

Heart of Yorkshire Education Group: Summary of Access and Participation Plan 2024 - 2025/26 – 2028/29

The Heart of Yorkshire Education Group (the Group) was formed in March 2022 when Selby College and Wakefield College officially merged, the aim was to create an outstanding, skills-focused organisation that would meet skills priorities at a local, regional, and national level, on Colleges in Castleford, Selby, and Wakefield. Through our new Group, we aim to facilitate enhanced opportunities for students, apprentices, and employer partners.

Vision, Mission & Values

Our Vision: Our vision outlines what we are aiming for in the future, in terms of our long-term goals: *“To be an outstanding, first-choice education group, passionately serving our communities.”*

Our Mission: Our mission describes why we are here, our purpose and what we do, which is: *“Our staff positively transform our students’ lives and the communities we serve by putting them at the heart of everything we do.”*

What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans set out how higher education (HE) 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 the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group at [Access and Participation Plan](#)

Key points

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes for specific groups of students. The Group is proud to be inclusive and we are committed to supporting students from under-represented groups to participate successfully in Higher Education. The Group’s strategic view is to ensure that learning is accessible, individualised and meets the needs of learners and employers, in the design of programmes.

Our assessment suggests that these indications of risk are likely to be caused by the following underlying risk.

Table 1

Risk 1: Knowledge and skills
Students may not have equal opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills required to be accepted onto higher education courses that match their expectations and ambitions.
Risk 2: Information and guidance
Students may not have equal opportunity to receive the information and guidance that will enable them to develop ambition and expectations, or to make informed choice about their higher education options.
Risk 6: Insufficient academic support
Students may not receive sufficient personalised academic support to achieve a positive outcome.
Risk 7: Insufficient personal support
Students may not receive sufficient personalised non-academic support or have sufficient access to extracurricular activities to achieve a positive outcome.
Risk 8: Mental health
Students may not experience an environment that is conducive to good mental health and wellbeing.
Risk 12: Cost Pressure
Students may not have equal opportunity to progress to an outcome they consider to be a positive reflection of their higher education experience.

We particularly aim to support more students from key target groups

- 1) To reduce the ethnicity gap of entrants between white students and other ethnic groups and full-time programmes.
- 2) To reduce the non-continuation gap for full-time students from IMD quintiles 1 or 2 and male and IMD quintiles 3,4 and 5 male.
- 3) To reduce the non-continuation gap for full-time students from IMD quintiles 2 and IMD quintiles 5.
- 4) To eliminate the non-completion gap for full-time students with a reported disability.
- 5) To eliminate the attainment gap between young students and mature students.

Fees we charge

At the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group, the maximum fees charged are £7400 for full-time students and £4,958 for part-time students

You can see a full list of fees for courses at the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group at [Courses and Fees](#)

Financial help available

The Heart of Yorkshire Education Group has a strong commitment to widening access to higher education. We have a range of bursaries and scholarships to support eligible students starting a higher education course. Please note the following financial support available which may not necessarily be targeted for access and participation. Full details are on our website [Financial Support](#)

The support includes:

- **Care Experienced Bursary** - This award will be made to any home student who has left local authority care in the 2 years prior to enrolment on the first year of study, irrespective of postcode. This is a non-means assessed bursary. It will be awarded as follows: A £1,500 cash award in each year of study (excluding any repeat year), which is available to home students on full-time or part-time programmes of study. Students receiving this bursary are ineligible for a financial support bursary.
- **Care Giver Bursary** - This award will be made to any home student who is a carer for a family member with long term ill-health or disability. A cash award of up to £1,000 in each year of study (excluding any repeat year), which is available to home students on full-time or part-time programmes of study. Students receiving this bursary are ineligible for the financial support bursary.
- **Financial Support Bursary** - This award will be available to any home student in receipt of a student loan for their tuition fees, with a household income of up to £25,000 and that meet all other eligibility criteria. It will be awarded as a £500 cash award in the first year of study at Level 4 only.
- **Achievement Scholarship** - This award will be available to any home student who has achieved ABB (or equivalent) at Advanced Level. This is a non-means assessed scholarship and will be awarded as follows: A maximum individual cash scholarship of £500 which is available to home students starting fulltime and part-time programmes of study at level 4 within the scope of this agreement.

Information for students

Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support from our website, at in-person events, such as our open days, individual meetings with our staff, and by email communications.

Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available through individual meetings with our staff and emails.

For the most up-to-date information, see our website <https://www.heartofyorkshire.ac.uk/higher-education>

What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall aim is to support students living in our region to access higher education and skills. As many of our students want to study and then work locally this will help to avoid higher-level skills shortages in our Districts. Our ambition is to build on the progress we have already made in recent years, particularly in supporting more students from disadvantaged areas to participate and succeed in Higher Education.

We also want to provide an environment where students at the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group can achieve their full potential. The Group is committed to maintaining and improving access to Higher Education for all underrepresented groups and to develop its outreach, success and progression activities, both independently and in collaboration with partners such as local schools, partner colleges and the Uni Connect Programme.

How students can get involved

HE student representatives participate in key meetings such as the HE Student Committee, included in the HE Enhancement Panel, which evaluates the quality of provision and provides a forum for consulting on the HE Action Plan overseeing the implementation of the Access and Participation Plan. This panel includes ongoing briefing related to the widening participation profile of the college's HE cohort and impact of widening participation activities, with feedback from the Student Committee on proposed initiatives.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our programmes of activity are increasingly informed by the evidence available to us about what works for students. We will collect data and feedback to evaluate:

- our programme design
- the impact of the programme of activity we are doing to achieve our aims
- the actions outlined in our plan

The HE Participation committee and HE Student committee will monitor and report on the evaluation of the programme to the HE Quality and Standards Committee. The HE Quality and Standards Committee is responsible for judging the progress made and impact of our actions and recommending changes to our planned interventions in the best interests of our students.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Stephen Mulligan @ s.mulligan@heartofyorkshire.ac.uk for further information.