

University Centre Colchester at Colchester Institute

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 University Centre Colchester at <https://www.colchester.ac.uk/ucc/ucc-policies-and-procedures/>

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 University Centre Colchester, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students.

The following groups of students are less likely to complete their studies:

- Students who come from a neighbourhood where not many people go into higher education;
- Ethnic minority students.

The following groups of students are less likely to achieve a 2:1 or above:

- Ethnic minority students.

Fees we charge

At University Centre Colchester, the maximum fees charges are:

- £8,250 for full-time students;
- £6,190 for part-time students.

You can see a full list of fees for courses at University Centre Colchester at <https://www.colchester.ac.uk/ucc/higher-education-finance/>

Financial help available

We offer the following financial support to students. These funds help students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed:

- A **Hardship Fund** to support students who experience financial hardship during their time at University Centre Colchester;
- A £100 **Carers Payment** for any student who is a named registered carer, or whom themselves has previously been in care.

Information for students

We publish information regarding fees for the preceding year on both our and the UCAS websites. We signpost prospective students to this information through in-person events such as UCAS fairs and open days and through email communications during the application process.

Current students receive information about fees and financial support available through our UCC Academic Services Moodle site, internal communication campaigns and emails.

What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall aim is to support students to access and succeed in higher education. We also want to create an environment where students at University Centre Colchester can achieve their full potential.

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

BAME Students:

By 2024-25 we will have:

- closed the continuation gap (the proportion of students progressing to the next year of their course) between Black and White students;
- reduced the attainment gap between Asian and White students achieving a 'Good Degree' (1st or 2:1) by 12 %.

Mature Students:

By 2024-25 we will have:

- increased the continuation rate of mature students (students aged 21 or above when they commenced their course) by 8%;
- increased the progression rate for mature students into employment by 10%.

Disabled Students:

By 2024-25 we will have:

- closed the continuation gap between disabled and non-disabled students.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

We are undertaking the following initiatives in order to achieve our aims and targets:

- Investing in an enhanced, interactive, careers platform to improve students' employability skills and provide access to up to date sector information and job vacancies;
- Redesigning our curriculum to offer earlier opportunities for intervention and introduce flexible modes of learning;
- Offering all students 1-1 academic and pastoral tutorials on all modules as a standardised part of their course;
- Proactively identifying and engaging with learners who have learning support needs to ensure appropriate support is accessible.

How students can get involved

We work with the Students' Union to gather student input into the design of our access and participation plan. Students are represented on our Learning and Teaching Committees and Academic Boards, which have responsibility for overseeing implementation of the plan.

- To provide feedback students can contact their Student Union representative at uccsu@colchester.ac.uk

- To become more involved in this work please, and to discuss becoming a student representative, please contact UCC Academic Services at uccacademicservices@colchester.ac.uk

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

The Learning and Teaching Committee will monitor and report on these processes to the University Centre Colchester Academic Board. Academic Board will oversee the implementation of actions to ensure ongoing process against yearly milestones in our access and participation plan.

We will monitor impact on our target groups to ensure we are addressing our aims. Where appropriate, we will adjust our interventions in the best interests of our students.

Contact details for further information

If you would like further information on this Access and Participation Plan please contact UCC Academic Services at uccacademicservices@colchester.ac.uk for further information.