

# Askham Bryan College

## Summary of 2025-2026 to 2028-2029 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 Askham Bryan College and University Centre [here](#).

### Key points

As a student with Askham Bryan College, you will study higher education courses with University Centre Askham Bryan (UCAB) at either our York or Gateshead campus.

We developed our access and participation plan in 2024, where we focused on an approach which will support positive outcomes for students from specific groups. Through analysis of our data, we identified that certain groups of students were less likely to access courses at Askham Bryan and were less likely to obtain positive outcomes during their course of study. Our plan details our commitment to reducing the barriers and improving equality of learning successes for students from unrepresented or disadvantaged groups.

From our analysis we found that:

- Male students from areas of deprivation and those from ethnic minorities were less likely to access land-based higher education.
- Students who had been eligible for free school meals were less likely to complete their course.
- Students who report a disability are less likely to attain a 2.1 or first-class grade.

Our aim is to reduce these gaps in inequality but acknowledge that this will take longer than the duration of this plan. We are therefore, committed to delivering an inclusive approach as a whole provider by creating a personalised and supportive learning environment that recognises diversity and promotes social mobility.

See pages 1-20 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### Fees we charge

At Askham Bryan College the maximum fees we charge are:

- £9275 for full-time programmes
- £4638 for part-time programmes

You can find our annual fee summary [here](#). Plus, further information on fees can be found on the relevant course pages on the [Askham Bryan College website](#).

These fees may vary by course and may be subject to increase in line with our [published tuition fee policy](#) and government guidelines in relation to inflationary rises.

See pages 23-24 of our access and participation plan for more information.

### Financial help available

We understand that finances can be a challenge during university and can present barriers to accessing and/or succeeding in higher education. Our financial support packages are designed to help students to access learning and complete their studies. You can find out more [here](#).

We offer:

- A bursary of up to £750 for attending students who are care-experienced, males from deprived areas (IMD Q1 and 2 postcodes) or identify as Black, Asian, mixed, or other ethnicity.
- Hardship funds are available for all students.

Our Student Services Life Coaches are also available to provide further guidance on financial issues.

See pages 23-24 of our access and participation plan for more information.

### Information for students

If you are **intending to study** with us but are yet to start your course, you will receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as open days, by email communication and on our college website.

As an **enrolled student** you will receive information about fees and financial support via the UCAB Academic Services Team. Information about the Hardship Fund can also be found on the UCAB Hub.

See page 23 of our access and participation plan for more information.

### What we are aiming to achieve

We believe that everyone with the potential to benefit from education should have equal opportunity to do so and be encouraged to access education and be supported to succeed. At Askham Bryan College and University Centre our aim is to widen participation in land-based higher education to ensure a diverse range of students and graduates can enjoy the best possible outcomes. We intend to:

- **Improve access for minority ethnic students and male students from deprived areas.** We are working to increase the number of students from these groups that enrol onto land-based HE courses.
- **Maintain access from disadvantage groups.** We are also focused on maintaining levels of access for students from care-experienced backgrounds and deprived areas across our higher education provision, during the duration of this plan.
- **Improve completion rates for students from low-income backgrounds.** We aim to close the gap in completion rates for students who were from low-income backgrounds that were eligible for Free School Meals.
- **Improve attainment for students who declare a disability.** We are working to close the gap in degree attainment for students with declared disabilities.
- **Support school level attainment within our local area.** We are contributing to local projects aimed at raising attainment and aspiration in young people.

See pages 4-5 of our access and participation plan for more information.

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

We have identified a range of interventions to support the achievement of this plan, which include:

Improving access to land-based higher education through **collaborative outreach** activities and partnerships and offering a **careers-centred mentoring** programme to our further education students.

Enabling successful outcomes through provision of **tailored academic and non-academic support**. This includes personalised 1:1 academic appraisals, refined approaches to course induction, creating new tools to support academic skills development and providing students with a Life Coach service.

Our interventions are designed to complement the cross-college services and management structures including HE Learning Support, Student Services and Learning Resources.

See pages 6-20 of our access and participation plan for more information.

### **How students can get involved**

Throughout the life cycle of this Access and Participation Plan the members of the student body, including Student Council and the Students Union, will be engaged in collaboration with key staff to monitor and review our intervention and financial support approaches.

Students sit on all committees including Academic Quality and Standards and Academic Board. You also have student governor representation. Students will also be invited to contribute to the Access and Participation Steering Group as well as opportunities to get involved in collaborative outreach, the aspire mentoring programme and open events as student ambassadors.

See page 21 of our access and participation plan for more information.

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

For each intervention and objective, we have outlined what we aim to achieve and how this will be evaluated. Our approach will include mixed methods using qualitative and quantitative data, which will be used to monitor and evaluate progress against our targets. The data we collect will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of our interventions and aid us in developing approaches in the future. We will publish a brief progress report annually via the college website.

See pages 10,14, 17-19 and 22 of our access and participation plan for more information.

### **Contact details for further information**

Please contact Yvette Foulds-Davis (Assistant Principal HE and Academic Registrar) via [he@askham-bryan.ac.uk](mailto:he@askham-bryan.ac.uk) or 01904 772277 for more information.