

York College

Summary of 2021/22 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 York College University Centre at [Access and Participation | York College](#)

Key points

SEE PAGE 1 TO 7 OF FULL PLAN

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving access and outcomes of specific groups of students. Data shows that compared to their peers at York College, access and outcomes recruits predominantly from the local area unlike some universities that have a wider reach.

The College performs well with many aspects of widening participation, namely students with disabilities, mature entrants, and those with a non-standard entry tariff, especially on the attainment measure.

However, the areas in which we need to do better are access and continuation of students from low participation neighbourhoods (LPNs). This is also the case regarding progression into employment/further study and highly skilled employment/further study.

The College also underperforms when compared to providers nationally regarding the access and continuation of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) students.

A higher percentage of students from underrepresented groups achieve degree classifications of 2:1 and above

Fees we charge

At York College, the maximum fees charges are:

- £7,200 for full time students
- £3,600 for part time students
- £8,640 for accelerated degrees

You can see a full list of fees for course at the York College University Centre.

<https://www.yorkcollege.ac.uk/university-centre/access-and-participation>

Financial help available

SEE PAGES 15 TO 17 OF THE FULL PLAN

York College has a HE Bursary scheme to prioritise students from all underrepresented and disadvantaged groups. The support includes;

HE Bursary Scheme - Full-time: £600, Part-time: £300

This scheme is split across three schemes;

- Care Leavers Bursary
- Student Carer Bursary
- Financial Assistance Bursary

In addition we also have a HE Hardship Fund

Information for students

Prospective Students receive information about fees and financial support available at in person events, such as our open days, taster days and progress events and by email communications.

Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available through our 'HE Essentials, Student Portal, internal communications, pastoral support and Your Experience Services.

For the most up-to-date information, see our university centre website.

[University Centre | York College](#)

What we are aiming to achieve

SEE PAGE 8 and 9 of the FULL PLAN

Our overall aim is to support students to access higher education. We also want to create an environment where students at the York College University Centre can achieve their full potential. Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

Support attainment at school and access to higher education – We are working with schools to raise pupil attainment and expectations to study for a higher education qualification. During 2022-23, we will identify other local schools from where fewer pupils access higher education. We will develop and expand the Roots to Success programme of work to start in 2022-23 with our Higher York Partners

Diversifying our provision – We will continue to review our current degree programmes and professional qualifications and higher apprenticeships during 2022-23. We would like to extend these and other opportunities such as more accelerated degrees, degree and vocational education.

We will continue to develop the portfolio offer to ensure clear progression routes from adult access programmes, level 3 vocational pathways, IoT and STEM Degree pathways.

Full time and part time mode of study will continue to be available, including evening and weekend provision.

Care experienced students – By 2024-25, we will increase the number of students with experience of the care system accessing higher education to 6%* of all entrants.

High Deprivation Students – By 2024-25 increase the proportion of students from high deprivation (top 2 quintiles) areas onto full-time HE (Access) by 6%*

Ethnic minority students – By 2024-25, we will increase the number of ethnic minority students gaining a continuing of the degree programmes by 17%*

Improve progression to higher skilled employment or further study for by 5%*

*Based on baseline data shown in page 7-8 of the full plan

What are we doing to achieve our aims

We have identified a range of activity to support achievement of our aims and targets.

1. Extend our **programme of work with schools** – this supports more pupils from underrepresented groups to attain good grades and progress to study for a higher education qualification.
2. Establish and embed **flexible modes of learning** to give students a choice in how they learn.
3. Continue to promote and develop **support for study** so all students can access the individualised support to meet their needs

4. **Engage external partners and employers** to collaborate on improving access to higher education, success in the chosen course of study, and progression to employment or further study.
5. **Continue to support students** in their own development of personal, social and professional skills.
6. Offer **financial support**, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England.

How students can get involved

We worked with the Students' Union to gather student input into the design of our access and participation plan. Students are represented on our HE Academic Board Group which is responsible for overseeing implementation of the plan.

To provide feedback, students can contact their student union representative or the student award representatives in HE Focus Groups

To become involved in this work, contact our Access and Participation Lead.

Evaluation: how we will measure what we have achieved

Our programmes of activity are informed by the best available evidence about what works for students. We will collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- our programme and module design
- the impact of the programme of activity we are doing to achieve our aims
- the impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and an inclusive environment.

The Access and Participation Plan Working Group will monitor and report on these processes to the HE Academic Board and the Quality and Curriculum Board of Governors. These committees will oversee implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against yearly milestones in our access and participation plan. We will monitor impact on our target groups, to ensure we are addressing our aims. Where appropriate, we will adjust our interventions in the best interests of our students.

We will publish evidence from our evaluations on our website by January 2024.

Contact for further information

You can contact Sarah Barbacane at sbarbacane@yorkcollege.ac.uk for further information.