## City College Plymouth

### Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 access and participation plan

#### What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation sets out provisions that will be meaningful and effective in promoting equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups, as determined by the Office for Students.

You can see the full access and participation plan for City College Plymouth [here](https://www.cityplym.ac.uk/app/uploads/2025/01/Access-and-Participation-Plan-CCP-JAN25.pdf).

#### Key points

City College Plymouth is a large vocational and technical General Further Education College offering both Further and Higher Education (FE and HE) provision. The College makes a significant contribution to the educational, cultural and economic life of Plymouth, and its Higher Education provision is an integral part of this.

The College aims to reduce gaps in continuation, completion, attainment and progression outcomes for underrepresented groups, including students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, mature apprentices, young full-time students and those with disabilities.

See pages 1-4 and Annex A of the access and participation plan for more information.

#### Fees we charge

At City College Plymouth, our fees range from:

• £7,450- £8,450 per year for full-time students

• £3,700 - £4,225 per year for part-time students

See pages 56-57 of the access and participation plan for more information.

#### Financial help available

City College Plymouth provides relevant bursaries and scholarships and these include:

**Higher Education Hardship Fund** : City College Plymouth students who are experiencing financial hardship may be eligible for support from the Higher Education Hardship Fund up to £1000 in their stage 1 and stage 2 of studies.

**Low household income bursary:** Households (<£25K household income) may apply for a bursary for each year of their course of up to £1000.

**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.

**Care leavers bursary:** All full time higher education students who have been in local authority care for 13 weeks or more, may apply for a £1,000 bursary for each year of their course.

**City College Plymouth Scholarships :** 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 City College Plymouth full time foundation degree or honours degree programme. Successful applicants will receive a £1000 cash payment to support their study.

See pages 31-32 of the access and participation plan for more information.

#### Information for students

The College aims to ensure that the provision of information to current and prospective students is accurate, complete and accessible.

Information for prospective students including transparency of information for admissions and enrolments is published on the College's Website, in line with OfS requirements Information is reviewed to ensure that it is up to date regularly and students are signposted to internal and external support services for further advice as appropriate.

Current students receive information fees, funding and financial support via our internal communications and emails. Information about student support is also available on our website <https://www.cityplym.ac.uk/college-life/>.

See pages 34-36 of the access and participation plan for more information.

#### What we are aiming to achieve

**Objective 1** - The College aims to increase access into its Higher Education provision for under-represented groups to 5% by 2029.

**Objective 2** - The College aims to reduce rates of non-continuation for all students in PQ1 to PQ5 by 8 % by 2028-29, with a commitment to improvement of monitoring and tracking of continuation data for all underrepresented groups. Reduce the completion gap between students with and without a disability to 4% by 2028/29

**Objective 3** - The College aims to reduce the attainment gap of distinction between students with and without a disability by 5% by 2028/29 and also eliminate the gap in attainment of distinction between students in PQ1 and PQ5 by 2028/29.

**Objective 4** - The College aims to reduce the gap between students from PQ1&2 and PQ3,4&5 progressing into highly skilled work or further study by 5% by 2028/29. Reduce the gap between students with and without disabilities progressing into highly-skilled work or further study by 6% by 2028/29

See pages 3-4 of the access and participation plan for more information.

#### What we are doing to address keys risks to equality of opportunity

The College has designed and committed to intervention strategies (IS) to support in addressing the identified risks to equality of opportunity

IS1: Activities will be incorporated to build and further develop a series of outreach initiatives and a comprehensive package of information, advice, and guidance, modelled to challenge barriers associated with higher education for PQ1 and PQ2 students, students with disabilities, care leavers, students with caring responsibilities, and children of military families.

IS2: Activities will be aimed to reduce rates of non continuation for all students by 8% by 2028/29, with a commitment to carefully monitoring and tracking continuation data for all underrepresented groups.

IS3: Activities in this intervention strategy will target to reduce the attainment gap of distinction between students with and without a disability by 5% by 2028/29. It will also look to eliminate the gap in attainment of distinction between students in PQ1 and 5 by 2028/29.

IS4: The strategy will also look to reduce the gap between students with and without disabilities progressing into highly-skilled work or further study by 6% by 2028/29 The college will be committing to increasing student engagement with employability initiatives with 80% of target students engaging in at least one progression intervention by 2026/27.

See pages 5-28 and Annex B of the access and participation plan for more information.

#### How students can get involved

The College routinely engages with HE students to gather their feedback throughout the academic year through a combination of formal quality assurance meetings, focus groups and surveys. This feedback has been essential in informing how the College has developed its models by providing an in-depth understanding of the barriers faced by our students, and also the measures they would welcome to support their success and progression. The continuation of the College’s APP Working Group which has been established since 2020 will support students to be engaged in the monitoring and evaluation of the Access and Participation Plan.

See pages 33-34 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

The overall plan and associated activity will be monitored by the Access and Participation Working Group, which will include membership from key stakeholders, including students. The working group will meet termly to report on activity and will produce an annual report against targets which will feed into the governance structure through the HE Strategic Group, which feeds into Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and Governors.

The College will take an evidence-led, strategic approach to our APP to drive continuous improvement in our aim of ensuring that all students are given an equal opportunity to access HE and achieve positive outcomes and progression. Evaluation is an essential aspect of the College’s evaluation, with the outcomes of evaluation being essential to further developing future programmes of activity. Developments to be implemented in order to ensure that our evaluation strategy is robustly embedded across all programmes of activity, and that our approach is consistently applied and reportable at a strategic level.

See page 34 of the access and participation plan for more information.

#### Contact details for further information

Please contact Dr. Tamal Barman, he@cityplym.ac.uk, 01752305786 for more information.