

# Bury College

## Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 approved 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 Bury College at [\[Legal - Bury College University Centre\]](#).

### Key points

Bury College is a large tertiary college in Greater Manchester. The College attracts students from a wide geographical area including Bury, Rochdale, Manchester and Lancashire.

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 Higher Education Strategic Objectives are:

1. To plan and design a higher education curriculum offer that is responsive to learner and employer needs.
2. To develop, deliver and review a high-quality higher education curriculum offer.
3. To identify and work with appropriate partners in order to provide the HE curriculum offer.

To support these, the College works in partnership with a range of Higher Education providers including the Universities of Salford, Cumbria and Huddersfield and Awarding Body Pearson. The Higher Education curriculum portfolio reflects the College's tertiary and community nature with qualifications available at Higher National/Technical, Foundation Degree, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in both full and part time modes of delivery.

### Fees we charge

Summary of Course Fees is shown below:

#### Full-Time Course Fees

	<u>Course Fee</u>
First Degree (all First Degrees charged at same rate)	£7,500 per year
Foundation Degree (all Foundation Degrees charged at same rate)	£7,500 per year
Higher Nationals / Higher Technical Qualifications	£7,500 per year
Certificate Higher Education / Diploma in Higher Education	£7,500 per year

#### Part-Time Course Fees

	<u>Course Fee</u>
Foundation Degree (all Foundation Degrees charged at same rate)	£3,800 per year
Certificate Higher Education / Diploma in Higher Education	£3,800 per year

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 or Advanced Learner Loans. Bury College supports University Centre students with their applications for these loans

## Bury College University Bursary

Details of the Bursary Fund is made available to prospective and current students as part of wider information on financial support available to them. The Bursary Fund is available to Level 3 Bury College students progressing to a Higher Education course, who can access £500 each academic year of their course. Evaluation feedback advised that many students less willing progress to Higher Education / travel outside the local area to access Higher Education would consider a bursary an attractive measure to support their participation and analysis of recipients identifies that c80% of beneficiaries 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 will 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**

Supporting national Key Performance Measures, the main focus / key targets of the college's access and participation work will be:

Life Cycle Stage - Access – To reduce/remove participation gap among Bury College BAME cohort by 2024-25

Life Cycle Stage – Continuation - To reduce/remove continuation rate gap among Bury College students from lowest participation areas (POLAR Quintile 1) by 2024-25

Life Cycle Stage – Progression - To reduce/remove progression gap among mature students by 2024-25

## **What we are doing to achieve our aims**

Key strategic measures taken by Bury College to support whole provider approaches across the full student lifecycle, and achieve strategic aims, objectives and targets, including for the access and participation plan, include:

- Securing senior management buy-in, e.g. via Higher Education Steering Group
- Engagement and involvement of staff from different departments across the college
- Continuous collaboration work with relevant local partners and stakeholders, including students, schools, colleges, employers and other higher education providers
- Providing a range of curriculum, pedagogic and student support to improve the overall student experience, develop a more inclusive curricula and practice and ensure students from all backgrounds are engaged and supported to succeed
- Developing more flexible and diverse provision, e.g. linking to new Higher Technical Qualifications
- Providing financial support to help provide cultural change, including promotion and use of a £500 Bursary Fund
- Continued review of courses and delivery models to ensure that they remain accessible and attractive to a wide range of demographics and backgrounds

## **How students can get involved**

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.

The Student Representative process includes all Higher Education students, where student representatives attend 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

## **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 we are investing
- Analysing what is working well, and why, together with what could be improved
- Develop our 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

## **Contact details for further information**

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