

The Chesterfield College Group Access and participation plan 2025-26 to 2028-29

Chesterfield College Group is committed to providing high-quality, affordable Higher Education that empowers students with the advanced skills they need to succeed academically and achieve their career goals. Enhancing access to, and increasing participation, retention, attainment, and successful progression in Higher Education programs is a core principle of our strategic plan. This commitment is strengthened through our university partnerships and the ongoing expansion of our Higher Apprenticeship offerings.

What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans set out how higher education (HE) 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 Chesterfield College at [Access and Participation Plan](#)

Key points

The core focus of our Access and Participation Plan is directed towards improving outcomes for particular student groups. The Group is proud of its commitment to inclusivity and is resolute in its support for students from under-represented backgrounds, enabling them to participate successfully in Higher Education. The Group's strategic vision is centred on designing programmes where learning is accessible, individualised, and responsive to the needs of learners and employers. Our assessment suggests these indications of risk are likely underpinned by the following fundamental risk factors:

Risk 1: Knowledge and skills
Students may not have equal opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills required to be accepted onto higher education courses that match their expectations and ambitions.
Risk 2: Information and guidance
Students may not have equal opportunity to receive the information and guidance that will enable them to develop ambition and expectations, or to make informed choice about their higher education options
Risk3: Perception of higher education
Students may not feel able to apply to higher education, or certain types of providers within higher education, despite being qualified.
Risk 5: Limited Choice of course type and delivery mode
Students may not have equal opportunity to access a sufficiently wide variety of higher education course types.
Risk 6: Insufficient academic support
Students may not receive sufficient personalised academic support to achieve a positive outcome.
Risk 7: Insufficient personal support
Students may not receive sufficient personalised non-academic support or have sufficient access to extracurricular activities to achieve a positive outcome.
Risk 12: Cost Pressure
Students may not have equal opportunity to progress to an outcome they consider to be a positive reflection of their higher education experience.

We particularly aim to support more students from key target groups

1. To increase the number of mature learners from quintile groups 1 and 2. Due to suppressed data this will include both male and female students.
2. To reduce the students enrolment gap for parttime students from IMD quintiles 1 or 2 and IMD quintiles 3,4 and 5.
3. To reduce the student enrolment gap between young students and mature students

Fees we charge

At Chesterfield College, the maximum fees charged are £6,995 for full-time students and £3,498 for part-time students.

You can see a full list of fees for courses at the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group on our [Fees Summary](#)

Financial help available

Chesterfield College is committed to promoting and supporting the success of students undertaking higher level studies. The HE Bursary Fund is means tested and made available to support students with costs directly related to their studies. Full details are on our [website Higher Education Bursary Policy](#)

The support includes:

- Full-time students: Up to £1,000 bursary per academic year, contingent on assessed need.
- Part-time students: Up to £500 bursary (or pro-rata equivalent) per academic year, contingent on assessed need.
- Hardship fund: Short-term emergency financial support for students experiencing unexpected financial difficulties. The amount awarded is dependent on the individual circumstance.

Information for students

Information about fees and financial support is available to prospective students on our website, at in-person events such as our open days, through individual meetings with our staff, and via email. Current students receive details regarding fees and the financial support available during individual meetings with our staff and via email.

For the most up-to-date information, see our website [University Level Study – Chesterfield College](#)

What we are aiming to achieve

Our overarching objective is to support students residing within our region in accessing higher education and developing their skills. Given that a significant proportion of our students express a desire to study and subsequently contribute to the local workforce, this initiative will assist in mitigating higher-level skills shortages within our region. We aspire to build upon the progress achieved in recent years, particularly in enabling greater participation and success in Higher Education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Furthermore, we are committed to providing an environment at Chesterfield College where students can attain their full capabilities. The College is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing access to Higher Education for all underrepresented groups and to advancing its outreach, student success, and progression activities, both autonomously and in partnership with collaborators such as local schools, partner colleges, and the Uni Connect Programme.

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

Please refer to our full [Access and Participation Plan](#), which details a comprehensive strategy to address the risks.

How students can get involved

Student representatives from all programmes participate in regular Higher Education events and meetings with staff. HE Student representatives hold positions on the Corporation Board and its committees, ensuring student voice at governance levels. Electronic communication is prioritised for effective engagement with a diverse student population.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

The College will undertake continuous monitoring and evaluation of its intervention strategies, engaging in ongoing reflection and responding to evaluation findings to refine and enhance our practices. 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 actions outlined in our plan

While the Chesterfield College Board of Governors retains ultimate responsibility for the strategic oversight of our Access and Participation Plan, the Higher Education Strategy Group has been delegated responsibility for the operational management of the implementation and evaluation activities defined within it.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Mike Ward (wardm@chesterfield.ac.uk) for further information.