

## **NCG Summary of 2024-25 to 2027-28 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 NCG [here](#)

### **Key points (Pg. 1-9)**

As a student of NCG you will be studying at either Carlisle College, Kidderminster College, Newcastle College University Centre, or Southwark College.

When we developed our access and participation plan in 2023, we have focused on improving outcomes for specific groups of students. At the time our data showed us that in comparison to their peers across NCG, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students. We are committed to removing barriers and reducing inequalities that may delay the progress and grades of underrepresented groups.

The following groups are less likely to achieve a good degree award of a 2:1 grade in comparison to their peers:

- Ethnic minority students
- Areas of deprivation
- Male students from areas of deprivation

Whilst our aim is to eliminate these gaps in inequality, we know that this will take longer than the life of this plan. However, as an institution we are committed to create a level playing field for all students by offering an inclusive and supportive learning environment that celebrates diversity, promotes social mobility, and embraces the unique strengths and perspectives of each student.

### **Fees we charge in Academic Year 2022-23**

At NCG the maximum fees charged in 2023-24 are:

- £9,250 for full time programmes
- £4,625 for part time programmes

These fees may vary depending upon the campus where you are studying. For September 2024-25 our fees will increase in line with our published fee policy. [You can locate our fee policy here.](#)

### **Financial help available (pg. 28)**

We understand that financial constraints can be a significant barrier to accessing and succeeding in higher education. Our financial support packages are designed to enable you to access your course and continue studying until you have completed your studies.

Therefore, we offer:

- A bursary of £1000 for students with a household income of less than £25,000. Students over this threshold are entitled to £400
- HE Engagement bursary, students who come from a neighbourhood where not many people have studied higher education before can receive a weekly travel pass, meal allowance based on their timetable.
- Hardship funds are available for all students to access
- A broad range of scholarships

## **Information for students**

If you are intending to study with us but are yet to start your course, you will receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as open days, by email communication and on our college, websites depending on where you wish to study.

As a **current student** you will receive information about fees and financial support via the NCG higher education administration team. When the application window opens the team will email all students information on how to apply with the appropriate links, this message is also sent to your programme sites in Microsoft Teams.

## **What we are aiming to achieve (Pg. 8-21)**

Our mission is to deliver exceptional education to create transformative opportunities for individuals that will also strengthen the prosperity of their local communities. We want to empower you, individuals from all backgrounds to overcome societal and economic challenges, ultimately enabling social mobility. We firmly believe that every student at NCG, regardless of their background, should have equality of opportunity to access, succeed in, and progress beyond higher education to fulfil your potential.

**Increase the attainment levels of our Asian, black, mixed or heritage students.** We are working to raise the attainment level of those within these groups to achieve 1<sup>st</sup> or 2:1-degree classifications.

**Minimise the attainment gap completely between black and white students.** Specific focus will also be given through targeted support to minimise the attainment gap between black and white students.

**Increase the attainment levels of students from deprived areas.** Our data highlighted 58% of students at NCG come from the highest areas of deprivation. We are pushing to minimise the attainment of grades of those from the least areas of deprivation to students from areas of low deprivation.

**Male students from areas of high deprivation.** Research has shown that males from areas of high deprivation are unlikely to achieve a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2:1 degree classification in comparison to males from areas of least deprivation. Through targeted support and intervention, we will aim to lessen the gap.

**Expansion of flexible pathways.** We will continue to embrace different learning styles and offer a broader curriculum by offering a wider range of qualifications, such as Degree Apprenticeships, Certificate of Higher Education, Foundation Degrees and HTQs (Higher Technical Qualifications)

**Mental Health and Wellness.** Over the life of this plan we will continue to support the Mental Health and wellbeing of all students at NCG. Twilight Counselling service, a peer to peer flexible service will allow for the practice of co-creation and collaboration.

## **What we are doing to address key risks to equality of opportunity (Pg. 10-19)**

We have identified several interventions and where we can create targeted support that we can offer to support this plan:

- Provide **workshops and online packages** to support Level 3 students to build academic skills, all Level 3 students from the target groups will be offered a **Transition Summer school** to ease anxieties and build confidence.
- Conduct **digital literacy workshops** in preparation for progression to Level 4
- Enhance our **Academic Coaches** provision. All coaches will be qualified to support those who English is not their first language

- We will offer more **Foundation year courses** to help students **build confidence** and academic ability ready for a degree
- NCG will invite employers, entrepreneurs and guest speakers from Asian, black, mixed or other heritages to **share their educational experience to inspire and motivate** students
- We will provide **dedicated support to parents and carers** at any stage of their degree
- We will work with the **Academic Support team to create workshops** that will develop academic skills, digital literacy, **understanding assessments and gradings to build confidence** in all aspects of Higher Education
- Dedicated support and workshops focusing on **emotional wellbeing** and development such as **resilience, coping strategies and communication**
- The **creation of a mentor scheme** with students in Level 6 supporting Level 4
- NCG are committed to **addressing hardship** and reviewing all processes to offer **equal access to financial support.**

### **How students can get involved (Pg.23)**

In developing our access and participation plan we worked with our student body together input into the design and targets. Students are represented at all our committee structures which has the responsibility for implementing the plan.

We are recruiting Widening Participation Fellows to provide feedback and liase with the RSE team who will be leading the interventions. The Fellows will contribute to the Student Partnership and Engagement Committee, develop Together We Changed poster campaigns and collect data through our 'Byte 4 Bite' initiative and be an integral part of the 360 Council. Students can contact their programme representative or our "tell us now" mailbox – [tellusnow@ncl-coll.ac.uk](mailto:tellusnow@ncl-coll.ac.uk)

To become involved in this work, contact our research and student engagement manager [Colin.Bancroft@ncl-coll.uk](mailto:Colin.Bancroft@ncl-coll.uk)

### **Evaluation- how we will measure what we have achieved (Pg. 20-27)**

For each area of improvement, we have set ourselves a clear expectation of what we aim to achieve. Our chosen evaluation methodology is a mixed methods approach that challenges and assesses how successful we have been in achieving the established targets and considers both qualitative and quantitative data. We collect data and student feedback to evaluate:

- The success of our interventions and engagement levels across all interventions
- Effectiveness of the workshops
- Student evaluation of the support offered

We will publish regular highlights annually, with the first results published in Autumn 2025 on our website.

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

We are committed to providing our students an exception education and aim to offer an inclusive and diverse experience as part of NCG. We are happy to answer any questions that you as students may have.

You can contact Alan Fenton, Academic Registrar at [Alan.Fenton@ncgrp.co.uk](mailto:Alan.Fenton@ncgrp.co.uk) for further information.