

# **NCG 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 NCG [via this link](#)

## **Key points (pg 16-20)**

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 2019, we had a focus on improving outcomes for specific groups of students. At that time our data showed us that compared to their peers across NCG, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students.

The following groups of students were less likely to continue into the second year of study when compared to their peers:

- Students who come from a neighbourhood where not many people have studied higher education before
- Mature students on part time programmes
- Disabled students

Our dataset also indicated the following groups of students are less likely to achieve a good degree award of 2:1 or above:

- Students who come from a neighbourhood where not many people have studied higher education before
- Ethnic minority students

We are now 2 years into our access and participation plan and are delighted with the progress we have made so far and are ahead of target against all aims. Though we will not rest on our laurels and are committed to supporting our students and reducing the likelihood that students from these specific groups of not obtaining a good degree outcome whilst studying with us.

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

At NCG the maximum fees charged in 2022-23 are:

- £9,000 for full time programmes
- £4,625 for part time programmes

These fees may vary depending upon the campus where you are studying. For September 2023-24 our fees will increase in line with our published fee policy. [You can locate our fee policy here.](#)

## **Financial help available (pg 23)**

We offer financial support to all students, our financial support packages are designed to enable you to access your course and continue studying until you have completed, this support includes:

- Annual bursary for £1,000 if your household income is below £25,000
- Travel bursary depending on your attendance, location of study and personal circumstance.
- Access to hardship funds
- 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 13)

NCG's purpose is to deliver exceptional education to create life-changing opportunities for individuals that strengthen the prosperity of their local communities.

**Supporting raising attainment at schools and in young people and adults.** We are working to raise the attainment levels of those who have not achieved good passes at level 2 by the age of 16 through our Northeast Uni Connect partnerships and as central to our NCG mission of social mobility. We also intend to further support pre-16 attainment in schools through expanded activity from our education partnership teams in the localities we are based.

**Increased diversification in our provision** – Over the life of our access and participation plan we would like to increase the number of higher technical qualifications, transferrable credit bearing modules and degree apprenticeships offered. We have several integrated degree apprenticeships validated, for example our Creative Digital Design apprenticeship which has a blended delivery model that provides flexibility for those in work to upskill.

**Students from low participation neighbourhoods and low-income backgrounds** – By 2024-25 we will improve:

- The continuation rate (the proportion of students who continue onto the next year) by 5%
- Attainment of a good degree by 10%

**Disabled students** – By 2024-25 we will increase the percentage of students who continue onto their second year of study with us by 5%

**Ethnic minority students** – By 2024-25 we will increase the number of students obtaining a good degree outcome across all our programme types by 5%

**Mature students** – By 2024-25 we will improve the continuation rate of mature students on our part time programmes by 5%

## What we are doing to achieve our aims (pg 22)

We have identified six programmes of activity to achieve our aims

1. **Engage external partners and employers** to ensure our higher education offer is diverse, flexible and ensures good graduate outcomes for our students.
2. Enhance our **academic student support and teaching resources** throughout NCG so all students have access to tailored support, student fellowship opportunities and the resources they need to obtain good graduate outcomes.

3. We offer **financial support** including bursaries, scholarships and access to hardship funds for eligible students. We also provide practical support for students when applying to [Student Finance England](#).
4. Continue to **engage students** in their own development or personal, social and professional skills.
5. **Dedicated support** to students who declare a disability. This happens through the Higher Education Disability Support Team and in partnership with academic staff.
6. Utilising expertise and intelligence from external partners to ensure students from ethnic minority backgrounds obtain good degree outcomes.

### **How students can get involved**

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.

As a student of NCG you also can get involved in several other ways. We have a student partnership committee, as student fellow programme as well as a programme representative panel.

To provide feedback, 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 lead [Colin.Bancroft@ncl-coll.ac.uk](mailto:Colin.Bancroft@ncl-coll.ac.uk)

### **Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved (pg 26)**

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:

- Our progress towards what we are aiming to achieve as outlined above
- The effectiveness of our financial support offer
- Student evaluation of our programmes
- The effectiveness of our student support teams

We will publish evidence from our evaluations on our website by January 2024.

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

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