

Hugh Baird 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 the Hugh Baird University Centre (HBUC) at https://www.hughbaird.ac.uk/user/pages/56.wider-information-set/03_downloads/HughBairdCollegeAPP.pdf

Key points (see pages 4 to 9 of the full plan)

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving entry and outcomes for the following specific groups of students:

- Care leavers attending higher education
- Continuation of black students
- Continuation of disabled students
- Achievement of disabled students

Variation to original APP for 2023-24

Overall progression to employment or further study for our students continues to be a key focus for the College. A Graduate Outcomes Officer (GOO) will be appointed from 2022/23 academic year to move forward this priority.

Fees we charge (see page 18 of the full plan)

At the Hugh Baird University Centre, the maximum fees charged are:

- £8,500 for full time students
- £6,000 for part-time students (based on £1,500 per 20 credit module x 4 per year)

You can see a full list of Higher Education fees for courses at Hugh Baird College

[University Centre Tuition Fees | Hugh Baird College](#)

Financial help available (see page 12 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:

- **Hugh Baird University Centre Moving-on Scholarship (page 11 of the full plan)**

The College recognises the need to support disadvantaged students who may not otherwise progress to a full Honours degree and will continue to allocate a limited number of awards (7) of £500 for students who have been accepted for a full time Top-up year at the Hugh Baird University Centre.

To be eligible for the Hugh Baird University Centre Moving-on Scholarship a 2nd year current full-time student at the College will need to fulfil the following criteria:

- Ordinarily resident in England or European Union;
- Must be starting their first Higher Education (undergraduate) Top-up year;
- The student must have a declared residual household income of less than £25,000;
- Have had a successful interview;
- Participate in College HE recruitment activities;
- Be an active member of the HE Student Engagement Team (SET).

Variation to original APP for 2023-24

- A **hardship fund** to support students who experience financial hardship during their time on a higher education course.
- A **Care Experience Bursary** package
 - Dedicated Personal Development Coach
 - 1 to 1 support with academic skills and pastoral care
 - Hugh Baird University Centre graduation package
 - Financial assistance
 - Laptop loan
- A **Graduate Outcomes Fund** (2023/24 academic year) to support students applying for graduate level employment on successful completion of their course
 - After consultation with the student body, it was agreed to discontinue the Hugh Baird University Centre (HBUC) Bursary Gift from 2023/24 and re-invest the money into a Graduate Outcomes Fund.

Information for students (see page 18 of the full plan)

- Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days as well as at interview and via email communications.
- Tuition fees and additional costs are published on the Wider Information Set (WIS) on the HBC website page as well as any financial support packages it offers.
- **Current students** receive information about financial support through our internal communications.
- For the most up to date information, see our University Centre website.

[Financial Support | Hugh Baird College](#)

[Microsoft Word - Hours of Study and Standard Additional Costs.....docx \(hughbaird.ac.uk\)](#)

What we are aiming to achieve (see page 10 of the full plan)

Our overall aim is to support students to access higher education. We also want to create an environment where students at the Hugh Baird University Centre can achieve their full potential.

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

- **Diversifying our provision** – we are submitting a number of Foundation Degree courses to the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) for Higher Technical Qualification (HTQ) approval. We are also part of a Higher Education short course pilot with one of our Higher Education partners.

- To increase the enrolment numbers of **care leavers** to 3% of the total number of enrollees at the College by 2024-25
- To increase continuation of **black students** at the College to equal that of white students by 2024-25
- To increase the continuation of **disabled students** to equal that of non-disabled students by 2024-24
- To increase the attainment of **disabled students** to equal that of non-disabled students by 2024-25

What we are doing to achieve our aims (see pages 16 to 18 of the full plan)

We have identified eight programmes of activity to support achievement of our aims and targets:

1. Create a **care experience** marketing plan.
2. Take a targeted approach to monitoring the **student success** of the three target groups through the Value Added and Learning Gain systems.
3. Enhance and **engage students** in their **personal development** through the introduction of Personal Development Coaches to support the growth and confidence of students.
4. Develop further the **academic support** programme for students to access in their own time.
5. Further enhance the **Career Readiness Programme** to improve opportunities for students to successfully progress to employment or further study
6. Create a **Graduate Outcomes Fund** and programme that supports students.
7. Create a **Student Zone** within the University Centre that houses a number of student support services
8. **Offer financial support, including scholarships and hardship funding for eligible students.**

How students can get involved (see page 15 of the full plan)

We worked with the student representatives, which includes the HE Student Governor, to gather student input into the design and monitoring of our access and participation plan through the Staff, Student Liaison Committee (SLLC).

To become involved in this work, contact the Director of Higher Skills (Student Experience).

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved (see pages 15 to 18 of the full plan)

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 design
- the impact of the programme of activity we are doing to achieve our aims
- the eight actions outlined above
- the impact on achieving our overall aim of improved access and an inclusive environment

The Access and Participation Plan Steering Group will monitor and report on these processes to the HE Committee. The HE Committee will oversee implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against yearly milestones in our access and participation plan. We will monitor impact on our target groups, to ensure we are addressing our aims. Where appropriate, we will adjust our interventions in the best interests of our students.

We will publish evidence from our evaluations on our website by January 2024.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Colette Mawdsley at Colette.mawdsley@hughbaird.ac.uk for further information.