

Wigan & Leigh 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 Wigan & Leigh College at [WiganAndLeighCollege_2020-21_APP.pdf \(wigan-leigh.ac.uk\)](#)

Key points

Wigan and Leigh College has delivered higher education courses since 1946. We currently offer technical and professional based programmes to serve the local learning and skills needs in the areas of; engineering, construction, sport, science, education studies, business, health and social care, early years, art and design, and computing.

The College offers higher national certificates and diplomas (awarded by Pearson), foundation degrees, top up bachelor degrees and a small number of postgraduate certificates (awarded by the University of Central Lancashire, UCLan). There are over 600 students enrolled on higher education programmes and all students commute to College as we have no accommodation and around 70% of students come from within the Wigan Borough.

The Wigan Borough has higher than average proportion of residents in routine, intermediate and lower managerial jobs and as a result, the College has a strong emphasis on widening participation to help address the regional skills agenda. Based on our assessment of performance the College is targeting the following groups across the student lifecycle:

Access	Success	Progression
Care leavers	Full time disabled students	Disabled students
Students underrepresented in higher education	Part time mature students	Mature students
Ethnically diverse	Students from low income backgrounds	Ethnically diverse students
		Students from low income backgrounds

Fees we charge

At Wigan & Leigh College, the maximum fees charged per academic year are:

- £7,500 for full time students
- £5,000 for part time students




See page 31 of the plan and for full fees: [Wigan & Leigh College :: Course Fees \(wigan-leigh.ac.uk\)](#)

Financial help available

Our financial support for students includes:


- A HE Access to Learning Fund to support Higher Education students who are in financial hardship and who may need extra financial support to enable them to access or remain in higher education. Specifically it is used to assist those who need extra financial help to meet particular costs which are not already being met from other sources of funding. We can help to intervene in cases where a student may be considering leaving higher education because of financial problems and to provide emergency payments for unexpected financial crisis.



For the most up to date information, see our website: [University Study fees and loans, Wigan & Leigh College \(wigan-leigh.ac.uk\)](https://www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk)

Information for students

- **Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support at, our open evenings, on our website and through our FAB Futures team.
- **Current students** receive information about fees and the financial support available through the website, induction, internal communications, FAB Futures and the HE/Adult Learning Mentor



See pages 14-15 of the full plan

What we are aiming to achieve


As an inclusive College, working with students from all backgrounds, we aim to improve the outcomes of all of our HE students.

The College is targeting the following groups across the student lifecycle with either specific measures/activities and/or enhanced monitoring and evaluation:

- Working with our Higher Education Institution Partners in Greater Manchester and as part of the Greater Manchester Higher (GMHigher) Uni Connect partnership to **increase access** to HE from students in **low participation** and **low income backgrounds** and specifically, **care leavers by 4.8%**
- **Supporting attainment and access to higher education-** We are continuing to work in partnership within GM Higher Uni Connect to provide outreach activity within Wigan schools and colleges. Alongside this the College will also continue to offer workshops to parents with children in local high schools to support their child with English and maths at Key Stage 4.
- **Offering of diverse provision:**
 - From 2022-2023 we will start to offer Higher Technical Qualifications in specific curriculum areas
 - Attract underrepresented groups to higher and degree apprenticeships and secure key employers to deliver successful employment opportunities in graduate jobs
- **For full time disabled, full time/part time students from low income backgrounds and part time mature students (over 21 years)** - By 2024-25, we will increase the numbers of students moving from one year of their course to the next (continuation)
- **Full and part time students from low income backgrounds-** By 2024-25 we will: increase the number of students gaining a good degree outcome of 2:1 or above
- Continue to support successful progression routes for all of our HE students, in particular the target groups; **part time from low income backgrounds, mature full time, ethnically diverse and disabled part time students** and respond to analysis of new data sets (graduate outcomes) when available
- **Improve our data collection**, reporting and analysis of access, continuation, attainment and progression and set targets where we identify poorer outcomes for specific groups

What we are doing to achieve our aims

We are committing to:



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- **Maintain and improve access to HE locally by:**
 - Ensuring **local progression routes** for our internal College students who are typically from more disadvantaged backgrounds
 - **Delivering flexible curriculum** options: part time, full time, one day per week attendance; and **designing a qualification ladder** so students can 'jump' on and 'off' qualifications at L4, L5 and L6
- **Work with GM Higher Wigan Hub and the Outreach activity** to develop programmes to raise attainment and access to HE by working closely with schools
- **Enhanced transition support** at each level of study to prepare for the next level of learning
- **Offer personal tutorials for all HE students** enabling tailored support to be provided at an individual level
- **Provide a sense of belonging** using the University Centre Advantage fund to engage students in wider learning opportunities to support successful outcomes
- **Target** work placements and careers activities to underrepresented groups
- **Engage with employers to establish an Engineering Employer Board** to create 40 new higher and degree apprentice places
- **Provide targeted support for minority groups** raising aspirations and securing positive progression



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of the full plan

How students can get involved

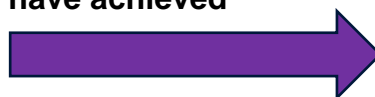
We worked with a group of students from courses across the College and included full time, part time, apprentices, young, mature, disabled, male and female students to gather input into the design of the plan. We continue to work with the HE Student Forum to review the plan.

Students can get involved by becoming a Student Representative and sitting on the HE Students' Forum. To get involved please contact the Widening Participation and Outreach Officer and Head of HE on the email addresses below.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We are committed to:

- Analysing and evaluating evidence of activities
- Planning opportunities to share lessons learnt from each activity
- Reviewing improvements planned for each activity
- Reviewing resources underpinning the activities
- Monitoring reports to the Equality and Diversity Committee



See page 24-30
of the full plan

Targets and milestones within the plan are monitored through reports to the Equality and Diversity Committee, HE Programme meetings and the HE Strategic Board.

At strategic level the College Executive Team regularly monitor targets which feed into Governor's reports and build on the strategic direction set by the Governing Body.

Contact details for further information

For further information contact Jen Connor at j.connor@wigan-leigh.ac.uk and Ursula Hoyles at u.hoyles@wigan-leigh.ac.uk.