

Lincoln College

Summary of 2025/26 to 2028/29 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation sets out provisions that will be meaningful and effective in promoting equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups, as determined by the Office for Students.

You can see the full access and participation plan for Lincoln College at [Lincoln College University Centre Policies & Documents](#)

Key points

Lincoln College Group encompasses Lincoln and Newark colleges and ASI (Newark), which deliver technical training courses, apprenticeships, T Levels, A Levels, Higher Education courses and commercial training to around 12,000 students and apprentices every year.

We are committed to ensuring that every individual capable of studying to degree level is able to do so regardless of their circumstances or background ensuring that all students have equality of opportunity to access, succeed in and progress beyond Higher Education to reach their full potential.

Our assessment of performance highlighted risks of equality of opportunity for some underrepresented groups across the student life cycle including access, success and progression.

See pages 1 to 6 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

Our maximum fee for full time provision is £9250 per year and £5500 per year for part time courses. Our most up to date fees are published on our website at [Lincoln College University Centre Policies & Documents](#)

See page 42 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Financial help available

We offer a range of bursaries and scholarships to underrepresented students as part of our commitment to equality of opportunity addressed in our access and participation plan:

Scholarships - Two course fee scholarships are available for Asian, Black, Mixed and Other ethnicity (ABMO) students for the full course fee up to the total of £9250 per annum for the expected duration of their programme.

Two course fee scholarships are available for students from an identified low socio-economic postcode area for the full course fee up to the total of £9250 per annum for the expected duration of their programme.

Access Scholarship - Students must satisfy the following criteria in order to qualify for the 'Access Scholarship':

- Studying an undergraduate course that is not funded by an employer or sponsor and have a household income (as assessed by an awarding authority such as Student Finance England) of £25,000 or less. Eligible students will be awarded the scholarship at the following rates according to their enrolled mode of study: Part time £150, Full time £300.

Success Fund - Students that find themselves in financial hardship during the academic year can apply to the Success Fund. This fund exists to support students on programme and allows intervention where a student may be considering giving up their course because of financial difficulties. The level of the award is at the discretion of the College and subject to funds available, access and participation criteria will be used to prioritise awards.

Travel Bursary – Aimed at supporting students from specific underrepresented target groups and those that face financial pressures traveling to study their course/course related activity. The level of the award is at the discretion of the College and subject to funds available, access and participation criteria will be used to prioritise awards.

The Career Degree Bursary - There will be a number of bursaries available each academic year to support targeted groups to gain additional qualifications, accreditations and industry specific development in order to enhance their employability. The maximum award is £200 per student, access and participation criteria will be used to prioritise awards.

Disabled Student Allowance - The Disabled Student Allowance can provide additional support to help students with diagnosed conditions with their studies. The college provides support towards costs of assessment and some equipment.

See page 24 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

We are committed to ensuring information regarding fees and financial support packages available to underrepresented groups is communicated effectively to students. This information is published on our website, in our Higher Education Student Handbook and via individual communications.

See page 29 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

Our access and participation plan focuses on ensuring underrepresented groups are supported across the student life cycle, addressing inequalities of opportunity for the following groups:

Access – To increase the number of ABMO students and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Attainment – To increase attainment of 1st or 2:1 degree classification for students with a declared disability and male students.

Continuation – To improve the continuation rates of ABMO students and those with a declared disability.

Completion – To improve completion rates for male students and those students previously eligible for Free School Meals which is used as a measure of deprivation.

Progression – To improve outcomes for students from lower socio-economic backgrounds, mature students and those with a declared disability.

We identified seven underlying risks which are likely to be contributing to these inequalities:

1. Knowledge and Skills
2. Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)
3. Perception of Higher Education
4. Insufficient Personalised Academic and Non-Academic Support
5. Belonging
6. Cost Pressures
7. Insufficient Opportunity to Progress to Highly Skilled Employment or Further Study

See pages 2 to 6 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are doing to address key risks to equality of opportunity

We have designed a number of intervention strategies to address and mitigate the identified underlying risks.

1. **Knowledge and Skills** – Some students may not have equal opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills required for successful higher education study. Our intervention

- strategy includes outreach activity to support students and their parents with their perceptions, knowledge and skills to aid progression into Higher Education.
2. **Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)** - Some students may not have equal opportunity to receive appropriate IAG to develop their ambition to study Higher Education. Our intervention strategy includes outreach activity and accessible one to one support throughout the decision making and application stages.
 3. **Perception of Higher Education** - Some students may not have equal opportunity to develop their ability and confidence to study Higher Education, their perception may be that Higher Education is not for them. Our intervention strategy includes outreach activity and accessible one to one support throughout the decision making and application stages.
 4. **Insufficient Personalised Academic and Non-Academic Support** - Some students may not have equal opportunity to access personalised support during their studies to enable them to succeed. Our intervention strategy includes the provision of personalised academic and wellbeing support.
 5. **Belonging** - Some students may find that the campus culture is not sufficiently inclusive to foster an environment conducive to positive mental health and a positive student experience. Our intervention strategy includes a comprehensive induction process, centralised Higher Education centre and Student Advisory Services with enhanced communications and accessibility.
 6. **Cost Pressures** - Increases in cost pressures such as travel may affect some student's ability to access, continue with and complete their studies, negatively impacting their academic success. Our intervention strategy includes a number of scholarships and bursaries to support students financially.
 7. **Insufficient Opportunity to Progress to Highly Skilled Employment or Further Study** - Some students may not have equal opportunity to access IAG to enable them to progress to an outcome as a positive reflection of their higher education studies. Our intervention strategy includes the provision of activities to enhance employability and access support.

See pages 6 to 23 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

Student involvement is vital for our access and participation work and students were consulted during the development of the access and participation plan. We encourage student engagement and feedback through established mechanisms including student surveys and the student representative programme.

See pages 27 to 28 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We will be engaged in ongoing monitoring and evaluation of our intervention strategies and will continuously reflect on and respond to evaluation findings to improve and develop our practices.

We will work with a data analysis company to develop an evaluation solutions strategy that is centred around a number of robust evaluation mechanisms. This will allow for the assessment of how far the intervention strategies meet the intended outcomes.

See pages 28 to 29 and 38 to 41 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact Holly Clayton at hclayton@lincolncollege.ac.uk for more information.