

# Nottingham 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 Nottingham College at <https://www.nottinghamcollege.ac.uk/study/university-centre/welcome-to-the-university-centre-at-nottingham-college/key-information-and-supporting-documents> .

### Key points

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving access and outcomes for specific groups of students. We are proud of our diverse student body and of the proportion of students that undertake our courses who are from backgrounds that are the least likely to take part in higher education. There are, however, historic data that shows some disparities do exist between some student groups and that the following gaps should be narrowed:

- The proportion of part-time ethnic minority background students need to increase as they are currently underrepresented in the part-time student body.
- Continuation rates of black students are lower than white students and this gap needs to be narrowed and closed.
- The proportion of top-up degree students progressing into employment or further study need to go further. Historic destination data illustrated that 27% progressed to 'other' destinations and we need to understand that these are positive destinations.
- The number of students continuing on their course who are from postcode areas that send the fewest people into higher education are slightly lower than those students continuing on their course from areas that send more people into higher education.

### Fees we charge

At Nottingham College, the maximum annual fees charged are:

- £8250 for all full-time higher education students.
- £4500 for part-time Foundation Degree students.
- £3375 for part-time HNC, HND and BA students.

You can see a full list of higher education course fees at:

<https://www.nottinghamcollege.ac.uk/study/university-centre/welcome-to-the-university-centre-at-nottingham-college/key-information-and-supporting-documents>

### Financial help available

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

- An **annual bursary** of £1000 for each year of the course if the student's household income is below £25,000.
- An **annual bursary** of between £750 - £300 for each year of the course if the student's household income between £25,001 - £40,000 on a sliding scale.

- A further **annual bursary** of £2000 if you are a care leaver.
- A further **annual bursary** of £1000 if you are a student carer.
- A **hardship fund** to support students who are unexpected financial difficulty which puts them at risk of leaving their course.

### Information for students

- Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, and by email communications for course offers and enquiries.
- Current students receive information about fees and financial support available through our dedicated student portal, internal communications and emails, and through our pre-enrolment 'Welcome Pack'.
- We provide information for care leavers on our [website](#) and on the [Propel website](#):

### What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall aim is to make higher education accessible and ensure that there is an environment where all students can achieve their full potential.

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

- **Ethnic Minority students** – By 2024-25 we will increase the proportion of part-time ethnic minority students to 18% of all part-time students.
- **By 2024-25 we want continuation rates of black students to be the same as other students.**
- **Students from neighbourhoods that send the fewest people into higher education** – By 2024-25 we will reduce the gap to 0% in the number of students not continuing on their course compared to those who are from areas which send many more people into higher education.
- **First Degree Students** – By 2024-25, proportionally more students will be in work or further study

### What we are doing to achieve our aims

The College has developed a range of actions to achieve the aims above. These are detailed in the full Access and Participation Plan and include:

- Awareness raising activities within the Nottingham's BME community
- Identify hurdles to continuation for black students through student focus groups and role models.
- Dedicated activities to help the transition of students from deprived areas.
- Advice and guidance for final year students to progress into work or further study.

We will review our bursaries and financial support to make sure this helps students stay on their course whilst day-to-day living costs rise quickly for students.

We will also focus on the OfS's new priority areas:

**Priority A:** We are publishing this Access and Participation Plan summary document to make the Plan more accessible to students.

**Priority B:** We will work with the College DANCOP team and local Uni Connect partners to deliver a summer school activity that will support attainment raising for under 16s from local schools in Nottingham. The College also has a range of courses to support under 16s locally. The College also provides significant opportunities for students to retake their Maths and English alongside further courses.

**Priority C:** The College uses a range of strategies to ensure that our higher education courses are accessible and that they lead to good outcomes. These strategies are outlined in the full Access and Participation Plan.

**Priority D:** We are reviewing the courses that we offer to develop more flexible and diverse provision. We will create more opportunities for students to study level 4 and 5 technical and science related courses, including higher apprenticeships, through new and existing partnerships.

### **How students can get involved**

We worked with the Student Union and our HE Student Reps to get their feedback when we designed our access and participation plan.

HE Students and Reps will be able to contribute to monitoring, evaluation and reviewing this plan through dedicated student meetings and focus groups and help ensure it is delivered with you, in your best interests.

To get involved in future development, or to provide feedback on our plan, please contact the Higher Education Team directly using [he.team@nottinghamcollege.ac.uk](mailto:he.team@nottinghamcollege.ac.uk).

### **Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved**

The College will use a range of student feedback to understand how what we have done has improved your experience and outcomes. Students be central to our evaluation through your feedback. We will use forums, focus groups and course committees to understand your feedback and experience. We will also use online surveys, polls and forums to engage part-time students and other hard to reach groups to ensure they are not excluded from our evaluation. This will be used to update what we do.

The College will also use the Office for Students data dashboard to monitor the progress of our milestones and targets, particularly for those targets around ethnic minority students and those from post code areas that send the fewest people into higher education.

The Graduate Outcomes survey which tracks students after they have completed their course will be used to monitor students progressing into work and further study.

This evidence will be pulled together and ensures we can understand the improvements we have achieved and will be reported to you as students in order to analyse how successful our aims and objectives have been.

### **Contact details for further information**

If you have any questions, or need more information, please contact [he.team@nottinghamcollege.ac.uk](mailto:he.team@nottinghamcollege.ac.uk)