year. The fee may be subject to an increase by RPI-X. You can find more details about the fee on the college website at <https://nelsoncollege.ac.uk/fee-structure>.

See page 34 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Financial help available

The college offers students the following financial support packages depending on their circumstances:

- NCL Bursary Scheme – for students from disabled and/or care-experienced backgrounds. Eligible students will receive an annual grant of £1,000 and students who are from care experienced backgrounds will receive an extra £1,000. Further information is provided during the application process.
- NCL Hardship Fund – up to £1000 will be available for students facing unexpected financial difficulties.

Further details are available on the college website <https://nelsoncollege.ac.uk/financial-support>

See pages 19 to 20 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

The college website provides detailed and up-to-date information for its existing and prospective students, such as available courses, fees, academic and financial support, and extra-curricular activities. Current students are also provided up-to-date information via email communications, college's VLE portal, college's social media, and college events.

Students can view our Access and Participation Plan on the college website under About / Widening Participation / Access and Participation Plans: <https://nelsoncollege.ac.uk/access-and-participation-plans>.

See page 19 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

Our main goal is to help students gain access to and succeed in higher education.

The college's analysis of the data, combined with conversations with students and staff, has helped identify some key risks to equality of opportunity. The following risks were identified:

Access

1. Low number of young students from ethnic minority backgrounds compared to other demographics
2. Low number of students reporting a disability enrolled in the college.

Continuation and Completion

3. Low continuation rates of Black and Asian students compared to other demographics
4. Low continuation rate of young students aged under 21 compared to other ages.
5. Low completion rates of students from high deprivation areas (IMD quintiles 1 and 2)
6. Low completion rates of Black and Asian students compared to other demographics

On-Course Attainment

7. Low average attainment rates of students from high-deprivation areas (IMD quintiles 1 and 2)

Progression

8. Large progression gap between White and Black students, and White and Asian students.

See pages 3 to 4 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are doing to address key risks to equality of opportunity

We have designed four intervention strategies to address the key risks to equality of opportunity. The four strategies relate to each stage of a student's lifecycle:

Access and Outreach – Intervention Strategy 1 Activities

- Increasing English proficiency in schools with high number of non-English speaking pupils
- Raising aspirations for higher education through engagement in schools and local communities
- Collaborating with a further education institution to provide Level 3 qualifications for prospective students that do not meet entry requirements for higher education

- Collaborate with other higher education institutions to deliver bigger projects

On-Course Attainment – Intervention Strategy 2 Activities

- Academic and technical skills workshops
- Remedial programmes for disabled students
- Peer-to-peer mentoring

Continuation and Completion – Intervention Strategy 3 Activities

- Counselling available to all students

Progression – Intervention Strategy 4 Activities

- Tailored career advice available to the disadvantaged students identified in our risk register
- Work experience available to disadvantaged students identified in our risk register

See pages 7 to 12 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

The college values student input and has a Student Representative Committee that allows for student consultation and feedback on all college processes. Students are also invited to various meetings that discuss the Access and Participation Plan and are kept up to date on any new and existing APP-related activities. Surveys are also taken throughout the year on student experience for various activities and departments to ensure students are having a positive experience.

The college has continued the implementation of its open-door policy, which means students can speak to any of the staff on campus at any time regarding the Access and Participation Plan. The college website also directs students to the relevant staff on the college profile page of the About dropdown menu.

See pages 16 to 17 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

The college is dedicated to enhancing its evaluation methods to encompass all stages of the student lifecycle, from application and enrolment to continuation, attainment, and progression. This approach involves a detailed analysis that takes the Equality of Opportunity Risk Register (EORR) into account. The college will continue to improve its data collection methods and prioritise the use of centralised data sources to ensure objectivity and reliability in the evidence gathered. This includes utilising the OfS data dashboard alongside internal data for a more comprehensive approach.

See pages 18 to 19 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact our Widening Participation team for more information at

WP.lead@nelsoncollege.ac.uk