

Riverside 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 Riverside College [here](#)

Key points

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 Riverside College, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students.

- Students are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above if they come from a neighbourhood where not many people go on to higher education
- The same group of students are also less likely to progress onto a Top-Up degree after completing their Level 5 course
- Disabled students that complete their course at the college are less likely to progress to highly skilled employment or further study.
- The following groups are less likely to enrol onto a Higher Education course at the college:
 - Disabled students
 - Ethnic minority students

Fees we charge

At Riverside College, the maximum fees charged are:

- £6995 for full-time students
- £4500 for part-time students

You can see a full list of fees for courses at Riverside College [here](#)

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:

- All first year full-time Higher Education students will receive a £500 **bursary** towards equipment whilst studying
- Higher Education full-time students who are in their second or third year of Higher Education study at Riverside College, may apply for the following bursaries up to £300 per student:
 - **Care Leavers' Bursary** – full time Higher Education students (Year 2/Year 3) who have been in care of a local authority for 13 weeks or more.
 - **Carer's Bursary** – full-time Higher Education students (Year 2/Year 3) who have full time carer's responsibility.
 - **Estranged from Family Bursary** – full-time Higher Education students (Year 2/Year 3) who are estranged from their family.
- Higher Education students who are experiencing financial difficulties may apply for a **Hardship Fund** via the Pastoral Support Worker for Adults and HE

Information for students

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, on our website and by email communications.

Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available through our student intranet, internal communications campaigns, group visits 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 Riverside College can achieve their full potential.

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

- **Students from low participation neighbourhoods and low-income backgrounds** – by 2024 – 25 we will:
 - Reduce the gap for students accessing a top-up degree programme between students from low participation areas and high participation areas from 10% to 3%
 - Reduce the gap for students who achieve their qualification between students from low participation areas and high participation areas from 13% to 0%
 - Increase the progression rate of students from Level 5 to Level 6 study by 4.5%
 - During 2022-23, we will identify local schools from where fewer pupils access higher education and develop our existing programme of work to start in 2023-24.
- **Ethnic minority students** – by 2024 – 25 we will:
 - Increase from 5.6% to 8%, yearly intake of students from an ethnic minority background
 - Increase the progression rate of students from an ethnic minority background from Level 5 to Level 6 study by 4.5%.
- **Mature students** – by 2024 – 25 we will:
 - Evaluate demand for new pathways and programmes, modes of study and flexible delivery options, and to introduce new pathways and programmes as appropriate in response to community and employer need
 - Increase the progression rate of mature students from Level 5 to Level 6 study by 4.5%.
- **Disabled Students** – by 2024 – 25 we will:
 - Reduce the gap in access for disabled part-time students starting a course from 7.8% to 0%
 - Reduce the gap in continuation rates (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course) between disabled and non-disabled students from 17% to 5%
 - Reduce the gap between disabled and non-disabled students that progress into highly skilled employment or further education from 17% to 0%.
- **Care experienced students** – by 2024 – 25 we will:
 - Increase the number of care leavers who progress from Level 3 study to the Higher Education provision at Riverside College.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

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

1. We work in partnership with schools to deliver programmes of activities starting at Year 3 to **raise attainment** including a focus on STEM areas
2. Work to 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
3. Offer **accessible routes** into Higher Education and where our part and full-time students can succeed and achieve their potential, including progression to Level 6
4. Launched the bespoke Higher Opportunities Programme raise the **aspirations and attainment** of Level 3 vocational students to access higher education opportunities
5. Using **accessible modes of delivery** which meet the learning requirements of all our students, and offering an environment which ensures inclusivity through its curriculum design and teaching and learning resources, including feedback from students in evaluation of methods
6. Offer **financial support**, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England.
7. **Engage with external partners** to develop practices and resources to support pupils from underrepresented groups to progress to Higher Education courses and attain good grades

How students can get involved

The College engages with all Higher Education students through individual learner voice surveys and with student representatives throughout the academic year in Learner Voice meetings. In addition, all Higher Education students are asked to complete end of module feedback surveys.

A forum of Higher Education students has had the opportunity to give feedback on the access and participation plan before submission and are involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the plan through the Higher Education Learning Community, Higher Education Learner Voice forums, student surveys and annual monitoring at Academic Board.

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:

- our programme design
- the impact of the programme of activity we are doing to achieve our aims and actions
- the impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and an inclusive environment.

The College will continue to use a number of quality assurance processes in its evaluation strategy. Most important of these is the cycle of Senior Management Team Monitoring, Quality and Strategy meetings, and Higher Education academic boards.

We will undertake evaluation of our specific access, success and progression initiatives through Monitoring reports, reports to the Quality and Standards Committee of the Governing body and through the HE monitoring reports and enhancement plans presented at Academic Board. Where appropriate, we will adjust our interventions in the best interests of our students.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Ryan Turner at ryan.turner@riversidecollege.ac.uk for further information