

Chichester College Group

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 Chichester College Group at [chichestercollegegroup_app_2020-21_v1_10007817.pdf \(chigroup.ac.uk\)](https://chichestercollegegroup.app/2020-21_v1_10007817.pdf) and for GBMet at [GreaterBrightonMetropolitanCollege_2020-21_V1_10004736.pdf \(officeforstudents.org.uk\)](https://GreaterBrightonMetropolitanCollege/2020-21_V1_10004736.pdf)

Key points

See pages 1-10 of the full plan

Chichester College Group (CCG) is a large Further Education College and, following a merger with Greater Brighton Metropolitan College Group (GBMet) in August 2022, consists of 7 colleges across West Sussex and Brighton. As a merged Group CCG will honour and incorporate the pledges made by the former GBMet in relation to access and participation and the financial commitments outlined in its 2021/22-2024/2025 plan. We offer a range of university level courses, and aim is to support students who are under-represented in higher education to access, succeed and progress to graduate level employment and / or further study. Data shows that certain groups of students have lower outcomes, compared to their peers at the Chichester College Group.

- Students from BAME communities are less likely to participate in higher education
- Students with a disability are less likely to achieve high grades
- Adult learners are more likely to complete their studies than their younger counterparts
- Students from neighbourhoods where not many people go on to higher education are less likely to progress from their study at Chichester College Group into highly skilled employment or further study

Participation rates for higher education courses from under-represented groups are relatively high, but there is more work to do in relation to success and students continuing their studies or progressing into highly skilled employment.

Fees we charge

At the Chichester College Group the maximum fees charged are as follows:

HNC / HND

£6,800 (Full-time) £3,400 (Part-time)

See pages 17-18 of the full

Foundation Degree

£8,600

Undergraduate Degree

£9,250

You can see a full list of fees for courses at Chichester College Group at [provider fee information_202122.pdf \(chigroup.ac.uk\)](https://chichestercollegegroup.ac.uk/provider-fee-information-202122.pdf) and at GBMet at

Financial help available

See pages 21-22 of the full plan

At Chichester College Group we offer financial support to help students from under-represented groups to access higher education and continue studying until they complete their course. This support includes:

- A hardship fund to support students from households with an annual income below £25,000, and students are in receipt of the full maintenance loan
- Bursaries of up to £500 for first year of study for students from under-represented groups and/or from households with an annual income of less than £25,000
- Travel bursaries of up to £1,200 for students from households in receipt of benefits and with an income of less than £25,000. Lower payments are available for students from households with an annual income of below £32,000
- Discretionary grants of up to £250 for progression activities / events at Northbrook / Brighton Met

Information for students

See pages 19-20 of the full plan

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person open events and online information events as well as by email.

Fees are also detailed in our Higher Education Prospectus which can be accessed from each of our individual college websites, or a printed copy can be sent out

Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available from the college website, from their allocated Higher Education pastoral coach or from the colleges students finance and advice team (Progression +)

For the most up to date information see our website www.chigroup.ac.uk/ [HE Landing Page \(google.com\)](#) (GBMet)

What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 11 - 12 of the full plan

Our overall aim at Chichester College Group is to support all of our students to access higher education, achieve their full potential whilst at college and progress into higher level learning and skilled employment.

More specifically, and based on an analysis of the data we aim to:

To increase the proportion of students from under-represented groups participating in higher education at Chichester College Group with a focus on BAME and care-experienced students:

- Students from BAME groups to 18%
- Care experienced students to 4.5%.

To reduce gaps in non-continuation rates and achievement of students from specific backgrounds to complete their studies and achieve their potential:

- To eliminate the gap in non-continuation rates for **students from low participation neighbourhoods** to 0%
- To reduce the gap in non-continuation rates for **mature learners** to 5%
- To increase the proportion of **students with a declared disability** achieving high grades to 20% and therefore close the gap in achievement between students with a disability and those without
- To eliminate the gap for continuation and attainment of BAME students

To increase the number of students from under-represented groups into highly skilled employment and / or higher-level learning

- To increase the number of **students from low participation neighbourhoods** progressing into highly skilled employment or higher level study by 5%

What we are doing to achieve our aims

See pages 12 - 17 of the full plan

Our continued commitment to inclusion with a focus on access, success and progression for all of our higher education students we have identified a number of activities to support the achievement of our aims:

- Work in collaboration with the Office for Students funded Uniconnect programme, to develop effective outreach for students from low participation neighbourhoods
- Develop our Graduate attributes Programme to focus on students' study and employability skills, which includes working with local employers to deliver a range of employer-led development days
- Work with the additional learning support team to develop bespoke support for higher education students with a declared disability / learning need to ensure that students are supported to achieve their potential and can access the resources and supportive technology
- Work with our local universities to develop strategic partnerships to enable students to access progression routes from level 4 and level 5 provision (HNDs, Foundation Degrees)
- Allocate a higher education coach to all higher education learners for pastoral support including monitoring of attendance and working with the curriculum teams to monitor achievement. This will include involving students in setting their own targets for academic and employability skills using feedback from lecturers and other information
- Provide financial support and support students in accessing all of the financial support available through student finance and other sources of bursaries and sponsorship

How students can get involved

See page 18 of the full plan

Student participation in the plan is achieved through:

- Student representation on the Higher Education Governance Committees
- Staff / Student Liaison meetings are held twice a year to provide opportunities for all Higher Education students to provide feedback on their college experience including admissions
- We are in the process of launching a BAME student group to enhance the experience of students across the Group including the appointment of a BAME student champion

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

See page 18 - 20 of the full plan

In order to evaluate the impact of our plan and the associated targets and actions we have been working towards an evidence-based practice and evaluation approach. We will:

- Develop a system to track and monitor students participating in outreach
- Use the available in-house data and the office for students data to monitor achievement of our targets and compare with national data
- Use student feedback to evaluate the effectiveness of the activities listed in our plan
- The plan and its delivery and evaluation will be monitored through our Widening Participation Committee which then reports in to our Higher Education Board and the college's Group Leadership Team

- Any adjustments required to the plan as a result of this monitoring activity will be ratified by the Widening Participation Committee and Higher Education Board

Contact details for further information

You can contact Karen Guido, Higher Education Quality Manager at karen.guido@chichester.ac.uk