

# Middlesbrough College: Summary of 2026-27 – 2029-30 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, success and progress from higher education. The plan sets out actions to support student to apply to higher education, succeed in their studies, and progress to employment or further study.

You can see the full access and participation plan for Middlesbrough College at

[Essential Information | University Level | Middlesbrough College](#)

## Key points

*(Detailed information can be found across pages 2-4 of the full plan)*

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes for specific groups of students. Data shows that, compared to their peers at Middlesbrough College, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students.

The following groups of students are less likely to continue to the next year of their course.

- Students from low-income backgrounds.
- Young, white males from low-income backgrounds.

The following groups of students are less likely to progress into employment or further study.

- Students with a disability.

The relatively small number of students studying university level qualifications at Middlesbrough College means that differences in continuation and progression between groups can vary between years. However, we will continue to ensure that all students have equality of opportunity.

## Fees we charge

At Middlesbrough College, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9250 for full-time students
- £5000 for part-time students

You can see the full list of fees for courses at Middlesbrough college at [Course Fees & Support | UCM | Middlesbrough College](#)

## **Financial help available**

*(Detailed information can be found across pages 33-34 of the full plan)*

We offer financial support to students from under-represented groups. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is complete. The support includes:

- A bursary of £500 for students from households earning below £30,000 per year.
- A means-tested hardship fund to support students who experience financial hardship during their studies
- Provision of loan laptops
- Payment of costs associated with essential trips and visits
- Payment of professional accreditation/membership fees.

## **Information for students**

*(Detailed information can be found across pages 2-4 of the full plan)*

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as open events and initial guidance sessions available to all applicants, as well as by letter/email communications.

Current students receive information about fees and the financial help available through our student portal and internal communication.

## **What we are aiming to achieve**

*(Detailed information can be found across pages 4-23 of the full plan)*

Our overall aim is to create an environment that supports students to access higher education, achieve to their full potential and successfully progress into further study or employment.

Based on an assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas on which to focus our work.

- All students from low income backgrounds – by 2030, we aim to have increased the continuation rate (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course) by 5%.
- Young, white males from low income backgrounds – by 2030 we aim to have reduced the continuation gap (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course) between this group and students who have no similar disadvantage by 5%.
- Disabled students – by 2030 we aim to reduce the progression gap (proportion of students who progress into employment or further study) between this group of students and their non-disabled peers by 10%.

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

*(Detailed information can be found across pages 4-23 of the full plan)*

We have identified a range of activities to address key risks to equality of opportunity:

- Financial Guidance Workshops
- Academic Preparedness – Study Skills Workshops
- Academic Preparedness – Transition Programme
- Inclusive Careers Coaching
- Transitions Pathways Programme
- Employer Accessibility Partnership
- Peer Mentoring and Role Model Network
- Personalised Retention Support.

## **How students can get involved**

*(Detailed information can be found across pages 30-31 of the full plan)*

We invite students to contribute through HE Student Council, Programme Boards, and Higher Education Working Groups which help us gather student views which we input into the design of our access and participation plan. Students are represented on our specific Access and Participation Working Group which is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the plan, ensuring strategies reflect lives experiences.

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

*(Detailed information can be found across pages 31-33 of the full plan)*

We continuously review our activities designed to support our students to make sure we are achieving our goals. The college used evidence-informed evaluation, including annual reviews and student feedback to measure the impact that the activities are having. The Access and Participation Group will monitor and report on the success of our approach to Academic Board, Board of Governors and the HE Student Council.

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

You can contact Lisa McKenna at [lm.mckenna@mbro.ac.uk](mailto:lm.mckenna@mbro.ac.uk) for further information.