

Middlesbrough 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 Middlesbrough College at <https://www.mbro.ac.uk/university-level/essential-information> .

Key points

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.

See pages 2 to 11 of the full

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

- Students with a disability.
- Young white male students from low-income backgrounds.

The relatively small number of students studying university level qualifications at Middlesbrough College means that differences in continuation 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:

- £8,500 for full-time students
- £6,900 for part-time students

See Appendix 3 of the full plan

You can see the full list of fees for courses at Middlesbrough College at [University Level Course Fees \(mbro.ac.uk\)](https://www.mbro.ac.uk/university-level/course-fees)

Financial help available

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

See pages 24 to 26 of the full

- A bursary of £1,000 paid in term 1 and term 4 of full-time 3-year degree courses.
- A means-tested hardship fund to support students who experience financial hardship during their studies.
- A free of charge, loan laptop for the duration of their studies.
- Free access to any essential software both on-site and from home.

Information for students

- 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/e-mail communications.
- Current students receive information about fees and the financial help available through our student portal and internal communications.

See pages 26 to 27 of the full

What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall aim is to support students to access higher education. We also want to create an environment where students at Middlesbrough College can achieve their full potential.

See pages 12 to 13 of the full

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

- Disabled students – By 2025-26, we aim to have removed the gap in continuation rate (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course) between disabled students and students without a disability.
- Young white male students from low-income backgrounds – By 2025-26 we aim to have removed the gap in continuation rate (the proportion of students continuing to the next year of their course) between this group of students and students who have no similar disadvantage.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

We have identified a range of activities to support the achievement of our aims and targets:

See pages 13 to 14 of the full

- Provide academic support sessions which support students to overcome academic barriers to continuation.
- Provide students with a free loan laptop at the start of their studies to remove any barrier to study at college or at home.
- Provide students with free access to any software essential to their studies, to remove any barrier to study at college or at home.
- Provide students with free access to any physical equipment essential to their studies, to remove any barrier to study.
- Offer financial support, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England.

How students can get involved

We invite students to attend the 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 Access and Participation Plan Working Group which is responsible for overseeing implementation of the plan.

See pages 20
to 21 of the full

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We continuously review our activities designed to support our students to make sure we are achieving our goals. We also review approaches taken by other colleges and universities to see what we can learn from their success.

See pages 21
to 23 of the full

The Access and Participation Plan Working Group will monitor and report on the success of our approach to Academic Board who monitor our progress towards meeting our targets. The Working Group will also recommend any adjustments to that are in the best interests of students.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Paul Stone at p.stone@mbro.ac.uk for further information.