

# The Chesterfield College Group

## 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 the Chesterfield College Group at <https://www.chesterfield.ac.uk/knowledge-base/higher-education-access-and-participation-plan-2020-21-2024-25/>.

### 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 the Chesterfield College Group, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students. We want to demonstrate a commitment to our current and future students by continuing to develop plans and courses to widen access and participation in areas that area underrepresented.

Two areas of key focus at the Chesterfield College Group are:

- Adult students are less likely to access, succeed and progress through higher education
- Students are less likely to complete their studies if they come from a neighbourhood where not many people go on to higher education.

### Fees we charge

At the Chesterfield College Group, the maximum fees charged per year are:

- £6995 for full-time students
- £3497 for part-time students

Please note that the number of credits studied each year will match the fees e.g. FdA is studied over 3 years, fees sit at £4663 per year. This provides a consistent pricing structure for all courses.

### Financial help available

For 2020-2025, the College will provide a clear and accessible offer of financial support to full and part time students who face financial barriers to study, or who may encounter financial hardship during the course of their studies. A clear policy for bursary and hardship funding, including the criteria for awards and the process for assessing applications and making awards, will make the following support available to students;

- A bursary of £1,000 for full time students across all years of all full time undergraduate programmes
- A bursary of £500 (or the equivalent pro-rata value) for part time students across all years of part time undergraduate programmes
- A hardship fund to provide short term emergency financial support to students who experience financial difficulties during the course of their studies.

## **Information for students**

- Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support through open-days, the college website, and email communication.
- Current students received information about fees and the financial support available through their Personal Tutors, the Higher Education Support Coordinator and the Bursary team.

For the most up to date information, see our college website.

## **What we are aiming to achieve**

Our overall aim is to support students accessing and achieving in higher education, where students can reach their potential and progress into higher learning and employment.

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

This plan will aim to positively benefit the Adult students by:

- Increasing the number of students accessing Higher Education courses from 18% in 2018-19 to 22% in 2024-25.
- Reducing the gap in success from 10.1% in 2018-19 to 3% in 2024-25, with more students achieving their qualifications.
- Reducing non-continuation rates from 2.3% in 2018-19 to 1.2% in 2024-25, ensuring more students stay on their programme.
- Improving the progression rates from 12.5% in 2018-19 to 35% in 2024-25 into higher levels.

This plan will also aim to positively benefit students from underrepresented groups by:

- Reducing the gaps in non-continuation from 11.9% 2018-19 to 2% in 2024-25.
- Reducing success rates between the most and least disadvantaged groups from 15.7% 2018-19 to 3% in 2024-25.

## **What we are doing to achieve our aims**

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

1. Aligned subject areas together to support learning and teaching, and progression to higher levels.
2. Establish and embed flexible modes of learning to give students a choice in how they learn.
3. Engage external partners to improve the range of courses we offer through employer collaboration and HEI partnerships to extend up to L6 Top-Up degrees.
4. Organise specific adult activities, promoting fully fundable Adult courses to introduce students back into learning and to develop their own personal, social and professional skills.
5. Extend our programme of work with schools to improve raising attainment, aspirations and awareness of higher education.

## **How students can get involved**

We work alongside the Students' Union and Student Representatives to gather student input into our access and participation plan. Students are involved in overseeing the plan as part of the Governance Board activities.

## **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:

- The impact of achieving our aims above.
- The courses that we offer and how they are designed.
- Overall achievement of widening access and participation.

The effectiveness of the actions set out in this plan, and the resulting impact on students, will be monitored termly by the Higher Education Governance Board, which reports to Senior Managers and Corporation on a regular basis. 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 the students. We will publish evidence from our evaluations on The Chesterfield College Group website by January 2024.

## **Contact details for further information**

You can contact Jenny Stocks at [stocks@chesterfield.ac.uk](mailto:stocks@chesterfield.ac.uk) for further information.