

Cliff College

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 Cliff College at <https://www.cliffcollege.ac.uk/assets/downloadables/CliffCollege-APP-2020-21.pdf>.

Key points

The focus of our access and participation plan is on widening access and improving outcomes for specific underrepresented groups of students.

See pages 1 to 8 of the full plan

- Data shows that Cliff College performs in line with the national average in attracting students from low participation neighbourhoods, and above average in attracting mature students. Many of these students access their programmes part-time. The College has further work to do in attracting ethnic minority students.
- Data shows that there is a small attainment gap between white students and ethnic minority students.
- Most students continue into employment and/or further study.

The small absolute numbers of students overall at Cliff College (fewer than 100) should be noted, as this makes statistical analysis difficult.

Fees we charge

At Cliff College, the maximum fees charged are:

- £7,300 for full-time students
- £3,650 for part-time students.



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, particularly to assist students from underrepresented groups. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes:

See page 16 of the full plan

- **Access to Study** fee waiver of up to £1,500 annually, to support students from underrepresented groups
- A **Hardship Fund** to support students who experience financial hardship during their time at Cliff College.



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 20 of the full plan

- **Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support as part of the enquiry and application process, including at in-person events, such as our open days, on our website, in application materials and by email communications.
- **Current students** receive information about fees and financial support available through the College's VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) and by email communications.

What we are aiming to achieve

See page 12 of the full plan

Our overall aim is to support students to access higher education. We also want to create an environment where students at Cliff College can achieve their full potential.

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

- **State schools** – continue with current rate of over 95% of students from state schools
- **Low participation neighbourhoods** – increase the proportion of students from low participation neighbourhoods to 38% by 2024-25, and continue with the current attainment gap of 0%.
- **Ethnic minority students** – increase the proportion of ethnic minority students to 11% of the student body by 2024-25, and to reduce the attainment gap between ethnic minority students and white students to 1%.
- **Disabled students** – maintain the present proportion of students with disabilities (10%) and to reduce the attainment gap to 3% by 2024-25.
- **Mature students** – continue with over half of our undergraduate body as mature students, and to continue with 0% attainment gap.
- **Financial support** – increase the number of students in receipt of financial support.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

See pages 13-16 of the full plan

We have identified the following strategic measures to support achievement of our aims and targets:

1. Targeted **recruitment activity** to maintain the high proportion of students at Cliff College from state schools.
2. Use of the **short course programme** at Cliff College to reach out to underrepresented groups and provide a bridge for those with minimal prior academic experience into higher education.
3. Facilitate **non-standard entry process** for prospective students who do not have level 3 qualifications.
4. Develop **closer partnerships with ethnic minority churches** to encourage consideration of Cliff College by potential ethnic minority students.
5. Provide **additional academic support** for students who have disabilities or specific needs, or who are not progressing as well as their peers in order to close attainment gaps.
6. Invest strategically in **financial support** for students, including fee waivers and hardship funds.

How students can get involved

See pages 16-17 of the full plan

We worked with the student body, through the Student President, to gather input and feedback in the design of our Access and Participation Plan. The Academic Board and the Cliff College Committee, both of which have student representation, are responsible for the implementation of the plan.



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 17-20 of the full plan

The College's evaluation strategy is based on the monitoring of datasets that measure admission, progression and attainment, as well as student feedback and evaluation. Progress against the access and participation plan will be monitored at the biannual Board of Studies, which reports to the Academic Board, and, in turn, the Cliff College Committee (the College's governing body). 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



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