

# Bradford College

## 2020-21 to 2024-25 Access and Participation Plan

### What is an access and participation plan?

This access and participation plan explains how we will improve opportunities for underrepresented groups to engage successfully with Higher Education. We explain the gaps in performance that data analysis shows us exist for different groups of students. We explain the aims, objectives and activities that we will deliver to improve our performance. We then explain how we assess whether these activities have helped deliver equality of opportunity for all our students.

You can see the full access and participation plan for Bradford College [here](#).

### Key points

See pages 2-16 of the full plan

Bradford College's Access and Participation Plan explains how we intend to improve the outcomes of certain groups of students. Our data shows us that:

- Students are less likely to access Higher Education if they are from a low-participation neighbourhood background
- Students are less likely to achieve a good degree if they are Black, Asian or from a Minority Ethnic background
- Male students do not make as good progress in their studies as female students
- BAME students are less likely to progress into highly-skilled employment than white students
- Mature students are more likely to continue their studies and achieve a good degree than younger students

### Fees we charge

See page 16 of the full plan

At the college the maximum fees charged for a full-time programme is £8750 a year.

Part-time fees are charged at a proportion of the full-time fees based on how many credits you are studying a year. The maximum part-time fee is: £5250.

The full list of fees can be viewed [here](#).

### Financial help available

See page 16 of the full plan

We offer financial support to students from under-represented backgrounds who may struggle to engage in higher education. This support includes:

- Accommodation grants for Care Leavers or Estranged students up to £5500 per annum
- Up to £500 per annum for Care Leavers or Estranged students to help towards living costs
- Up to £1000 for students whose household income is below £25,000 per annual

### Information for students

See page 28 of the full plan

Applicants will receive regular communication from the college through email and during our open events. This information will include information on fees, financial and pastoral support to study.

Current students can access up to date information about their course through our Virtual Learning Platform and through our [website](#). In addition, students can access information through the student handbook and through our 'MyBradford' App.

Care Leavers are supported by the QUEST team. Information and guidance is available [here](#).

Applicants and students can access the latest information about the college including its policies, student support and programme information on the college website: [www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk](http://www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk)

## What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 16-20 of the full plan

Our overall aim is to support every student to access Higher Education and help them to their potential. We recognise students from particular backgrounds require additional support to achieve at the same level as their peers. We are therefore committed to:

- Improving access to part-time studies for BAME students
- Closing the attainment gap for Asian students compared to White students
- Improving attainment levels for Non-Asian BME students
- Improve attainment levels for students from low participation neighbourhoods
- Improve continuation rates for Asian students on part-time courses
- Improve continuation rates for students from low participation neighbourhoods
- Improve progression for BAME students into highly-skilled employment or further study
- Improve progression for students from Low Participation Neighbourhoods into highly-skilled employment or further study

See pages 20-25 of the full plan and Appendix A

## What we are doing to achieve our aims

We understand that each student is an individual and facing their own challenges and barriers to education. The following activities are designed to respond to your individual circumstances and achieve our aims:

### Aims to Help You Access Higher Education

- We help students access our programmes through a bespoke admissions service
- We reach students to encourage them to access Higher Education through partnerships with community centres
- We work with primary and secondary schools to help address the gaps in attainment across education levels – raising aspiration and skills, particularly around English and Maths
- We offer a variety of part-time pathways through our curriculum to encourage and support adult learners to reskill and upskill
- We embed flexible ways to study into programmes to help you access and succeed in HE.

### Aims to Help You Have an Outstanding Student Experience

- We respond and adapt to how you learn best through Universal Design for Learning Principles
- We offer bespoke tutorial and progression support – helping you identify and address barriers to learning
- We ensure you have access to an academic skills development package
- We have an extensive additional learning support, mental health and wellbeing team who will help you study to your fullest potential
- We offer bespoke and ongoing support if you are a Care Leaver or an Estranged student.

## **Aims to Help you Move into Highly-Skills Graduate Careers**

- We develop programmes with employers, we use work-based and project-based learning to help you apply your knowledge and skills. Your programme will have an employer sponsor and where relevant you will gain a professional accreditation
- We offer you programmes that are focused on your future career and we work with you to achieve them
- We giving you access to a programme of enrichment and development: building your CV and confidence

## **Aims to Help You Feel a Sense of Belonging at Bradford College**

- We are an [Investor in Diversity](#) and are becoming a Trauma-Informed College. We seek to understand your individual barriers to success and to work with you to address them.
- We are a College of Sanctuary for refugees and asylum seekers
- We work in partnership with you: we seek your views, ideas and participation.

## **How students can get involved**

**See pages 25 of the full plan**

The student union and student representatives have worked with us on this plan. They also play a key role in evaluating the plan. Students are represented on the college's Academic Board which manages delivery of this plan. If you have any feedback, or would like to get involved, please contact the college's APP lead Sarah Applewhite, [s.applewhite@bradfordcollege.ac.uk](mailto:s.applewhite@bradfordcollege.ac.uk)

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

**See pages 26-28 of the full plan and Appendix A**

We have devised our activities based on research and strategies we have found to have positive impact. We also work with partners to share ideas about activities that create positive change. We collect information, data and feedback to evaluate:

- To what extent we are having a positive effect on different groups of students
- How students and staff feel about the activities we believe will have a positive impact
- Whether the activities we are doing are creating an inclusive environment for our students
- Whether we can prove that the things we do are positively and directly impacting our most disadvantaged students

The Academic Board monitors the implementation of these activities and reports to the Governing Body on whether we are meeting our milestones. Academic Board makes sure that evaluation is thorough. It asks external partners to review our evaluations to give confidence that we are meeting our aims. We are quick to adjust our strategy if we are not having a positive impact.

We will share our evaluations with our student representatives and publish annual reports on our website.

## **Contact details for further information**

If you have any questions about this plan, please contact Sarah Applewhite at: [s.applewhite@bradfordcollege.ac.uk](mailto:s.applewhite@bradfordcollege.ac.uk)