

Grantham 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 Grantham College at <https://www.grantham.ac.uk/media/4771/access-and-participation-plan-2020-21-to-2024-25.pdf>.

Key points

[SEE PAGES 10-12 OF OUR FULL 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 Grantham College, access to Higher Education and completion of studies is lower for mature students.

The following groups of students are also less likely to apply and progress on a Higher Education programme:

Ethnic minority students

Care leavers

The same groups of students are less likely to progress to highly skilled employment or further study.

Fees we charge

[SEE PAGE 12 OF OUR FULL PLAN]

At Grantham College, the maximum fees charged are:

- £6,995 for full-time students
- £4,687 for part-time students.

Financial help available

[SEE PAGE 19 OF OUR FULL PLAN]

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 hardship fund to support students from households with an income below £31,000 who experience financial hardship during their time at college.

Information for students

[SEE PAGE 23 OF OUR FULL PLAN]

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.

What we are aiming to achieve

[SEE PAGES 9-14 OF OUR FULL PLAN]

Our overall aim is to support students to access higher education. We also want to create an environment where students at Grantham College can achieve their full potential. Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

- Support attainment at school and access to higher education – We are working with schools in partnership with an organisation called LinCHigher to raise pupil attainment and expectations to study for a higher education qualification. During 2022-23, together with LinCHigher, 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 including outreach activities and masterclasses.
- Diversifying our provision – We will review our current offer including full-time and part-time HE courses, as well as higher-level apprenticeships during 2022-23. We will extend these and other opportunities by offering more part-time and flexible HE courses, and Higher Technical Qualifications from 2023-24, and will explore offering degree apprenticeships from 2024-25.
- Mature students – By 2024-25, we will increase the percentage of mature students in the HE cohort to 45% and close the gaps in the continuation rate (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course) between mature and young students to 0%.
- We have also made commitments:
 - (i) to improve the access, success, and progression rates in HE at Grantham College for ethnic minority students
 - (ii) to improve access, success, and progression rates in HE at Grantham College for care leavers

What we are doing to achieve our aims [SEE PAGES 15-20 OF OUR FULL PLAN]

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

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 learning and teaching – this focuses on our three target groups and is informed by student representatives on our HE Committee and at Standards and Corporation meetings.
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.
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.
6. Engage students in their own development of personal, social and professional skills.
7. Offer financial support, including hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England.

How students can get involved [SEE PAGE 20 OF OUR FULL PLAN]

We worked with the Students' Union and Student Voice Forum to gather student input into the design of our access and participation plan. Students are represented at our Diversity, Equity, and

Inclusion Committee which is responsible for overseeing implementation of the access and participation plan.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

[SEE PAGE 24 OF OUR FULL PLAN]

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
- the seven actions outlined above
- the impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and an inclusive environment.

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Champion will monitor and report on these processes to the HE Group and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. The Committee 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 Steven Peacock at speacock@grantham.ac.uk for more information.