

Access and Participation Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29 Summary

What is an access and participation plan?

Access and Participation Plans set out how higher education (HE) providers will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented and disadvantaged groups to access and succeed in their degree level programme and progress to jobs or further study.

*Blackpool and
The Fylde College's
(B&FC) [full Access
and Participation Plan](#)*



Key points

Our focus is to improve equality of opportunity for specific groups of students through a suite of support packages. Data shows that, compared to their peers at B&FC, higher education outcomes are lower for certain groups of full-time students:

*See pages 4-5 of the
[full plan](#) for our identified
risks and objectives*



- Students living in areas where people don't usually go to university are less likely to stay on their programme
- Students with mental health conditions and/or living in areas of deprivation are less likely to achieve a 2:1 or above
- Students with a disability, living in areas of deprivation and/or female are less likely to progress onto highly skilled jobs or further study

Fees we charge

The annual fees charged for new students in 2025/26 are as follows in our Access and Participation Plan 2025/26-2028/29*:

*B&FC's full list of higher
education [tuition fees](#)*



- £7,000 - £9,250* for full time degree level students
- £5,250 -£6,935* for part time degree level students
- £11,100* for the full time accelerated degree students

*On 4 November 2024 the UK government announced an increase in the tuition fee cap and maintenance loans for home students for 2025/26 on higher education (HE) programmes, in line with the Retail Price Index (RPI) 2024. B&FC's Corporation Board has since approved an increase in HE tuition fees from the previously advertised rate, which will rise by 3.1% in line with inflation (RPI 2024), subject to parliamentary approval. This increase will apply to all our higher education tuition fees. For example, the full time undergraduate annual tuition fee will increase from £9,250 to £9,535.

B&FC may increase tuition fees for future years in line with any inflationary uplift, as determined by the UK government.

We will keep you informed of any updates or confirmation from the government on this position.

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented or disadvantaged groups. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes:

*Full details of B&FC's
[financial support](#) on our
website and pages 6,7,16
and 26 of the [full plan](#)*



Blackpool and The Fylde College - summary of our 2025-26 to 2028-29 Access and Participation Plan

B&FC's Financial Support for 2025/26 to 2028/29 for higher education students
HE Equipment Fund - £300 in the first year of undergraduate study for those with an annual household income under £30,810, to pay for study equipment or materials.
HE Equipment Plus Fund - £200 in continuing years of undergraduate study for those with an annual household income under £30,810, to pay for study equipment or materials.
DSA contribution award - £200 fee paid by B&FC for students with a disability to access prescribed support and equipment.
B&FC Cares scholarship - £1,000 per year for up to three years for undergraduate students who are care leavers, carers or students under the age of 25 without the support of a family network.
HE Student Support Fund - Varying amounts awarded to students facing financial hardship, when all other government funding options have been exhausted.
Educational Psychology Assessment Reports - B&FC fully funds the assessment for students who required a diagnosis of dyslexia and potentially ADHD (worth £300+).
HE Career and Skills Development Fund - £250 awarded in any one year to students with an annual household income under £30,810 to pay for employment enhancement or further study opportunities, such as interview clothes or creating a professional portfolio.

Information for students

- **Prospective students** can access information on fees and financial support through the College website, at open days and applicant events and throughout the application process.
- **Current students** can also access information about fees, financial support and academic support through induction, the careers team, HE learning mentors and progress tutors

Further details on the type of information and how we provide this to you is on page 30 of our [full plan](#)



What we are aiming to achieve and how we will address key risks to equality of opportunity

Our overall aim is to support students from all backgrounds to succeed in higher education. We also continue to ensure that every student who chooses to study with us develops the knowledge, skills and behaviours that will lead to professional, technical or managerial employment, or further study. Using data to assess our performance, we have identified six specific areas/groups of students to focus our work. Using an evidence informed approach, we have selected relevant activities to support meeting our targets. These are summarised as follows:

See page 5 and Annexes A and B of the [full Access and Participation Plan](#)



Objective 1: We will increase the proportion of students who come from areas of low participation in higher education to stay on their programme. This will be achieved through a range of interventions including financial support, targeted communications around support service, inviting those from low HE participation areas to have appointments with HE Learning Mentors and raising awareness through staff development.

Objectives 2 and 3: We will increase the proportion of students with mental health issues and those living in the most deprived areas achieving a 2:1 or above. This will be done through actively inviting these students to appointments with HE Learning Mentors and a student research group, having targeted discussions in Progress Tutorial Meetings, setting aspirational goals through the HE Learning mentors, employing a new Assistive Technology Specialist role and additional HE Wellbeing Mentor support role, introducing new wellbeing spaces and increasing the marketing and communication of our disability offer.

Blackpool and The Fylde College - summary of our 2025-26 to 2028-29 Access and Participation Plan

Objectives 4,5 and 6: We will increase the proportion of female students, those with a disability and/or living in the most deprived areas who enter into professional, technical or managerial employment, or further study after they have completed their studies with us. We will do this through offering an early and more integrated careers service, hold inclusive careers events, increase awareness of disability, progression pathways and the Graduate Outcomes survey through staff development, provide new financial support and encourage these students to undertake our Power Skills employability award. We will also actively invite these students to an appointment with the Careers team to get the most out of our Careers Service whilst they study with us.

How students and apprentices can get involved

We worked with the Students' Union to gather student input into the design and monitoring of our access and participation plan. Students are represented on our Access and Participation Plan Steering Group which is responsible for overseeing implementation of the plan.

Provide feedback to the Students' Union or [become involved](#) in our plan at B&FC



See pages 28-29 of the [full plan](#) for more details

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Regular evaluation of our APP activities is used to realise and demonstrate the impact of our activities, and to shape future practice. Progress against our plan is regularly monitored through data dashboards and reported into committees, cross college and to the student body.

See pages 29-30 of the [full plan](#) for further details on how we evaluate the impact of our activities



Good practice is shared externally through our engagement in wider collaborative groups outside of the College. B&FC will publish on our website an annual report to ensure the delivery of our plan and evaluation is visible both inside and outside of the College.

Contact details for further information

You can contact our access and participation lead for further information.

Contact our [access and participation lead](#) at B&FC

