

Kirklees 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 Kirklees College at [Higher Skills and Higher Education | Kirklees College](#)

Key points (See pages 1-9 of the full action plan)

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes for specific groups of students. Data shows that, compared to their peers at Kirklees College, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students:

Students are less likely to access Higher Education studies if they come from a neighbourhood where not many people go on to higher education.

- Students from low-income backgrounds
- White students underrepresented in higher education
- Ethnic minority students

The same groups of students are less likely to progress to highly skilled employment or further study. In regards to these points we still have improvements to be made.

We are committed to working collaboratively in our local area through Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY), to reduce inequalities in HE access, success and progression. We are investigating how to take a collaborative approach to attainment raising activity to ensure we do not duplicate existing activity. We are also investigation collaboration around each activity.

Fees we charge

Full time programmes are charged at:

£6950 per academic year for all programmes except Engineering where the charge is £8,000 per academic year (Full time students generally attend the part time groups as infill).

PT provision varies

Maximum fees £4000 per academic year

You can see the full list of fees charged for Kirklees College on their website course details pages: [Higher Skills and Higher Education | Kirklees College](#)

Financial help available (See page 19 of the full action plan)

Bursaries are available for the following student groups:

Progression Bursaries. The College will continue to award Progression Bursaries to students progressing within the College from a Level 3 programme on to a full-time Higher Education programme: £500

Local Student Bursaries. This bursary will target local students accepted on to a Higher Education programme at the College with a permanent home address in the local area (all West Yorkshire postcodes) £500

STEM Bursaries. This bursary will be available to any home student on Engineering or Process Manufacturing programmes only. A phased cash payment of £500 will be made during each year of study (excluding any repeat year). Computing students are eligible for this bursary too.

Care Leaver Bursary. This bursary will offer support to any home student during each year of study (excluding any repeat year) and will be available to students who have left local authority care in the two years prior to enrolment on the first year of study, irrespective of postcode. A phased cash payment of £1000 per year.

Full-time Carer Bursary. This bursary will offer support to any home student during each year of study (excluding any repeat year) and will be available to applicants who have full-time carer responsibilities. A phased cash payment of £1000 is made during each year of study.

Access to HE Diploma Bursary. This bursary will offer support to students during their first year of study and will be available to students who have successfully completed an Access to HE Diploma programme. Students must have successfully completed an Access programme that is appropriate to allow progression to a Higher Education programme. A phased cash payment of £1000 per year.

Information for students (See pages 7 & 17 of the full action plan)

Prospective and current students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, college websites and interviews.

Prospective students are also guided to the Student Finance application process through our website/ SFE page.

What we are aiming to achieve (See pages 11-12 of the full action plan)

Here at Kirklees college: We are seeking to support students into Higher Education and create opportunities and change lives of the community we serve.

- *Support attainment at school and access to higher education* – We will continue to work with schools to raise pupil attainment and expectations to study for a higher education qualification. During 2022-23, we will identify other local schools from where fewer pupils access higher education. We will develop a programme of work to start in 2023-24.
- *Diversify our offer* – we are seeking to offer a greater range of qualifications including Foundation Degree's and full Degree's, alongside our HN programmes by 2023- 24 and to develop an offer of Higher Apprenticeships by 2024-25.
- We are also looking to provide alternative part-time study programmes for those who cannot commit to a full-time programme.
- To increase the number of Black, Asian and minority groups continuing into Higher Education by a further 4% to 33% by 2024-5
- To increase the number of students studying at Higher Education from Low economic backgrounds by a further 4% to 42% by 2024-25
- To increase the participation of care leavers (we need to identify internal data to set realistic targets)
- To increase the participation of carers (we need to identify internal data to set realistic targets)

We take pride in our commitment to supporting our local communities and our civic responsibilities. We are committed to working collaboratively through GHWY to see where we can have a positive impact on local pre-HE educational attainment.

What we are doing to achieve our aims (See pages 16-17 for planned activities in the full action plan)

Based on our current progress towards targets set and the new targets from the OfS:

1. Extend our programme of work with schools – this supports more pupils from underrepresented groups to attain good grades and progress to study for a higher education qualification.
2. Take a targeted approach to retaining and supporting students from our identified groups to achieve and progress to further studies or employment.
3. Establish and embed flexible modes of learning to give students a choice in how they learn.
4. Enhance support for study throughout the institution so all students can access tailored support through the promotion of existing services and improved IAG.
5. Engage external partners to collaborate on improving access to higher education, success in the chosen course of study, and progression to employment or further study in line with our new HE and Higher Skills Strategy.
6. Engage students in their own development of personal, social and professional skills through a robust induction and promotion of services.
7. Offer financial support, including bursaries, for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England.
8. We co-fund the collaborative partnership GHWY, which connects its member institutions to help reduce inequalities in access to, success in and progression from higher education. Over the upcoming 12-month period, we commit to working in partnership through GHWY to investigate the potential for collaborative attainment-raising and evaluative activity. This will provide time to take a more strategic, longer-term view and ensure we do not duplicate or disrupt existing activity.

How students can get involved

To provide feedback, or to be involved in this work students can contact our Access and Participation Lead: Ksykes@kirkleescollege.ac.uk

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved (See pages 20-21 of the full action plan)

The Access and Participation Plan Working Group is formed from our Head of Faculties across curriculum areas, the Assistant Principal for Curriculum, Quality & Higher Education, the Higher Education Manager and the Head of Quality and the Student admissions/services lead and student representatives.

Each area will monitor and report on the actions and processes of the plan to the Higher Education Committee, which will oversee implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against yearly targets 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.

Our programmes of activity are informed by the best available evidence about what works for students. We will collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- Programme design and delivery
- Evaluate through suitable methods the activities identified on the action plan
- Evaluate the overall aim and improvements in meeting our targets identified in our action plan
- Through GHWY, we are also investigating collaborative ways to ensure that we use existing evidence to underpin our approaches, and to evaluate our own activity.

Contact details for further information

Ksykes@kirkleescollege.ac.uk