

Summary of Hugh Baird College Access and Participation Plan (2025-26 to 2028-29)

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan sets out actions that will be meaningful and effective in promoting equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups, as determined by the Office for Students.

Key Points

Hugh Baird College, located in Merseyside, England, is a significant provider of education and training, offering over 300 courses to more than 5,000 students. The College's Higher Education (HE) provision includes Foundation Degrees, Honours top-up programmes, Initial Teacher Education (ITE) courses, and Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs). The student body primarily consists of local commuter students from areas with high social and economic deprivation.

The College's vision is to become "the best College in the country," with a mission to "inspire, challenge, and transform lives." This vision is supported by five strategic priorities:

- **SP1:** Driven by its people, for its people.
- **SP2:** Providing the highest quality of experience for students.
- **SP3:** Delivering an employer-driven curriculum.
- **SP4:** Serving as a beacon for the community.
- **SP5:** Seizing opportunities that benefit people and place.

The core values are those of, "Excellence, Collaboration, Accountability, Integrity, and Innovation.

Tuition fees

The maximum tuition fee charged for full-time undergraduate study in 2024/25 will be £8,500. The maximum tuition fee charged for part-time students will be £1,500 per 20-credit module. The College will not raise fees annually for 2024/25 new entrants.

Financial help available

Hardship funding will be available to all students. With regard to students who access Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) the College have access to funding to support disabled students with any specialist equipment that they may require to participate in Higher Education at the College. Further details can be obtained by contacting the Hugh Baird University Centre via the telephone number or e-mail address at the bottom of this document.

Aims in respect of Equality of Opportunity

The College aims to achieve four primary regulatory objectives:

- Support students from all backgrounds to access, succeed in, and progress from higher education.
- Ensure a high-quality academic experience.
- Facilitate progression into employment or further study.
- Provide value for money.

Key Risks to Equality of Opportunity

The College has identified several risks to equality of opportunity, particularly for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including:

- Mature students with sufficient prior attainment who are unaware of the College's University Centre offer (target PTA_1).
- Mature students with low prior attainment who shall access and participate in the College's curriculum offer to afford them the opportunity to progress to a course of study within the College's University Centre (target PTA_2).
- First-degree mature students for whom additional academic and pastoral support is required (PTS_1)
- Students with a reported mental health issue (PTS_2).
- Students who require additional support in relation to progression into further study or employment (PTP_1).

Strategic Interventions to address key risks to Equality of Opportunity

To address these risks, the College has outlined several intervention strategies:

Access to Higher Education:

- **Target PTA_1:** Increase the number of mature students enrolling in HE by 7% annually.
 - **Interventions:** Marketing campaigns, subject taster sessions, financial support workshops.
- **Target PTA_2:** Increase access for mature disadvantaged students with low prior attainment by 7% annually.
 - **Interventions:** Flexible HE offer, adult-specific IAG events, enhanced website development.

On-Programme Success:

- **Target PTS_1:** Improve attainment levels of mature students by 4 percentage points.
 - **Interventions:** Academic skills workshops, hardship fund, personal skills workshops.

- **Target PTS_2:** Reduce the continuation gap for students with mental health issues by 1 percentage point annually.
 - **Interventions:** Mental health support, awareness campaigns, collaboration with NHS and local authorities.

Progression:

- **Target PTP_1:** Develop a graduate outcomes and employability programme.
 - **Interventions:** Internship programmes, employability events, CV building, job application support.

Evaluation and Monitoring

The College will evaluate each activity within the intervention strategy to generate evidence of effectiveness. This will involve:

- Monitoring attendance and participation rates.
- Conducting stakeholder surveys to measure satisfaction and impact.
- Reporting progress to the APP Steering Group and Higher Education Committee.

Student Consultation and involvement

Student involvement is an integral part of the development and implementation of the Access and Participation Plan. The College shall engage with students throughout the lifespan of the Plan through liaison committees, workshops, and surveys to ensure their continued involvement in relation to the Plan's targets and strategies.

Provision of Information

Clear and accessible information on tuition fees and the Access and Participation Plan will be published on the College's website, accompanied by an accessible summary.

This summary encapsulates the key elements of Hugh Baird College's Access and Participation Plan, highlighting its commitment to inclusivity, equality of opportunity, and strategic interventions to support students from diverse backgrounds.

Contact details

For any further information in respect of this Access and Participation Plan, please contact Hugh Baird College.

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