

Craven 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 the full access and participation plan for Craven College at www.craven-college.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/CravenCollege_APP_2020-21_V1_10001743.pdf.

Key points

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes and access to education for specific groups of students.

Data shows that students at Craven College are less likely to come from neighbourhoods where not many people currently go into higher education. The plan aims to increase the proportion of these students.

Data shows that compared to their peers the following groups of students are less likely to achieve a Foundation Degree award of Merit or above or a degree award of 2:1 or above:

- Ethnic minority students

Although high grades have increased overall, the high-grade gap between ethnic minority students and white students has increased by 13% between 2019/20 and 2020/21. The plan identifies actions to try to reduce this gap.

The non-continuation rate (the proportion of students who are no longer in higher education and did not complete their qualification) for students with a disability has reduced significantly. This non-continuation rate gap for those with and without a disability was 7% in 2019/20. This has reduced to 1% in 2020/21 with students with a disability less likely to leave their course early when compared to students without a disability.

Students at Craven College progress to careers of their choice but are less likely to progress to highly skilled employment than their peers if they are disabled or are from low- income backgrounds. The plan identifies actions to try to reduce these gaps.

Fees we charge

At the Craven College, the maximum fees charged are:

- £6,950 for full-time students
- £3,480 for part-time top up students.
- £4,640 for part-time Foundation Degrees new entrants

You can see a full list of fees for courses at Craven College at www.craven-college.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/HE-Fee_Summary_2223.pdf

Financial help available

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

- **HE Achievement Bursary** of £600 (pro-rata for part time students) for students with a household income of under £25,000
- **Specialist Equipment Bursary** provides up to 50% of the cost of equipment if a student's household income is under £21,000
- **Specialist Work Placement Bursary** provides a financial contribution towards travelling or subsistence relating to accessing a specialist work placement.
- **Care Leaver Bursary** of £600 each year (pro rata for part time students) awarded to students that have left local authority care in the 2 years prior to enrolment; this is not means tested.
- **Free College meals** up to £3.00 per day if a student's household income is under £16,190

Information for students

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as open evenings, on our website and by email communications. Link to the [finance page](#) on the website.

Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available through our student handbook, induction sessions, tutorials, internal communications and student Moodle (online platform).

What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 10 – 13 of the full plan

Our overall aim is to support students to access higher education so that they achieve valuable qualifications and skills. This will help them secure and retain employment, take their next steps in education, develop a career and contribute effectively to community and society.

Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

- **Support attainment at school and access to higher education** – We are working with schools to raise pupil attainment and expectations to study for a higher education qualification. We will develop a programme of work to start in 2022/23, that will raise the aspirations of Further Education students, as well as support the transition of Further Education students into Higher Education.
- **Diversifying our provision** – We will review our current Higher Education offer and develop Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) to support the economies of North and West Yorkshire, as well as explore the opportunity to deliver degree apprenticeships.
- **Students from low participation neighbourhoods and low income backgrounds** – By 2024/25, we will
 - improve the participation gap between entrants from the areas with the lowest participation rates compared to areas with the highest participation rates from 8% to 4%.
 - Reduce the non-continuation rate gap from 10% to 0%
 - improve the progression into skilled employment gap from 11% to 5%
- **Ethnic minority students** – we will reduce the non-continuation rate gap between ethnic minority groups and white students from 8% to 0% by 2024/25.
- **Disabled students** – By 2024/25, we will
 - reduce the non-continuation gap between disabled and non-disabled students by 20%
 - improve the attainment gap by 13%
 - improve the progression into skilled employment gap by 4%

- **Mature students** – we will reduce the non-continuation gap between mature students and those under 21 years old from 4% to 0% by 2024/25

What we are doing to achieve our aims

1. Extend our programme of work within College to support our Further Education students to aspire to Higher Education through guest speakers, university visits and UCAS support and guidance.
2. Take a targeted approach to support those that are struggling with their studies with small group support to ensure their success.
3. To focus on the barriers to learning, particularly those related to mental health and to offer bespoke support where necessary.
4. Offer financial support, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England
5. Engage external stakeholders through graduate fairs and bespoke events to support transition from Education to Higher Skilled employment or study.

How students can get involved

Student representatives are invited to attend and contribute to the Student Opportunities Monitoring Group (SOM) meetings and HE operation meetings. At HE Operation meetings, students are given the opportunity to feed back on the quality provision and particular issues that HE students are facing whilst on programme. SOM meetings monitor APP data and the success of proposed actions and students are given the opportunity to contribute.

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 will collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- Our programme designs
- The impact of the programme of activity we are doing to achieve our aims
- The five actions outlined above
- The impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and participation

Progress against targets will be monitored by the Student Opportunities Monitoring Group.

The Student Opportunities Monitoring Group will monitor these processes and develop actions where appropriate to ensure successful outcomes against the targets set. The group will report the progress against the Access and Participation Plan on a regular basis to the Teaching, Learning and Assessment committee, which includes senior managers and governors.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Duncan Bulloch at dbulloch@craven-college for more information.