

City College Norwich

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 City College Norwich at <https://www.ccn.ac.uk/support-and-advice/prospective-student-information/higher-education-student-information/>

Key points

The focus of our access and participation plan (APP) is on improving outcomes for specific groups of students.

Data shows that, compared to their peers across England, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students.

- Students are less likely to start a higher education course at our college if they come from a very deprived neighbourhood.

Data shows that, compared to their peers at City College Norwich, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students.

- Students from ethnic minorities are less likely to continue their studies
- The following groups of students are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above (for degree students), or Merit or above (for other programmes)
 - Male students from deprived backgrounds
 - Ethnic minority students
- Students from ethnic minorities are less likely to progress to further study or employment after they complete their course.

We are working to reduce and where possible remove these differences, but we still have further to go.

Fees we charge

At City College Norwich, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,000 for full-time students
- £4,590 for part-time students on Higher National Certificates / Diplomas.

You can see a full list of fees for courses at City College Norwich at <https://www.ccn.ac.uk/support-and-advice/prospective-student-information/higher-education-student-information/>

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes:

- A hardship fund to support students from underrepresented groups who experience financial hardship during their time at the College.

Information for students

- Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, via the website and by email communications.
- Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available through our student portal, internal communications campaigns and emails. For the most up-to-date information, see our college website.

What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall aim is to support students to access higher education. We also want to create an environment where students at City College Norwich 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** – Our APP highlights our targeted outreach to raise attainment and aspirations to progress to HE, both through direct interventions and as part of the local National Collaborative Outreach Programme (now UniConnect), to increase progression to CCN and wider English HE sector over the lifetime of this plan, with focus on students from areas of low participation in HE, as part of our NCOP work, and promoting more widely the benefits of Higher Education to local school children via our own outreach programmes
- **Diversifying our provision** – Our provision is already diverse – includes HNC/D, Foundation degrees, BA/BSc's, Higher and Degree apprenticeships. From 2023 we will be adding a portfolio of Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) in Health, Digital and Construction, with more routes likely to be added in the future.
- **Students from more deprived backgrounds** – By 2024-25, we will:
 - Increase the number of students from deprived backgrounds accessing higher education at our college to 37% of the total (from 32% of the total in 2017-18)
 - Raise the attainment of a good degree for male students from deprived backgrounds, so that the difference in attainment between these students and their peers is no more than 5%
- **Students from ethnic minorities** – By 2023-24, we will:
 - Eliminate the difference in continuation rates (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course) between ethnic minority students and other students at our college

By 2024-25, we will:

 - Reduce the difference in the attainment of a good degree for ethnic minority students to be within 5% of their peers
 - Eliminate the gap between ethnic minority and other students progressing into further study or employment
- **Students with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities** – By 2024-25, we will:
 - Eliminate any attainment gap for students with learning difficulties and / or disabilities compared to our other students.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

We have identified six programmes of activity to support achievement of our aims and targets.

1. **Targeted Outreach to raise attainment and aspirations to progress to HE**, through both direct interventions and as part of the local National Collaborative Outreach Programme
2. Develop **support systems for students** to maximise equality of opportunity over the whole student lifecycle
3. Enhancing our existing **data analysis and evaluation capabilities**, so that we can monitor our performance more effectively
4. Maintain and where appropriate redesign **inclusive pedagogy, curriculum and assessments**
5. **Working with employers and key local stakeholders** to maximise employment opportunities for students
6. Offer **financial support**, through hardship funding for eligible students

How students can get involved

We worked with the Students' Union to gather student input into the design of our access and participation plan.

- To provide feedback, students can contact their student union representative at studentunion@ccn.ac.uk
- To become involved in this work, contact simon.rhodes@ccn.ac.uk

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 design
- the impact of the programme of activity we are doing to achieve our aims
- the six actions outlined above
- the impact on achieving our overall aim of improving equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

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 during the 2023-24 academic year.

Contact details for further information

- You can contact simon.rhodes@ccn.ac.uk for further information