

# Bury College

## Summary 2025-26 to 2028-29 access and participation plan

### What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation sets out provisions that will be meaningful and effective in promoting equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups, as determined by the Office for Students.

You can see the full access and participation plan for Bury College at:

<https://burycollege.ac.uk/university-centre/about-us/legal>

### Key points

Bury College is a large tertiary College located in the centre of the market town of Bury. The College supports around 7,000 students per year. Through its University Centre, the College has, for many years offered a wide range of full and part-time higher education qualifications that meet the needs of students who want to enhance their career prospects, are looking for a career change or simply wish to continue their education to a higher level.

Bury College's mission and purpose is to serve the community through education and training.

### Fees we charge

Summary of Course Fees is shown below:

<u>Full-Time Course Fees</u>	<u>Course Fee</u>
Professional Graduate Certificate	£8,250 per year
Certificate Higher Education / Diploma in Higher Education	£8,250 per year
First Degree (all First Degrees charged at same rate)	£8,250 per year
Foundation Degree (all Foundation Degrees charged at same rate)	£8,250 per year
Higher Nationals / Higher Technical Qualifications	£8,250 per year

<u>Part-Time Course Fees</u>	<u>Course Fee</u>
Professional Graduate Certificate	£4,180 per year
Certificate Higher Education / Diploma in Higher Education	£4,180 per year
First Degree (all First Degrees charged at same rate)	£4,180 per year
Foundation Degree (all Foundation Degrees charged at same rate)	£4,180 per year

Subject to maximum free limits set out in Regulations, Bury College reserves the right to increase fees each year using RPI-X.

Further information is available at: [Legal - Bury College University Centre](#)

### Financial help available

Bury College provides prospective students with information on the fees for the duration of their course and prospective and current students' information on the support available to them as follows:

#### Tuition Fee Loans

The majority of students will be able to access Tuition Fee loans via the Student Loans Company. Bury College supports University Centre students with their applications for these loans.

#### Bury College University Bursary

The Bury College Bursary is promoted to prospective and current students as part of wider information on financial support available to them. Eligible students can access £500 each academic year of their course. Evaluation feedback advised that many students would consider a bursary an attractive measure to support their progression to Higher Education. Analysis of recipients identifies that around 80% of beneficiaries every year are from under-represented groups. Further information is available at:

<http://www.burycollegeunicentre.co.uk/supporting-you/financial-support/>

#### Additional student support

A range of additional support is available to students, including:

- Support for those experiencing financial hardships
- Provision of and access to a free coach service that runs from/to a number of destinations
- Access to digital equipment, e.g. laptop computer for loan/borrow to support learning

## Information for students

Bury College provides prospective students with information on the fees for the duration of their course and prospective and current students' information on the support available to them, including:

- At student research and application stage, e.g. via material information, including about the courses we offer, the structure of each course, and all associated fees / costs.
- At pre-contract stage, e.g. via drawing prospective students' attention to the college's terms and conditions, ensuring information is provided on a durable medium, e.g. email attachment
- At contract stage, e.g. providing confirmation of acceptance on a course, advising of 14 days right to cancel, that the contract is for the full duration of the course,
- At student enrolment stage, e.g. drawing students' attention to the college's full terms and conditions and any other rules and regulations, with particular attention made to important terms, or providing information where it has been necessary to make any material changes

This covers key information, including:

- the aggregate amount of fees that the college will charge students for the completion of their course
- financial support that students are entitled to, together with how students can apply for financial support
- a clear statement on whether or not the college expects any increase in fees in subsequent years
- additional information where the college will or may increase students' fees annually, and to what extent, e.g. in line with inflation such as the Retail Price Index, so that students are able to understand how their fees will or may change

## What we are aiming to achieve

The main focus / key targets of the college's access and participation plan are:

- To reduce risk to equality of opportunity with regards access to Higher Education at Bury College by working to increase access rates for male learners

Associated target = Increase the access rate of Male learners in Higher Education at the College to 33% by 2028

- To reduce risk of equality of opportunity with regards continuation in Higher Education at Bury College by working to increase continuation rates for male learners

Associated target = Increase the continuation rate of Male learners in Higher Education at the College to 83% by 2028

- To reduce risk of equality of opportunity with regards continuation in Higher Education at Bury College by working to increase continuation rates for younger learners

Associated target = Increase the continuation rate of Younger learners in Higher Education at the College to 87% by 2028

- To reduce risk of equality of opportunity with regards completion of Higher Education at Bury College by working to increase completion rates for male learners

Associated target = Increase the completion rate of Male learners in Higher Education at the College to 75% by 2028

- To reduce risk of equality of opportunity with regards completion of Higher Education at Bury College by working to increase completion rates for female learners

Associated target = Increase the completion rate of Female learners in Higher Education at the College to 80% by 2028

## **What we are doing to address key risks to equality of opportunity**

Examples of intervention strategies and activities to be delivered through this plan to achieve the objectives and targets include:

Access lifecycle stage activities:

- Increased marketing and promotional activities, targeted at Male learners
- Pre-entry awareness and aspiration raising activities, including partnership working with schools, Positive Futures and Family First campaigns, targeted at Male learners
- GCSE attainment activities targeted at Male learners
- Better targeted Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) sessions targeted at Male learners
- Promoting Higher Technical pathways at Level 4/5 to Male learners

Continuation lifecycle stage activities targeted at key cohorts in scope for this plan:

- Enhanced personal support, including study skills
- Enhanced academic support, including early intervention support
- Enhanced financial support, including the Bury College Bursary

Completion lifecycle stage activities targeted at key cohorts in scope for this plan:

- Enhanced personal support, including mental health programme
- Enhanced academic support, including personal tutoring

## **How students can get involved**

Students will be able to get involved in the planning, monitoring, evaluation and delivery of the Access and Participation Plan through several avenues:

The Student Representative process, which involves Higher Education students, with student representatives attending various committees, focus groups and forums, e.g.:

- Staff Student Liaison Committees
- Student focus groups held across curriculum areas
- Student representatives on Board of Corporation and College committees
- Student Action Group, who work with college staff and students to plan and promote activities
- Student Contract
- Equality and Diversity Steering Group

Bury College Higher Education Student Engagement Policy details how the College interacts with students on a formal basis, at an individual course level and as a collective student body of the University Centre.

## **Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved**

Bury College Higher Education Quality Cycle underpins how the college evaluates all elements of Higher Education activity, including the impact of access, success and progression activities and financial support.

Multiple approaches ensure evaluation is evidence led, including through Higher Education Student Module Questionnaires; Higher Education Staff Self Evaluation Reviews; Student / Staff Liaison Committees; Student Representative Meetings; Graduate Outcome Surveys; Equality and Diversity Reports, Students Surveys and Destination Tracking.

Continuous Evaluation complete with detailed analysis of evaluation activities help meet Access and Participation Plan aims, e.g.:

- Ensuring activities are focused on those areas where the College is investing
- Analysing what is working well, and why, together with what could be improved
- Developing knowledge of whether and how activities are effective
- Using evidence to inform future practice and support year on year improvements
- Demonstrating impact to justify the money invested, including to students

Dissemination of evaluation findings will include Summary Progress and Review Report (published annually from end of Year 2 of Plan)

## **Contact details for further information**

Please use the following contact details for more information:

Website: <https://burycollege.ac.uk/university-centre>

Email: [HEAdmissions@BuryCollege.ac.uk](mailto:HEAdmissions@BuryCollege.ac.uk)

Telephone: 0161 280 8280

Address: Bury College University Centre, Market Street, Bury, BL9 0BG