

Chichester College Group

Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 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 Chichester College Group at

https://www.chigroup.ac.uk/app/uploads/sites/5/2025/04/Chichester-College-Group_APP_2025-26_V2_10007817-1.pdf

Key points

Chichester College Group (CCG) is a large Further Education College and, following a merger with Greater Brighton Metropolitan College Group (GBMet) in August 2022, consists of 7 colleges across West Sussex and Brighton. We offer a range of university level courses and aim to support students who are under-represented in higher education to access, succeed and progress to graduate level employment and / or further study.

Data shows that certain groups of students have lower outcomes, compared to their peers at the Chichester College Group.

- Students with a disability are less likely to achieve high grades.
- A decreasing number of mature learners accessing our HE.
- Learners not accessing internal college support and/or DSA support due to the financial barrier faced by not being able to afford the pre-assessment necessary to make a claim.
- Lower proportions of learners from the lowest socio-economic groups are accessing higher education at CCG.
- Low progression rates into graduate employment for CCG learners

See pages 3-5 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

At Chichester College Group the maximum fees charged for 2025/26 are as follows:

HNC / HND - £6,800 (Full-time)

Foundation Degree - £9,535 (Full-time)

Undergraduate Degree - £9,535 (Full-time)

See page 48 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Financial help available

- There are bursaries and other support available through CCG: information is available through the college website with links also given within the student handbooks and are discussed at interviews and at tutor meetings.
- A Higher Education Bursary is available for students in receipt of a full maintenance loan from Student Finance England.
- A hardship fund exists for those students who during the course fall on challenging times. This support may be in the form of financial or pastoral support.

See pages 26- 27 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

CCG undertakes to publish clear and accessible information on fees charged including additional cost and financial support offered through the website and on promotional materials.

We clearly communicate the process for application and admission to the programmes of study by making the HE admissions process available on the website and in the HE prospectus.

We make information available to prospective students to help them select their programme with an understanding of the academic environment in which they will be studying. The support that will be made available to them via Open and HE days, School and Sixth Form events, detailed course information online and through the HE prospectus. Social media is used to enhance engagement and communications with students.

See pages 25-26 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

- Increased participation of HE learners at CCG from low socio-economic groups.
- Increased participation of mature learners on HE courses at CCG.
- Increased continuation for mature learners.
- A continued increase in completion rates for mature learners.
- A continued increase in continuation, completion and attainment rates for learners with disabilities.
- Improve progression rates for CCG learners with disabilities.
- Improve progression rates for CCG mature learners.

See pages 8-20 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are doing to address keys risks to equality of opportunity

- Offering targeted support, information, advice and guidance regarding progression to HE for CCG FE learners who meet Widening Participation (WP) criteria.
- CCG Progression Promise for internal FE learners to progress to HE courses.
- WP outreach team works in partnership with local universities to develop progression pathways.
- UniConnect targets schools and community outreach projects such as S'koolFest and the National Saturday Club programme supported by HE Student Ambassadors from WP backgrounds.
- Building relationships with the local school sector.
- Tailored support for HE application and enrolment.
- CCG Learning Support Grant.
- CPD for technologies to support hybrid and adaptive learning.
- Develop on-line learning modules that will enable flexible, self-paced learning and ease of access to independent study resources.
- To continue to develop flexible HE modularised credit bearing units that enable learners to engage with part-time study whilst in employment and build a portfolio of achievement that can lead to a full L4+ qualification.
- Continued support for mature learners to re-enter education.
- Maths & English support for learners re-entering education.
- HE experience days for mature learners.
- Supporting student voice for students with disabilities.
- Funding for Ed Psych assessments.

- Expand provision of mental health/wellbeing/counselling support for HE learners.
- Additional support for all students to enable achievement.
- Return to study integration programme.
- CCG HE Industry mentoring Programme.
- HE Alumni Network.
- Develop personal development programmes (PDP) to support progression.

See pages 8-20 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

Student participation in the plan is achieved through:

- Student representation on the Higher Education Governance Committees.
- Course Boards are held three times a year to provide opportunities for all Higher Education students to provide feedback on their college experience including admissions
- HE Student Conference is held twice a year to support student voice.
- Student President is part of the Access and Participation Committee.
- Students formed a panel to develop the student submission to support the APP.

See page 24 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

CCG use a holistic approach to evaluate their intervention strategy, referencing the TASO Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, especially the theory of change model. TASO is an independent hub for higher education professionals to access research, toolkits and evaluation guidance to eliminate risks to equality of opportunity.

Progress will be monitored by the Access and Participation Committee, which includes representatives from various departments. Students are also represented on this committee. The committee will meet three times a year to review progress, make necessary adjustments, and produce an annual report on achievements and challenges. This report will be shared with higher education management group and Higher Education Board prior to being presented to the Group Leadership Team Committee and the Governors via the Quality and Stakeholders Committee. It will then be made available through our HE information pages and shared on VLEs.

This structured evaluation process ensures CCG makes measurable progress towards successful interventions.

See pages 21-22 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact Kirste McCool, kirste.mccool@gbmc.ac.uk for more information.