

Moorlands College

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 [our full access and participation plan](#) on our website.

Key points

Moorlands College offers undergraduate programmes in two areas of applied theology. It currently has around 130 full time undergraduate students as well as around 70 part-time postgraduates.

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes for specific groups of undergraduate students. Data shows that, compared to their peers at Moorlands College, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students. **See pages 1-9 of the full plan.**

- Students are less likely to complete their studies if they come from a neighbourhood with high indices of multiple deprivation.
- Students with disabilities are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2.1 or above.

There is some evidence that outcomes may be lower for certain groups of our students, though the statistics don't allow reliable conclusions to be drawn because of the small numbers involved. Nevertheless, we seek to improve outcomes for these students too.

- Students may be less likely to complete their studies if they are mature or have a disability.
- Students may be less likely to achieve a degree award of 2.1 or above if they come from a neighbourhood where either not many people go to higher education or which has high indices of multiple deprivation.

Fees we charge

At Moorlands College, the maximum fees charged for undergraduate studies in 2022-23 are:

- £8,595 for full-time students
- £5,200 for part-time students



You can see a full list of fees for undergraduate programmes at Moorlands College at [Fee Summary Moorlands College](#). **See page 19 of the full plan.**

Financial help available

See pages 16-17 and 21 of the full plan.

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes:

- **study grants** of up to £1,000 to enable the overcoming of challenges that might impact success in studies for students who have any nationally recognized disadvantaged background, including being over 21 at the start of studies, having a disability, being a care-leaver or young carer, or being of a Black or Asian ethnic identity or coming from a Gypsy, Roma or Traveller community
- **support service grants** for professional help (e.g., counselling or learning assistance sessions) for students with disabilities, including enduring mental health conditions, that are not covered by Disabled Students Allowance
- means-assessed **hardship grants** (available to all groups of students) for those experiencing financial hardship during their studies.

Information for students

See pages 19 and 22 of the full plan.

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, with full information always available on [the fees and finances page of the College website](#).

Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available through our Virtual Learning Environment, internal communications and emails, with full information always available on [the fees and finances page of the College website](#).

What we are aiming to achieve

Based on assessment of our performance, we have two aims in the area of access and participation:

- to enable access to higher education for students from disadvantaged socioeconomic areas and ethnic groups
- to support success in the studies of students from disadvantaged socioeconomic areas and ethnic groups and of mature students and students with disabilities.

To reach these aims we will over the period of the plan:

See pages 11-12 of the full plan.

- enable students from beyond our locality to access high quality studies
- equip and encourage people who have not considered higher education before
- improve the ratio of the number of students from the most represented postcodes compared with the number from the least represented from 2.0 to 1.8:1
- improve the ratio of the number of students from the most advantaged postcodes compared with the number from the least advantaged from 2.9:1 to 2.3:1
- increase the proportion of our students who are from ethnic minority backgrounds from 10% to 12%
- increase the proportion of our students from the least well represented postcodes who continue in their studies for more than a year from 92% to 95%
- increase the proportion of our students from the least advantaged postcodes who continue in their studies for more than a year from 79% to 86%

- increase the proportion of our students who start studying after the age of 21 who continue in their studies for more than a year from 83% to 92%
- increase the proportion of our students with a disability who get a 2.1 or 1st class Honours degree from 67% to 73%.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

See pages 15-17, 20-21 of the full plan.

1. Continuing to work for the holistic flourishing and well-being of school-age young people
2. Strengthening our delivery and academic resources and seeking further opportunities to make it flexibly accessible beyond the traditional campus-based mode of delivery to a more diverse body of students
3. Enhancing other organisations' gap-year programmes with high quality and rigorously assured academic experiences at pre-degree level, thereby encouraging them to consider higher education, where appropriate
4. Supporting students to manage their personal, social and academic development and to overcome challenges, particularly in their academic work
5. Offering financial support, including grants and hardship funding, to eligible students and offering practical support to students applying for student finance.

How students can get involved

We worked with the Student Representative Association to gather student input into the design of our access and participation plan. Students are represented on our Student Journey Analysis Committee and Academic Board which are responsible for overseeing the activities.

To provide feedback, students should contact their student representative.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our programmes of activity are informed by the best available evidence about what works for students. We collect data, both numerical data about outcomes and student feedback, to enable us to evaluate:

- the design of what we do
- the impact of the activities listed above and their effect in achieving our specific milestones
- their impact on achieving our overall aims

The Student Journey Analysis Committee monitors and reports on these processes to the Executive Leadership Team and Academic Board. Academic Board is held accountable by the Board of Trustees to oversee the implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against specific milestones in our access and participation plan. Where appropriate, we adjust our activities in the best interests of our students.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Dave Combes at david.combes@moorlands.ac.uk for further information.