

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 improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed and progress from higher education.

You can see the full Access and Participation Plan (APP) for Truro & Penwith College at https://www.truro-penwith.ac.uk/app/uploads/2022/04/HE_Access_and_Participation_Plan_2020-25.pdf

The Office for Student have asked us to address the following within our Access and Participation plan:

- A: Make access and participation plans more accessible in a way that prospective and current students, their parents and other stakeholders can easily understand.
- B: Develop, enhance, and expand their partnerships with schools and other local and national organisations, to help raise the pre-16 attainment of young people from underrepresented groups across England.
- C: Set out how access to higher education for students from underrepresented groups leads to successful participation on high quality courses and good graduate outcomes.
- D: Seek to develop more diverse pathways into and through higher education through expansion of flexible Level 4 and 5 courses and degree apprenticeships.

Key points

A) Accessibility:

This document aims to summarise the details within our APP and to highlight the issues and actions we are taking to address areas where we are below the national average level.

B) Partnership with schools and other organisations:

The college works with schools and colleges to bring students into the University Centre to consider higher education opportunities before choosing level 3 studies. Collaboration with UniConnect, APP and project funding supports information, advice and guidance for all learners, taster events and support for students on programme, along with attainment support for home-schooled students and help for Isles of Scilly students to settle in Cornwall during their studies.

C) Access, successful participation, and progression

Our Access and Participation plan reflects our previous performance (2019-20) relative to the national picture. Truro & Penwith College (TPC) is focused on supporting 'widening participation' students (University students from a non-traditional background) and achieves well in many areas, such as:

- 77% of our learners are from the 60% of neighbourhoods least likely to have students participating in university studies
- 82% of our learners are from neighbourhoods with the lowest 60% of income
- Recruitment of mature learners to our courses is 20 percentage points above the national average

There remain areas where we need to improve to meet national average levels of enrolment, achievement, and progression into employment or further study and these have been agreed with the Office for Students as part of our Access and Participation Plan targets:

Enrolment (based on 2019-20 data):

- Recruitment of students from the 20% of neighbourhoods least likely to have students enrolled at university is 13%; (national average is 12.3%; target is 20%).
- Recruitment of ethnic minority students is 2% (national average 32.3%, however, the 2011 census data reported 1.8% of Cornwall population identified as ethnic minority groups)
- Recruitment of white male students from the 40% of neighbourhoods least likely to participate in university studies is below that of female students at 16% (national level is 12%; target 20%)

Continuation and achievement (based on 2019-20 data):

- 83% of students from low participation neighbourhoods continue their studies from year to year (national average 90.6%)
- 83% of students with a declared disability continue their studies from year to year (national average 90.4%)
- 80% of students with a declared disability achieve their target qualification (national average 82.3%)
- 70% of students from neighbourhoods with the lowest 40% of household income achieve their target qualification (national average 76.8%)

Progression to employment or further studies (based on 2016-17 data)

- Mature students (at 64%) are 20 percentage points less likely to progress than 18-21 year old students (national average 75.7%)
- Students with a declared disability (at 50%) are 26 percentage points less likely to progress to employment or further studies than students without a declared disability (national average 71.5%).

D) Diversification to expand opportunity

TPC is developing level 4 and 5 opportunities that reflect the skills need within the county; with new higher and degree apprenticeships and HNC & HND provision in nursing, hospitality, construction, engineering, and space technology. We maintain a series of short courses and 20 credit modules as 'tasters' for students returning to education and for employees in different sectors. We aim to continue to develop these, plus new 10 credit modules, ready for lifelong learning entitlement. We have embraced Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQ) and have new HTQ courses mapped ready for September 2023 start.

Fees we charge

HNC, HND, Foundation Degree (excluding FdSc Nursing Associate)	Full-time	£8,224 p/a
	Part-time	£4,112 - £5,483 p/a (part time fee dependent on intensity of study)
FdSc Nursing Associate (HTQ)	Full-time	£6,165 p/a
BA/ BSc progression "Top-up" Year	Full-time	£9,250 p/a
	Part-time	£4,625 p/a
PGCE/Cert Ed	Full-time	£9,250 p/a
	Part-time	£4,625 p/a

Financial help available

Eligible students who are actively registered on the 1st of February can receive one of three bursaries:

- Household Income up to £25,000 **£720p/a**
- Household Income above £25,000 **£320p/a**
- All part-time students **£225p/a**

Additional costs may need to be considered depending on the course, but typically students will need to cover the cost of materials. Our **hardship fund** provides loans and emergency support for students who are in severe financial need; applications for Emergency and Non-emergency Awards are considered on a case by case basis; details available from our HE support advisor: HEstudentsupport@truro-penwith.ac.uk.

Information for students

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support through open days, subject specialist events, by email during our admissions process and through our university centre website. Current students receive information through internal emails, communications campaigns, during weekly tutorials and through our university centre website

What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall target is to support students to access higher education, by creating an environment where all students can achieve their full potential through our mission statement: ***"The purpose of the College is to***

Truro & Penwith College

provide the best possible learning experience, leading to the highest possible level of achievement by our students."

What we are doing to achieve our aims

We have identified a series of projects that will focus our targets to provide above national average levels:

- **Recruitment of low participating groups**

Collaboration with Uni Connect to increase engagement of low participating groups, run guidance events, marketing, information advice and guidance in target neighbourhoods, establish links with relevant organisations supporting care leavers, students from military families and other non-traditional applicants.

- **Student Ambassador Programme**

Set up a student ambassador programme to support student access through engagement with schools, college student groups, and other applicants by providing a student's view of our courses and college, mentoring and guidance through the application process.

- **Supporting ethnic diversity**

Work alongside County and National groups to focus on creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all, advancing a 'whole college' perspective. Regular meetings with ethnic minority students to develop new activities within the college using positive case studies in literature and website.

- **Continuation & attainment**

Focus support on courses where student continuation is not improving; publicise our study support offer more widely and expand support through our 1:1 support meetings; adjust timing of bursary payments to provide support earlier in the academic year; increase our support team staff

- **Students with a declared disability**

Meet regularly with students who declare a disability to ensure they have appropriate support in place; study skills opportunities to be made obvious to students with declared disability and careers support to work with employers to find an improved range of opportunities for students with declared disability.

- **Progression**

Improve level of information regarding self-employment; CV preparation, job search; application process and interview process; ensure 1:1 Career tutorial is offered to all; work with course teams to embed new tutorial support relating to employability strategy, plus long-term careers support for individual students.

How students can get involved

We have a number of students who work as Student Ambassadors to help our admissions and recruitment process by working with schools and supporting our Open days and our 'get into Uni' events. Student reps meet regularly with the HE team to discuss issues relating to the University Centre and their programmes, which are also considered twice a year at formal course reviews. Our lead student rep sits on the Board of Governors and our Higher Education Board of Studies and receives regular reports about the APP

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Projects are managed by our Access and Participation Officer and activity is reviewed by the Access and Participation Plan Sub-committee of the Higher Education Board of Studies. This group considers each project, progression against our targets and may recommend changes to ensure interventions are in the best interests of our students. We will publish information for our evaluation of each project by January 2024.

Contact details for further information

You can contact our Access and Participation Officer, Kate Poole katepoole@truro-peniwith.ac.uk or Deputy Dean Kirsty Sincock kirstyc@truro-peniwith.ac.uk for more information

Updated: October 2024