

# Weymouth College - Summary of 2022-23 – 2026-27 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 Weymouth College at [www.weymouth.ac.uk/level-of-study/university-level/](http://www.weymouth.ac.uk/level-of-study/university-level/)

## Key points

Weymouth College is committed to raising the aspiration and attainment of people from a range of backgrounds. The focus of our access and participation plan is to clearly outline how we will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed and progress in higher education.

In 2019-20 the College enrolled 111 Higher Education (HE) students (88 full-time and 23 part-time and apprentices). The current small HE cohort has been directly related to the strategic realignment of the provision which is based on clear progression routes in addition to meeting employer needs.

Weymouth College has a strong record of attracting students from typically under-represented groups, in a geographical area, which is recognised as being a cold spot for HE. Our HE performance is strong, with an average full-time achievement rate of 95% in 2019-20 (Percentage of all students (year 1 and 2) that continue/achieve the qualification during that academic year).

The College demonstrates strength in recruiting students from underrepresented groups in HE, supporting students who are less likely to complete their studies due to their social groupings. An area for further focus of this plan will be to continue/maintain the performance but to consider the gaps between progression of students and the gap in continuation rates. Continuation rates for students with a declared disability is also an area for the College to move forward with to further link to the strategy of providing industry responsive and curriculum linked provision with clear pathways for progression for all students.

Please see pages 1-8 of our full plan for further details.

## Fees we charge

At Weymouth College, the maximum fees charged for Higher Education courses are:

- £6,650 for full-time students
- £3,250 for part-time students.

You can see a full list of fees for courses at Weymouth College at [www.weymouth.ac.uk/level-of-study/university-level/](http://www.weymouth.ac.uk/level-of-study/university-level/) within our Higher Education course guide section.

## Financial help available

Weymouth College's approach to financial support measures, aims to widen access, success and progression by addressing potential barriers to participation identified in our assessment of performance. We offer financial support to students from underrepresented group. The support includes:

- A hardship fund to support students from households with an income below £40,000 who experience financial hardship during their time at university.
- The Weymouth College Care Leavers Hardship Fund is available as a ringfenced fund for Care Leavers to access in addition to the Weymouth College Hardship Fund to increase access, participation and progression for this group.

Please see page 11 of our full plan for further details.

### **Information for students**

Weymouth College provides clear and accurate information to students and prospective students on the range of access and outreach activities it undertakes. Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open days, and by email communication from programme leaders or our HE registrar. The College engages in collaborative events with partners in Dorset aimed at offering comprehensive information to students, potential students, their families and carers, employers and other stakeholders to promote Higher Education opportunities.

For the most up-to-date information, see our website ([www.weymouth.ac.uk/level-of-study/university-level/](http://www.weymouth.ac.uk/level-of-study/university-level/)).

Please see pages 19-20 of our full plan for further details.

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

In line with our assessment of performance, the College have identified the following targets to ensure any gaps in access, continuation and progression are closed: -

- To further increase the number of FT students from low-participating areas accessing HE.
- Support attainment at school and access to higher education.
- To reduce the progression and continuation gap between students with a declared disability and no declared disability.
- To reduce the continuation gap between (FT students) from areas of low rates of participation.
- To further increase the progression rates of FT students from low-participating areas

During 2022-23 we will continue to review our higher education curriculum to ensure that it is viable and that it supports employability, social inclusion and lifelong learning priorities. We will work with employers and their representative bodies to identify their training needs and develop a higher education curriculum offer that meets these needs and extend our delivery in the workplace. We will continue to ensure progression pathways exist onto and from all our higher education provision.

Please see pages 9-10 of our full plan for further details.

### **What we are doing to achieve our aims**

We have identified five programmes of activity to support achievement of our aims and targets.

- Extend our programme of work with schools – this supports more pupils from underrepresented groups to attain good grades and progress to study for a higher education qualification.
- Enhance support for study throughout the institution so all students can access tailored academic and employment-related support.
- Improve guidance with increased use of the DSA support to improve progression and continuation for our target groups.

- Maintain and improve additional study skills support throughout student studies (including informal assessment at the start of programmes to aid transition to HE standards of assessment).
- Continue to offer financial support, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England.

Please see pages 9, 10 and Appendix 1 (Table 5) of our full plan for further details.

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

Our programmes of activity are informed by and developed considering student voice and what works for students. The College collects the views of students, individually and as curriculum area groups; these mechanisms allow students to be included in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this Access and Participation Plan. These include:

- University of Plymouth Student Perception Questionnaire (Term 2)
- National Student Survey (NSS) (Term 2)
- Student Representative within Programme Team Meetings (Autumn and Spring Term)
- HE Student Representation at College termly Student Representative Meetings
- Tutorial 1:1 feedback (throughout the year)

Please see pages 16 -17 of our full plan for further details.

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

Weymouth College has an integrated management structure that will ensure that the targets set within this plan are both monitored and evaluated. The operational delivery of this plan will be led by the Director of Curriculum, with strategic support from the College Vice Principal (Curriculum & Quality).

The College plans to implement the above measures and will collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- Our programme design
- The impact of our programme activity we are doing to achieve our aims
- The impact on achieving our targets and objectives to improve access and an inclusive environment

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.

Please see pages 17-18 of our full plan for further details.

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

You can contact Martin Oliver or Roz Osborne at [martin\\_oliver@weymouth.ac.uk](mailto:martin_oliver@weymouth.ac.uk) or [roz\\_osborne@weymouth.ac.uk](mailto:roz_osborne@weymouth.ac.uk) for further information.