

Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 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 Cliff College at <https://www.cliffcollege.ac.uk/assets/downloadables/Cliff-College-APP-2025-26-to-2028-29.pdf>.

Key points

Cliff College is a small, specialist higher education provider offering programmes in theology and mission validated by the University of Manchester. We fully recognise that our small size and single-subject provision places boundaries on our impact as a higher education provider. However, within our area of specialism, and among our networks of influence, we aim to use our resources strategically to nurture ambition and multiply educational opportunities

See pages 1–4 of the full plan

The College is committed to widening participation and supporting student success, especially for:

- Ethnic minority groups
- Socio-economically disadvantaged students
- Mature students and students with parental responsibilities
- Students who have a disability

Cliff College has identified key risks to equality of opportunity and is implementing targeted strategies to address these risks across the student lifecycle of access, success, and progression.

Fees we charge

Fees charged for the 2025-26 academic year are:

- £9,000 for full-time undergraduate students
- £4,500 for part-time undergraduate students.

See page 29 of the full plan

Fees may increase annually in line with inflation, within the tuition fee cap.



You can see a full list of fees for courses at Cliff College at <https://www.cliffcollege.ac.uk/study/fees-finance>

Financial help available

We offer a range of financial support to help students access our provision and continue studying until their course is completed. This support includes:

See page 28 of the full plan

Support Name	Eligibility	Amount
Open Day Bursary	UK-based prospective students	Up to £40 travel + 1 night stay
Foundations Unit Scholarship	Ethnic minority, low-income, or mature students	£400 (one-off)
Cliff Year Bursary	Ethnic minority or low-income students	£400 (one-off)
Access to Study Bursary	Low-income students	£1,500 (FT) / £750 (PT) annually
Cliff Diversity Scholarship	Ethnic minority students	£1,500 (FT) / £750 (PT) annually
Study Support Bursary	Mature students or carers (means-tested)	£500–£1,000 (FT) / £250–£500 (PT)
Disability Support Bursary	Students with disabilities (means-tested)	£250–£1,000 annually



You can see more information about financial support for our programmes at <https://www.cliffcollege.ac.uk/study/fees-finance/bursaries-and-financial-support>

Information for students

See page 27 of the full plan

Cliff College ensures that information about fees and financial support is:

- Clearly presented on a dedicated webpage;
- Shared at Open Days and during the application process;
- Included in welcome packs for new students; and
- Available throughout the course via the student portal and communications.

Staff are available to help students understand and apply for financial support.

What we are aiming to achieve

See page 4 of the full plan

We have set four main objectives for 2025–2029:

1. Increase the proportion of students from an ethnic minority background to 18.5%;
2. Increase the proportion of part-time undergraduate students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to 16%;
3. Improve continuation and completion rates for mature students to 95% (full-time) and 90% (part-time); and
4. Raise attainment of first or upper-second class degrees for students who have a disability to 75%.

These goals reflect the College's commitment to inclusive education and long-term student success.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

See pages 5–24 of the full plan

We are implementing three main intervention strategies to support achievement of our targets:

1. **Access to Cliff**, including outreach and recruitment activities:
 - Storytelling campaigns ('Cliff Experience')
 - School and youth event engagement
 - Subsidised gap year and level 4 'Foundations' units
 - Financial support and staff training
2. **Success in Learning**, including activities that support student retention and achievement:
 - Study skills resources and personal tutors
 - Mental health and wellbeing support
 - Tools to track academic engagement
 - Community activities
3. **Positive Progression**, including activities that enhance outcomes for students with disabilities:
 - Personalised support plans and inclusive teaching and assessment strategies
 - Vocational placements and career guidance
 - Accessibility audits and improvements
 - Targeted financial support

These intervention strategies are designed to benefit all students, with a focus on those most at risk of disadvantage.

How students can get involved

See pages 25–26 of the full plan

We take a whole-provider approach, involving all staff and students in fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment. Students play a key role in shaping and evaluating our access and participation plan:

- The Student President was consulted during its development.
- Students contribute to storytelling, feedback, and programme reviews.
- Annual reports on progress are shared with students and published online.



To provide feedback, students can contact their Programme Representative, or the Student President, studentpresident@cliffcollege.ac.uk.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

See pages 26–27 of the full plan

We use a robust evaluation framework to track progress, including:

- Internal data analysis, reported to relevant academic committees.
- An annual schedule of monitoring and scrutiny by oversight and governance committees.
- External discussion with our validating partner, the University of Manchester.

Evaluation findings are shared with students via the virtual learning environment (CliffX) and published annually on a dedicated access and participation plan section of the College website.

Contact details for further information



You can contact Andrew Stobart at a.stobart@cliffcollege.ac.uk for further information.