

New College Durham

Summary of NCD Access and Participation Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29.

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan sets out provisions that will be meaningful and effective in promoting equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups, as determined by the Office for Students.

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

Key points

See pages [01-03] of the Access and Participation Plan for more information.

New College Durham Higher Education (HE) Strategy has a clear focus on delivering high quality professional and technical programmes which align clearly to employer demand and student needs in the North East region. The focus of our access and participation plan is to eliminate gaps in equality of opportunity throughout the College's student lifecycle focusing on the key challenges specific groups of students experience such as:

- Addressing mental health and socioeconomic factors.
- Bridging gaps in disability and ethnicity-related continuation rates.
- Supporting younger students to improve completion outcomes.

The Fee we charge

See page 22 of the [Access and Participation Plan](#) for more information.

At the New College Durham our fees charges are £9,250 for full-time students and part time programmes are charged pro-rata based on the volume of study undertaken up to £4,625.

The College reviews its fees annually and reserves the right to increase fees in line with RPI (Retail Price Index). You can see a full list of fees for New College Durham HE provision on page 22.

Financial help available

See page 19 of the Access and Participation Plan for more information.

The College offers a financial support package which has been shaped based on feedback from our HE students. The allocation of the funds is based on UK residential requirements and seeks to focus the support provided by targeting the funds to those with greatest need and/or face significant social/caring challenges to engage in HE Key aspects of the support are:

- bursary to support college/non-college related expenditure.
- childcare funds
- emergency loans and
- hardship support.

Access to the financial support package is open to all eligible HE students (full and part-time) via an application process.

For the most up-to-date information on financial support, see our HE Hardship Bursary section on our website [here](#) or contact access.fund@newdur.ac.uk.

Information for students

See page 19 of the [Access and Participation Plan](#) for more information.

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, and by email communications. Prospective students can also receive a wide range of information regarding the New College Durham's provision via our website¹.

For current students Information about fees and any financial support available is communicated through our student portal, internal communications, Higher Education Forums, and emails. The College also operates and financially supports a Students' Union which is led by a Student President and supported by a team of student representatives drawn from across the student community which current students engage with for additional support and guidance.

What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 5-17 of the [Access and Participation Plan](#) for more information.

- Reduce the gap in student success (continuation) between students of low and high socioeconomic status (IMD Q1 & 2) by 2% annually through improving access to academic and mental health support creating specific monitoring and progress activities.
- Eliminate the gap in Undergraduates student continuation between students not reporting a disability and students reporting a disability by 2029, using support intervention strategies to ensure successful completion.
- Reduce the gap in continuation between White & Other Ethnic groups specifically for students from mixed ethnic backgrounds by 2pp annually through developing focused support and intervention strategies.
- Close the completion rate gap for young undergraduates annually which will eliminate this gap by 2028 through on programme monitoring and focused at risk support strategies.

What we are doing to address keys risks to equality of opportunity

The details of the targets we have set ourselves and the intervention we will use to achieve these targets can be found between pages 5-17 of the Access and Participation Plan. Ongoing performance of the plan will be shared with both the Colleges SLT (Senior Leadership Team) and the student body through formal Higher Education committees.

How students can get involved

See pages 17-18 of the [Access and Participation Plan](#) for more information.

Student engagement is central to the governance of our Access and Participation Plan (APP), with the Student President and representatives actively involved in the development of this plan. The Students' Union ensures broad student consultation, with representatives from each school participating in the Higher Education Student Forum. These collaborations will continue to provide students with meaningful opportunities to shape and monitor the College's approach to widening access and participation.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Each planned intervention by the College is supported by an evaluation strategy designed to assess the impact of actions used over time. Details of these measures and their evaluation strategies are outlined between pages 8-17 of the plan. The evaluation methods identified are aimed to gather insights into how effectively the interventions achieve the planned outcomes.

A report summary based on our evaluation progress will be published via our website annually with our overall intention, over the lifetime of this plan being to further explore and enhance our

¹ <https://www.newcollegedurham.ac.uk/>

evaluation skills allowing the College to explore casual relationships between our interventions and actual outcomes.

Contact details for further information

For further information or any queries regarding this plan please contact the Director of Higher Education at Julie.coverley@newdur.ac.uk