

## Gloucestershire College 10002696

### 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 Gloucestershire College at

[https://www.gloscol.ac.uk/media/995964/gloucestershirecollege\\_app\\_2020-21\\_v1\\_10002696.pdf](https://www.gloscol.ac.uk/media/995964/gloucestershirecollege_app_2020-21_v1_10002696.pdf)

#### Key points (see pages 12-14 of full plan)

Our overall aim is to support students, particularly those from underrepresented groups, to access higher education and to support them to successfully participate and achieve.

The college has a **significant proportion** of HE learners who are from underrepresented groups/ disadvantaged backgrounds, but we aim to increase the number of learners from the neighbourhoods where not many people go on to higher education enrolling onto HE courses.

Whilst our continuation (retention) rates are good the following students are less likely to be retained; a) mature learners and b) learners from the neighbourhoods where not many people go on to higher education

Whilst our achievement rates are good, they are slightly lower for; a) mature learners, b) learners from the neighbourhoods where not many people go on to higher education and c) mature ethnic minority students

#### Fees we charge

At Gloucestershire College the **maximum** fees charged are:

- £7700 for full time foundation degrees and postgraduate teacher training
- £7400 for full time students
- £3850 for part time postgraduate teacher training students
- £3700 for part time students

You can see the fees by course on the Gloucestershire College Website:

<https://www.gloscol.ac.uk/university-level/he-courses/>

#### Financial help available (see page 18 of the full plan)

Progression bursary: Students (existing or previous learners) that are progressing from a Gloucestershire College qualification achieved at the college to a full-time, level 4 HE courses at the College are offered a bursary of £1000 in their first year of HE studies at the college.

The Student Opportunities Fund: Learners from disadvantaged and under-represented backgrounds can apply for support where they are experiencing additional hardship.

#### Information for students (see page 30 of full plan)

Prospective and current students receive information on fees and financial support at open evenings, by email communications and from the student services team on each campus.

## **What we are aiming to achieve (see pages 12-14 and 31-32 of full plan)**

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

1. Access: In terms of access to our HE provision we aim:

- To reduce the 10% gap between the most and least represented socio-economic groups enrolling on GC HE courses
- To develop our data source for the monitoring of Care Leavers and use this data to develop relevant targets that are monitored and reviewed annually.

2. Continuation: The college has high retention (continuation) rates for all HE courses, however there are some gaps that we aim to close:

- To reduce the 9% continuation gap between the most and least represented socio-economic groups
- To reduce the 13% continuation gap between Mature and Young learners – more mature learners leave their HE courses than younger HE students.

3. Achievement: The college has high achievement (success) rates for all HE courses, however there are some gaps that we aim to close:

- To reduce the 14% attainment gap between the most and least represented socio-economic groups
- To reduce the attainment gap between mature ethnic minority full time learners and mature white learners
- To reduce the attainment gap between mature and young learners

4. Progression: Whilst our progression data to employment is good, we need to further develop the analysis of this data so we can monitor more closely the progression of underrepresented groups.

We have a commitment to analyse data, identify any significant gaps and set further targets and objectives as required. We also aim to:

- reduce the 15% progression gap between mature and young learners

5. Support attainment at school and access to higher education - Working through our Uni Connect partnership we will research and explore evidence-based opportunities for attainment raising within the region throughout 2022/23.

6. Continue to develop more flexible and diverse provision

## **What we are doing to achieve our aims (pages 17-24 of the full plan)**

### **ACCESS: What we do/plan to do to encourage applications from underrepresented groups.**

We work as a collaborative partner in the UniConnect/GROWS consortium administering the Gloucestershire Aspiration Programme (GAP) to raise awareness and aspirations with underrepresented groups – this includes tasters in schools/ activity days etc.

The college continues to develop a range of activities that specifically target those from traditionally low participation areas, particularly by working to encourage internal progression from our further education learners e.g

- Tutorials about HE;
- HE workshops and tasters;
- HE events/days;

- HE advisor onsite;
- Schools outreach advisors
- Open evenings and marketing campaigns
- Collaboration with our feeder schools
- Working through our Uni Connect partnership

#### **CONTINUATION AND ACHIEVEMENT: What we do/plan to do to support HE learners.**

- Provide HE Study Support sessions
- Provide access to Learning support
- Provide access to Counselling support
- Provide Extra mentoring support.
- Student Hub area where learners can access pastoral and wellbeing support.

#### **PROGRESSION: What we do/plan to do to support the learner's progression and destinations:**

- Employer links/ employability
- Student hub - visible drop-in area with a focus upon careers, work placements and employment coaching.
- Careers team

#### **How students can get involved (pg 25-26 of plan)**

- Engage in student focus groups
- Volunteer as a Student Representative and/or feed into your representative.
- Become an HE Student Governor
- Become a Student co-creator – working with lecturers to adapt units and assessment methods
- Complete the Internal HE survey
- HE students can also provide feedback through the college's Talkback procedures.

#### **Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved (Page 26-29)**

Our activities that support the achievement of our aims and targets are informed by research and evidence about what works for students (this research is referenced throughout the plan). The college utilises an ongoing cycle of review, evaluate/identify root causes and adapt in order to learn. We collect data and feedback to evaluate progress against our aims and targets outlined in the plan.

#### **Contact details for further information**

**ANY IDEAS/FEEDBACK/COMMENTS RELATING TO THE ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN** (good practice/ things that could be improved/ ideas of things that you would like to see that would support in fulfilling our objectives) can be emailed to:

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