

Annex I: Plan summary template

Craven College

Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 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 (as determined by the Office for Students) to enable them to access, succeed in, and progress from higher education

You can see the full access and participation plan for Craven College at <https://www.craven-college.ac.uk/degrees/>

Key points

Craven College is a small General Further Education College, with an Aviation and Land-based specialism, based in the market town of Skipton, North Yorkshire. The location is close to East Lancashire and West Yorkshire and students are drawn from both areas.

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes and access to education for specific groups of students including our own FE student body. Data shows that mature students and those with a declared disability are not deemed to be at particular risk when compared with their peers, however, minority ethnic students and those from deprived areas (areas 1 and 2 using Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)) may experience risks to equality of opportunity.

The plan identifies 5 key risks to equality of opportunity:

- A lower proportion of students with a minority ethnic background gain a 2:1 or above in comparison to students of a white background.
- A lower proportion of students from the lowest socio-economic groups (using the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019) gain a 2:1 or above in comparison to students from a higher socio-economic group.
- Attrition rates (number of students that leave a course before finishing their studies) are higher for students with indications of risk.
- Progression to HE (to all institutions) is lower than the national figure for 18 year olds.
- Progression to further graduate study and graduate level employment is lower than the Office for Students benchmark.

The College is committed to reduce these risks and strategies to achieve this are outlined later in the document. See pages 1-2 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

The maximum fees charged are £7750 (2025-26) although the College reserves the right to increase student fees annually in line with the Consumer price index. See page 38 of the access and participation plan for more information. A summary of fees can be found on the [website](#).

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:

Free breakfast and lunch at the onsite cafes available to all students with a household income below £16,190.

Specialist Equipment Bursary will refund students with a household income of up to £25,000 for 100% of a purchase up to £400.

Care Leavers Bursary paid to students that left local authority care in the 2 years prior to enrolment, as a non means tested bursary £800.

Craven HE Bursary available to HE students with an annual household income below £25,000. Two payments of £400 October and February.

HE Hardship Fund one off discretionary payments up to £300, open to all HE students.

Graduation Bursary covers graduation ticket, gown and photography package available to students with a household income below £16,190.

See pages 16-17 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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. Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available through our student handbook, induction sessions, tutorials, internal communications and student TEAM sites. See page 29 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

The College is committed to delivering equality of opportunity and positive outcomes for all. This plan aims to meet the following targets:

- Increase the percentage of ethnic minority students gaining high grades (2:1 or Merit and above) thus reducing the percentage point gap between minority ethnic and white students to 15 percentage points by 2028-29.
- Increase the percentage of those from the lowest socioeconomic groups gaining high grades (2:1 or Merit and above) thus reducing the gap between those from IMD quintile 1 and 2 and IMD quintile 3,4 and 5, to 15 percentage points by 2028-29.
- Reduce attrition rates for all students to 6% by 2028-29
- Increase the percentage of FE students applying for L4 study from 37% to 44% by 2028- 29.
- Increase the number of students progressing to graduate level jobs from 48% to 60% by 2028-29.

See page 3 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are doing to address keys risks to equality of opportunity

The following strategies aim to reduce the identified risks to equality of opportunity.

- Reducing digital poverty through improved access to laptops and digital skills training.
- Increased access to mental health support including knowledge of individual support strategies, enhanced monitoring and early intervention.
- Targeted study skill support and academic integrity training.
- Financial support through bursaries and increased promotion of the support available.
- Guidance on progression to University for FE students and improved targeted careers advice for Degree level students.

See pages 5-27 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

The plan was developed with student input gathered from specific focus groups and existing student feedback mechanisms including course questionnaires, course focus groups and informal discussions with tutors.

Student experience of the intervention strategies within the plan will be monitored through targeted focus groups. Student representatives will be invited to attend college Higher Education meetings where plan data and intervention strategies are discussed. See page 29 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Specific data dashboards have been developed allowing student data to be analysed and reported in terms of student characteristics, retention, success and grades. Individual strategies will be monitored and discussed at HE Operation meetings (Cross college meeting of teaching and support staff) and reported annually to the Academic Board (HE strategic meeting including senior college management). The HE team will continue to research and review sector best practice and where appropriate refine existing intervention strategies. See page 29 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact the [HE Manager](#) for further information.