



## Myerscough College and University Centre: 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 Myerscough College and University Centre at [myerscoughcollege-app2020.pdf \(ucmyerscough.ac.uk\)](#)

### Key points

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes for specific groups of students. Our access activities have generally been successful in widening participation for students and we are committed to improving outcomes for all of our students regardless of their background.

Data shows that, compared to their peers at Myerscough College and University Centre, outcomes are varied for certain groups of students.

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of the full plan

Our strategic targets reflect our commitment to supporting the following groups of students to achieving high outcomes:

- Students from low - income background
- Ethnic minority students
- Mature students

We still have further to go, which is why we have pledged financial support to students from underrepresented groups.

### Fees we charge



**At Myerscough College and University Centre, the maximum fees charged are:**

- **£9,250 for full-time students**
- **£1,125 per module for part-time students (max 4 modules/£4,500)**

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of the full plan

You can see the full list of fees for courses at Myerscough College and University Centre at:

[HE Fees and Finance | University Centre Myerscough \(ucmyerscough.ac.uk\)](#)

### Financial help available

At Myerscough College and University Centre we are committed to offering financial support to students from underrepresented groups. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes:

- **Higher Education Bursary Fund** is discretionary financial assistance for students to access and remain in Higher Education, particularly those students who need financial help to meet extra costs that cannot be met from other sources of support. Priority groups include students with children, lone parents, mature students with existing financial commitments, students from low-income backgrounds and students in unexpected hardship.
- **Low household income bursary** is a Bursary Fund open to students from low-income households, students from low - income households with a declared income of less than £25,000, this ensures students with the greatest need receive the maximum award.

- **Financial Hardship Fund:** is a discretionary fund available to provide some relief from unexpected, direct and immediate financial difficulty. Each situation is considered on a case-by-case basis.
- **Republic of Ireland Bursary:** £1000 Bursary is available for full time students from the Republic of Ireland to support tuition fees or residential fees for the first year of their course.
- **Carers bursary:** All full time higher education students who have full time care responsibilities may apply for a £1000 bursary for each year of their course.
- **Local region bursary:** All new full time higher education students whose home address is within Lancashire, South Lakeland & Furness, Merseyside, or Greater Manchester may apply for a £1000 bursary for the first year of their course.

### **The Myerscough College and University Centre Myerscough Scholarships**

Available to applicants who demonstrate or promote excellence in their subject may be eligible for financial support from one of the College scholarships. The scholarships are open to students applying to study on any Myerscough full time foundation degree or honours degree programme. Successful applicants will receive a £1000 payment to support their study.

20 scholarships are available for first year students in the following subject areas:

- Applicants from targeted under-represented groups (white males from disadvantaged areas, BAME groups and students with a learning difficulty or disability)
- Applicants who promote excellence in Agriculture and Horticulture (to support development of the talent pool in our most traditional land-based subjects)
- Applicants who promote excellence in STEM subjects (animal or plant sciences, agricultural engineering or motorsports engineering)
- Applicants who promote excellence in Sport (this may be sports, golf, equine or motorsports)
- Applicants who promote excellence in Creative Design (specifically Floral Design)

### **Welcome Package**

Alongside our financial support package Myerscough College and University Centre promotes a welcome package for all our students to help them settle into university life and promote a positive work - life balance.

**1st year higher education students will be eligible to receive a welcome package this includes:**

- Free full gym membership for the duration of the course, including all fitness classes (for full time students only), this is available in subsequent years of study.
- Free £50 book token (full time students only) or free golf course membership (full time golf students only)
- Progression award of £750 for students who progress directly from a Further Education course at Myerscough College to a full time Higher Education course. Students must progress directly without a break in study. The cash awards will be payable in 3 instalments:
  - o £250 to be paid at the end of term 1 subject to student attendance being over 90% (this will be deducted from the cost of accommodation for relevant students)
  - o £250 to be paid at the end of the 1st year, subject to the student passing all modules
  - o £250 when the student enrolls for the start of year 2

## Information for students

Prospective and current students have access to the Myerscough College and University Centre has a Student Finance Advisor supported by a knowledgeable Finance Team, the team attend all course advice events and are accessible 5 days a week 9am - 5pm for face to face or online confidential support.

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of full plan



Finance information can be located on our website

[HE Fees and Finance | University Centre Myerscough \(ucmyerscough.ac.uk\)](https://ucmyerscough.ac.uk)

## What we are aiming to achieve

We want to ensure that all students can study for a degree qualification, regardless of background or financial circumstances. University Centre Myerscough is committed to providing support to students from lower income households.

Bursaries are available, to provide discretionary financial assistance for students to access and remain in Higher Education, particularly those students who need financial help to meet extra costs that cannot be met from other sources of support. Priority groups include students with children, lone parents, mature students with existing financial commitments, students from low-income backgrounds and students in unexpected hardship.

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

- Support attainment at school and access to higher education. We are working with schools and to raise pupil attainment. During 2022-23, we will continue to roll out to widen our reach into BAME community groups. We have developed a programme of work to start in summer 2022.
- Diversifying our provision – we are continuing to review all our degree pathways and degree apprenticeships. We have started extending opportunities into Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)

Currently, we are on track to meet our targets or in some instances exceeding our targets. Our challenge is based on increasing the number of students we recruit from under-represented groups.

Students from low participation neighbourhoods and low - income backgrounds, by 2024-25, we will:

- Improve the performance by 4%
- Increase the percentage of BAME students to 5%
- Increase the percentage of full - time mature adult students to 25%
- Improve the attainment of a good degree (1st or 2:1), by 11%
- Improve progression to highly skilled employment or further study by 6%
- We will increase the number of students progressing to highly skilled employment or further study at the end of their course by 8%

## What we are doing to achieve our aims

**Our strategic aims ‘turning strategy into reality’ reflect our whole – provider approach and high-level, long-term commitment to support the achievement of our aims and targets.**

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of the full plan

- Provide curriculum content and delivery that is inclusive and attracts students from under-represented groups
- Develop initiatives that provide flexible pathways to access for under – represented groups
- Focus on a targeted approach to collaboration with schools, colleges and community groups to maximise outreach

- Evaluate recruitment patterns and activities to promote continuous improvement in widening access for all students
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- Develop initiatives to reduce gaps in entry rates between the most and least represented groups
- Use digital technologies to support access and inclusion
- Ensure appropriate signposting to student support services for at-risk students
- Evaluate retention and achievement activities to improve outcomes for all students
- Develop initiatives to reduce gaps in retention rates between the most and least represented groups and achievement between disabled and non-disabled students
- Equip all students with work-readiness and transferable skills for graduate level employment
- Developing and maximising opportunities for progression from FE with focus on a distinct HE offer that students can aspire to and clearly benefit from
- A mindset and culture focussed on student progress, achievement and destinations

These drivers for change outline how we will engage with all staff and support services to address systemic issues to ensure equality of opportunity and inform the strategic measures we have outlined for access, participation and progression in this Access and Participation Plan. The measures will also provide mechanisms for actions to be taken in the event of any worsening of progress or data for underrepresented groups.

### **How students can get involved**

We worked with the Student President, Students' Union Liaison Officer, conducted a focus group and consulted with prospective and on-programme students to gather student input into the design of our access and participation plan. Students can provide feedback through student course representative meetings, internal surveys or by contacting the Student Financial Advisor.



**To provide feedback, student can contact their student union representative [jjones2@myerscough.ac.uk](mailto:jjones2@myerscough.ac.uk)**

**To become involved in this work, contact our Director of Student Services [lhartley@myerscough.ac.uk](mailto:lhartley@myerscough.ac.uk)**

### **Evaluation: how we will measure what we have achieved**

Our programmes of activity are informed by our direct contact with students, with programmes of activities involving students. We will collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- Our programme design that actively targets outreach work as part of our commitment to support fair access and participation
- **The impact of programme activity to ensure that**
- **The strategic actions outlined as part of our college and University Centre commitments**
- **The impact on achieving improved access and an inclusive environment**



### **Contact details for further financial information**

For further financial information or support please contact the Finance Office Tel: 01995 642398  
Email: [bursary@myerscough.ac.uk](mailto:bursary@myerscough.ac.uk)