

Plumpton 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 Plumpton College at [Access and Participation Plan 20-21 to 24-25](#).

Key points

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving recruitment and outcomes for specific groups of students. Data shows that there are areas we need to improve on. We need to do more to recruit students from areas where there is low participation in higher education, and we need to improve retention of male students from these areas. We also need to support these students when they are on their courses.

See pages
11 to
13 of the full
plan

- Students are less likely to complete their studies if they come from a neighbourhood where not many people go on to higher education.
- Disabled students face more difficulties progressing through their course from year to year, compared to their peers.
- Mature students aged 21 – 29 don't achieve as high grades as older mature students.
- Young men from low participation neighbourhoods do not do as well as their peers in staying on and progressing through their courses
- The same groups of students are less likely to progress to highly skilled employment or further study.

Fees we charge

At Plumpton College, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,000 for full-time students • £4,500 for part-time students.



You can find information about fees for courses at Plumpton College at [University Courses - Plumpton College](#) and how to apply at [Higher Education Finance - Plumpton College](#)

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 bursary fund:

https://www.plumpton.ac.uk/fileadmin/uploads/plumpton/Documents/Plumpton_College_Bursary_Policy_022-23.pdf

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.

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 [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 Plumpton College can achieve their full potential. Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

See page 11 to 12
of the full plan

- **Students from low participation neighbourhoods and low income backgrounds**

By 2024-25, we will:

- Reduce the gap between new students from high participation areas and low participation areas by 50%
- Increase the proportion of students that we recruit from low participation areas in the South East

- **Mature students** – By 2024-25, we will improve the degree attainment for mature students (aged between 21 and 29 years) from 63% to 71%.

- **Disabled students** – By 2024-25, we will increase the number of disabled students continuing through their course by 15% to 90.5%.


What we are doing to achieve our aims

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

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of the full plan

1. An **enhanced schools liaison programme** – this promotes land-based curriculum and the extensive career opportunities it can lead to.
2. A careers advice centre, **the Job Shop**, offering impartial advice to all students.
3. Collaborative work with Sussex Learning Network to put on outreach activities for potential students.
4. Providing **dedicated student support** within the curriculum, in the classrooms and online. We provide training for all staff to put this into practice.
5. Establish and embed **flexible modes of learning** to give students a choice in how they learn and how their course can fit with their other commitments.
6. Enhance **support for study** throughout the institution so that all students can access tailored support.
7. **Review of the curriculum** to provide courses that will improve access to higher education, give more relevant choices of courses to study, that also provides progression opportunities to employment or further study.
8. Offer **financial support**, including bursaries for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to [Student Finance England](#).

How students can get involved

 We have set up a group that meets regularly and monitors our access and participation plan's aims and targets. This is the Access and Participation Plan Working Group (APWG). The group's members include student representatives, HE student ambassadors, managers, senior staff and governors.

See page 16 of the full plan

To provide feedback and get involved, students can contact the [HE Office](#).

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:

See pages 17 - 18 of the full plan

- our programme design
- the impact of the programme of activity we are doing to achieve our aims
- the eight actions outlined above
- 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 Governors, senior managers, tutors and the HE Office. Senior managers 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 details for further information

You can contact our HE team at HEoffice@plumpton.ac.uk for further information.