

Plan Summary

Nelson College London

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

What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans sets out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed, and progress from higher education. You can see the full access and participation plan for Nelson College London at <https://nelsoncollege.ac.uk/student-information/widening-participation>.

Key points

Nelson College London (NCL) is located in the London borough of Redbridge, with campuses in Ilford and Gants Hill. On average, we have over 1400 students studying courses ranging from HND, Foundation degrees, BA top-up and Master's qualifications in Business and Hospitality Management. Our student body is ethnically and culturally diverse, and we welcome students from all walks of life. Over 90% of our students are mature (aged 21 and above). The College has successfully reduced access gaps amongst some of the underrepresented groups. However, we recognise there is more to be done, particularly for students from care leavers backgrounds. We have made progress in student attainment and continuation and we are confident that we will achieve our targets listed in the main plan by the year 2024-25.

The College has adopted a holistic approach to Student Services at NCL, allowing them to get support from the application stage to provide academic and pastoral support once enrolled. Moreover, the students also benefit from our Knowledge Exchange Centre (KEC), guiding them towards further studies and employment opportunities¹. The College has also partnered with multiple charities, organisations and universities to raise aspirations for all students, especially those who are underrepresented, to succeed in and progress in higher education². Our policies and strategies all work together to give students the resources to reach their potential.

Fees we charge

Our course fee for undergraduate courses is £8,250.00 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/course/Fee>

Financial help available

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

- NCL Bursary scheme award is available to the students from Disabled or Care Leavers backgrounds. Eligible students will be entitled to receive a £1,000 grant per annum.³
- NCL Hardship Fund of up to £1000 will be available to students experiencing unexpected financial hardship⁴.

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

¹ Nelson College London APP, Page 11, paragraph 60

² Nelson College London APP, Page 11, paragraph 59

³ Nelson College London APP, Page 20, paragraph 120.A.

⁴ Nelson College London APP, Page 20, paragraph 120.B.

Information for students

The College is committed to providing accurate and timely information to its existing and prospective students. The College website provides detailed information on our courses, fees, academic support, financial support and other extra-curricular activities. Current students are kept informed on fees and financial support through email communications and updates on the College VLE and on notice boards on our campuses.

What we are aiming to achieve

Our main goal is to help students to gain access to higher education. Our staff and facilities provide a learning environment for students to flourish. Based on the self-assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas of improvement:

Support attainment at school and access to higher education – We are working with a school to raise pupil attainment and access to education for pre-16 students. During 2022-23, we aim to develop our outreach activities further and engage other local schools to support student attainment for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds⁵.

Students from low-participation neighbourhoods and low-income backgrounds – By 2024-25, we will aim to:

- Increase the young student population from POLAR4 quintile 1 to 15% and POLAR4 quintile 2 to 30%⁶.
- Increase the number of disabled students by 10%⁷.

To support student attainment and retention, we are committed to reducing the gaps – By 2024-25

- To bring the attainment gap between White and Asian students to 0%.
- To bring the HND attainment gap between White and British Bangladeshi students to 0%.
- To close the HND attainment gap between 21-25-year-old in comparison to all other age groups amongst mature students to 10%⁸.
- The non-continuation gap between White and Asian Students to 8%.
- To reduce the non-continuation gap between White and Black students to 0%⁹.

Student progression into further studies and highly skilled employment

The access and participation dataset shows a positive Progression trend across the BAME ethnic groups. The progression rate for Black students has increased by 10% from 73% to 83%, while for Asian students, it has increased by 7% from 48% to 55% in the years 2016 and 2017, respectively.

There are no numerical targets for student progression within our main APP plan due to data limitations. However, we continue to support the Progression of all students – specifically those who are underrepresented. To work on our commitments to student progression, the College has followed through with its commitment to offering two Master's degree courses with pathways in International Business and Hospitality through a successful partnership with London Metropolitan University. Furthermore, we have provided students with a Career Advice Department (CAD) and the NCL Knowledge Exchange Centre (KEC) services to raise aspirations and develop skill sets for their Progression from College to employment and further studies¹⁰.

⁵ Nelson College London APP, Page 11, paragraph 59

⁶ Nelson College London APP, Page 10, paragraph 52.a

⁷ Nelson College London APP, Page 10, paragraph 52.b

⁸ Nelson College London APP, Page 10, paragraph 52.d

⁹ Nelson College London APP, Page 10, paragraph 52.c

¹⁰ Nelson College London APP, Page 14, paragraph 80

What we are doing to achieve our aims

The College is working systematically to achieve the targets and commitments detailed in our full plan by:

1. Extending the outreach activities to schools to have projects in place to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds.¹¹
2. Working with the local communities, charities and local councils to reach out to disabled students.
3. Extending academic and tutorial support based on individual learning plans.¹²
4. Ensuring the teaching and learning approach is adapted to our targeted groups' needs.¹¹
5. Providing targeted financial support for students from a care leaver, disabled background, and those facing hardship in their lives.¹³
6. Raising student aspirations to promote higher education and progression to employment and further studies.
7. Providing career guidance and support for graduates to enhance their personal, professional and social skills.¹⁴

How students can get involved

The College has a student representative committee and programme committee(s) where students provide valuable input to underpin the development of our access and participation plan. We have various steering and working groups where students are actively involved in implementing and overseeing our access and participation plan. Students can provide feedback by getting in touch with their class representative and get involved in access and participation work by contacting our widening participation lead.¹⁵

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

The evaluation of our programmes is evidence-based, using external and internal data and feedback from students and staff. The College has formed three teams: Access, Success and Progression. Each group produces a progress report and an evaluation of activities, their impact and progress towards the targets and commitments.

The Student Access and Success steering group is led by the Chair of the Board of Governance. It monitors the implementation of all targets and commitments within the access and participation plan and makes recommendations to the Academic Board to indicate where interventions and strategies need to be adjusted against the performance. The Academic Board oversees all access and participation activities in working groups and committees¹⁶.

We will publish evidence from our evaluations and an impact report on our website during Spring 2024.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Aamir Mehmood at WP.lead@nelsoncollege.ac.uk for further information.

¹¹ Nelson College London APP, Page 13, paragraph 68

¹² Nelson College London APP, Page 14, paragraph 75

¹³ Nelson College London APP, Page 13, paragraph 71

¹⁴ Nelson College London APP, Page 12, paragraph 65

¹⁵ Nelson College London APP, Page 15 & 16

¹⁶ Nelson College London APP, Page 17