

Bishop Burton 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. This supports underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education. In this summary and in the full Access and Participation Plan, 'the College' refers to both University Centre Bishop Burton and Riseholme College.



You can see the full access and participation plan for the College at <https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/university-centre/policies-and-procedures>

Key points

See pages 1 to 8 of the full plan

The College has a long and successful record of giving access to all who want to study higher education. The College is particularly successful at attracting underrepresented groups such as mature students, local disadvantaged students and those with disabilities. We are committed to ensuring students from all backgrounds are provided the opportunity to succeed. The College attracts mainly local applicants of which there is a very small black, Asian and minority ethnic population to draw on.

Key Challenges:

Students coming from an area where generally people do not go on to higher education or those with a learning difficulty or disability are less likely to continue and achieve their award. The College has a higher than average number of students from underrepresented groups and therefore focuses on a variety of inclusive teaching and learning practices to support students while they are studying their programme.

It is our focus to:

- Increase the number of students continuing in study from level 4 to 5 in the above-mentioned groups
- Consider fully how to positively target specific groups for national recruitment
- Reduce the gap in attainment for these underrepresented groups, in other words ensuring all students are supported to achieve equally, regardless of their background.
- Increase the number of those going into positive employment

Fees we charge

See page 22 of the full plan

At the College the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,250 for full-time students
- £6,160 for part-time students.



You can see a full list of fees for programmes at the College at <https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/university-centre/finance>

Financial help available

See page 17 of the full plan

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

- Two **course fee scholarships** for ethnic minority students from low-income households, of £2250 per annum for the expected duration of their programme.
- Two **course fee scholarships** for care leavers, of £2250 per annum for the expected

duration of their programme.

- A **bursary programme** which offers support to 100 students from households with an income of less than £25,000 in year one of study. These awards are of £500 per full-time equivalent (FTE).
- An **additional 20 bursaries** of £500 will be offered to students from under-represented groups who need financial support or those who have a household income between £25,001 and £45,875.
- An **employability** bursary aimed at supporting low income, high deprivation or students with disabilities to complete additional qualifications or to engage in industry-specific development which will support their future career. There will be 30 employability bursaries available in the 2022/23 year, up to a maximum of £300 per application.
- A **student opportunity (hardship) fund** to assist Higher Education students who are in financial hardship or difficulty to meet specific programme and living costs which are not already met from other sources; provide emergency payments for unexpected financial crisis; and to intervene in cases where a student may be considering giving up their programme because of financial problems. This fund may also be able to offer help with childcare costs for those who have a shortfall in their Childcare Grant.

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 and through the website.
- **Current students** receive information about fees and the financial support available through induction sessions, academic support sessions, individual support sessions, the online learning environment, internal communications campaigns and emails.

See page 21 of the full plan



For the most up-to-date information, see our [website](#).

What we are aiming to achieve

The College is committed to delivering equality of opportunity and positive outcomes for all. This includes:

See pages 9 to 10 of the full plan

- Increasing the number of black, Asian and minority ethnic students recruited from 1% to 2.5% by 2024-25.
- Eradicating any gaps in the continuation rate (where students progress from Level 4 to Level 5 of their programme) for all students, regardless of background,
- Eradicating any gaps in the percentage of students going on to highly skilled graduate destinations or further study at higher education level, regardless of background.
- Eradicating any gaps in student attainment (i.e. successful completion of their programme), regardless of background.
- The underrepresented groups that are the highest priority for eradicating these gaps at the College are:
 - students coming from neighbourhoods with typically low uptake of higher education study (identified by a statistical measure known as POLAR Quintiles which classifies local areas into five groups – or quintiles – based on the proportion of young people who enter higher education);
 - those with indices of multiple deprivation (which measures relative deprivation for small areas), and
 - students with disabilities.

- However, the College aims to maintain performance in all areas, working towards no gaps in access, continuation, attainment and progression for all groups of students.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

See pages 12 to 17 of the full plan

The following activity will assist in supporting our aims:

- Enhanced support for students from underrepresented groups by offering an initial life coach session tailored for their particular need, with continued tracking throughout their time at the College
- Support will be offered in a variety of ways of delivery ensuring access is flexible
- Continual review of teaching and learning delivery design
- Continued review of programmes delivered at level 4 and review the flexibility in delivery approach.
- Continue to develop the access students have to employers and the employability skills needed
- Ensure that all assessments are relevant to the industry giving students work-ready skills

How students can get involved

See page 17 and 18 of the full plan

We will continue to engage and work with the Student Association to design and input to the Access and Participation Plan. Student feedback is sought from all students including those from underrepresented groups.

Feedback is collected using surveys, forums, and via student representatives. For 2022-23, students will be invited to a working group allowing them to engage and input into the Access and Participation Plan. Students can also provide feedback through the Student Association and the Student Academic Representative (StAR) Committees through their programme representative.



To provide feedback or become involved in working on the Plan, students should contact the [Assistant Principal Higher Education](#).

Evaluation: how we will measure what we have achieved

See page 18 to 20 of the full plan

To measure and evaluate our activity we will monitor the action plan and performance through the Equality and Diversity Committee.

The committee will focus on monitoring and evaluating specific activity relating to the plan. It reviews student performance data relating to all targets. The College is committed to continually improving reporting mechanisms so that performance and evaluation can be better measured across a range of categories.

Other measurement methods include:

- Monitoring of student progress via progression boards where we analyse performance and create support plans for identified students.
- Evaluating the impact of changes in the design of teaching, learning and assessment strategies by monitoring and responding to student feedback on modules and programmes and through external examiner reports.
- Evaluating student support services such as life coaches, study skills, careers and finance.

Contact for further information



You can contact the [Assistant Principal Higher Education](#) for further information.