

## SUMMARY OF 2021/22 – 2025/26 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, progress and succeed in higher education.**

You can read the full access and participation plan for The Sheffield College (TSC) for 2021–2026 [here](#).

### Key points

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes for specific groups of students. Data shows that generally, compared to their peers, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students.

At The Sheffield College, we support groups and individuals from marginalised communities well. However, we know that students are less likely to complete their studies if they come from a neighbourhood where not many people go onto higher education (low participation areas), therefore our targets for 2021 – 26 are to:

- close the continuation gap between areas of high deprivation, compared to students from more affluent areas
- close the continuation gap between Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups compared to white students
- close the continuation gap between Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups from low participation areas and white students from higher participation areas
- close the continuation gap between male students in high participation areas compared to female students in low participation areas

### Fees we charge

The Sheffield College charges a maximum of fees of £7500 per annum for full time Higher Education courses

You can see a full list of fees for Higher Education courses at The Sheffield College [here](#).

### Financial help available

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

- A HE annual bursary of a minimum of £200 for learning materials/ costs for priority groups paid over two instalments

Student support fund applications can be submitted from June each year. Early applications are advised. Applications can be completed via this [link](#).

### Information for students

- Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, and by email communication. There are student support hubs at all the College's campuses, where prospective and current students can go for in person support and information.
- Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available via [www.sheffcol.ac.uk/financial-support](http://www.sheffcol.ac.uk/financial-support)
- For the most up to day information, please see our College website – [www.sheffcol.ac.uk](http://www.sheffcol.ac.uk)

## What we are aiming to achieve

At The Sheffield College, our mission is to transform students' lives through learning. As part of this mission, we want to support students to access, progress and achieve in higher education. We want to create an environment where all students at The Sheffield College can achieve their full potential, and we do this by ensuring students have an excellent level of support.

We already work very successfully with marginalised groups, but there is more to do. Based on the work we have done so far; we have identified the following areas of focus to meet our targets:

- Continue to develop support programmes for students – 1:1 and small groups, using assessment tools so we can offer tailored support. The investment in more mentor support will help us develop the work on addressing continuation gaps between disadvantaged groups and individuals and their peers.
- Continue to run support programme for students focused on teaching and learning. This will target students who are at risk of not continuing their studies, and support staff to work effectively with these groups and individuals.
- Continue to run support programmes – which supports students with the transition between the academic levels, including peer support (where students help each other).
- Continue to have a single point of contact for students to be able to access additional support sessions as and when necessary.
- Offer specific staff development so staff can better support students with differing needs/disabilities/ impairments.
- Develop the Careers and employability scheme offer within each subject area.

### Our priorities for 2022/23 are to:

- Monitor the progress of all students through key College committees.
- Engage with students aged 16+ to develop their knowledge of higher education pathways.
- Find more higher apprenticeship opportunities for students.

- Continue to develop students' employability opportunities via employer skills academies, business start-ups and different types of work experience.
- Ensure staff are fully aware of their responsibilities under the Equality Act.
- Do more work to support care experienced students.
- Give more mentor resources to expand the 1:1 and small group support to students.
- Evaluate the impact of our work carefully.

## How students can get involved

We will work with the Students' Union to gather student input into the design of our access and participation plan. Students can contribute to this work by being elected to the voluntary Student Union roles of, for example, Vice President for Education or Higher Education Officer.

Students are represented on our Social Mobility Working Group and our Higher Education Academic Board, by the Head of Student Participation and Careers. This Board is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the plan. There are also Student Governors on the College Governors' Board.

## Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We monitor our progress, continuation and achievement data regularly through our formal College committees, and through our business review process. This means we regularly check whether the measures we put in place are having the impact we want and are making a positive difference to our target groups. We also collect data from staff in the form of case studies and qualitative reports to highlight where our interventions have made a difference.

### Contact details for further information

You can contact Dr. Jean Harris-Evans, Vice Principal – Higher Education, for more information or email [Jean.Harris-Evans@sheffcol.ac.uk](mailto:Jean.Harris-Evans@sheffcol.ac.uk)