

Askham Bryan 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 Askham Bryan College at <https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/publication-scheme-higher-education/>

Key points

See pages 1 to 11 of the full plan

We are a specialist land-based college offering higher education in the York region. Students can study on higher education programmes in topics such as Agriculture, Animal Management, Conservation, Equine, and Veterinary Nursing and Zoo Management. There are just under 500 undergraduate students at Askham Bryan College, the majority studying on two-year foundation degrees.

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving access to higher education for specific groups of students. We have found that for Askham Bryan College, the following groups of students are less well-represented in our student body:

- Black, Asian and minority ethnic students, who represent less than 5% of our student population.
- Students who come from neighbourhoods where not many people go on to study higher education. These neighbourhoods are classified as POLAR quintiles 1 and 2. The POLAR categorisation is a measure which splits local areas into five quintiles, where quintiles 1 and 2 indicate areas where not many people go on to undergraduate study.
- Male students who come from areas classified as Index of Multiple deprivation (IMD) quintiles 1 and 2. Index of Multiple deprivation is a relative measure of deprivation for small areas.

Male students who come from areas classified as Index of Multiple deprivation (IMD) quintiles 1 and 2 are also less likely to continue with their study after the first year.

Fees we charge

See page 23 of the full plan

At Askham Bryan College, the maximum fees we charge are as follows:

- £9,000 per year for full-time students
- £4,500 per year for part-time students
- £1,800 for students on a sandwich/placement year

You can see a full list of fees for courses at Askham Bryan College under Fees Summary at <https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/publication-scheme-higher-education/>

Financial help available

See page 22 of the full plan

Askham Bryan College offers financial support to students from underrepresented groups. Students will be eligible for financial help if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Students from low participation neighbourhoods (POLAR quintiles 1 and 2) and with low household income¹ (less than £25,000)
- Black, Asian or minority ethnic students
- Male students from IMD quintiles 1 and 2 and with low household income² (less than £25,000)
- Care-leavers
- Disabled students

This financial support is offered to help students to successfully participate in higher education and to continue studying until the completion of their course. This support includes:

- Subsidised transport to campus
- Annual bursary of up to £500 for the duration of the course
- Contribution towards laptops for students with declared learning difficulties
- A hardship fund to support students who experience financial hardship during their time at the College

Information for students

See page 21 of the full plan

- Students thinking of applying to Askham Bryan College receive information on fees and financial support from a number of places, including open days
- We annually update information for care-experienced students on the Propel website.

What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 12 to 14 of the full plan

Our overall aim is to increase access to higher education for particular groups of students. Askham Bryan College wants to further support students to achieve their full potential by remaining in, and completing their course with us. The following areas will be the focus of our work:

- Black, Asian and minority ethnic students- we will increase the number of black, Asian and minority ethnic students by 2024-25
- Care-experienced students- we will support these students to continue with their study by a bespoke care-experienced support package
- Support attainment at school by engaging in more collaborative work with schools, colleges and universities in the York area. We will identify local schools to work with to increase access to higher education for underrepresented groups. We aim to further develop this programme of work during 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- Diversify our provision by 2022-23 by extending our courses to include shorter higher education qualifications in specialist land-based education

What we are doing to achieve our aims

See pages 12 to 14 of the full plan

We have identified the following activity to help us achieve our targets:

¹ Based on Student Finance England Residual Household Income (RHI)

² Based on Student Finance England Residual Household Income (RHI)

1. Introduce flexible study programmes to attract part-time students or those in need of upskilling
2. Work with our local universities and colleges to establish a collaborative programme of work with schools to raise attainment and progress to studying on a higher education programme.
3. Offer financial support including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students.
4. Embed a full programme of personal and professional skills development throughout all programmes of study to give all students the best chance at succeeding.

How students can get involved

See pages 18 to 19 of the full plan

We have worked closely with the Students' Union to discuss how we designed our access and participation plan. This included consideration of the potential barriers to underrepresented groups studying at a specialist college. Students helped to form some of the plans described in the full plan.

Students can contact their student union representative at su.president@askham-bryan.ac.uk

Students can get involved by becoming a student representative by contacting emily.davies@askham-bryan.ac.uk

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved See pages 19 to 21 of the full plan

We will evaluate our activities by collecting data and feedback at different times during each planned programme of activity. This evidence will be used to report on progress against our targets and to allow us to adjust our activities if necessary in the interest of our students.

We have an access and participation working group who will report on progress of activities to the College's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee at the College. This committee will monitor milestones identified in our access and participation plan, and monitor if we are achieving aims.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Emily Davies at emily.davies@askham-bryan.ac.uk for further information.