

## **Moulton College: summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 access and participation plan**

### **What is an access and participation plan?**

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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 our full access and participation plan at:

<https://www.moulton.ac.uk/assets/files/Higher-Education-Quality-Handbook/Access-and-Participation-Plan-2021-25.pdf>

### **Key points**

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Moulton College is located within Northamptonshire and is one of the UK's leading land-based colleges providing education and training from pre-entry to postgraduate degree level. The college enjoys superb facilities within a rural environment to offer the best chance for students and professionals to develop their skills and expertise.

Currently, approximately 230 students access our Higher Education provision for Sport, Land, Equine, Construction based courses each year. In 2021-22, 22% of our students were from underrepresented backgrounds and it is our goal to increase this percentage to at least 25% by 2025.

We are committed to increasing participation from under-represented communities and to improve success and progression. In so doing, we are closing attainment gaps of all key measures along the student cycle for those students from more disadvantaged communities. Due to our low student numbers, it can be difficult to gain statistical significance for a true comparison but, our current data shows that:

- underrepresented groups remain on their course as much as our white students do
- underrepresented groups achieve within 5% of white students
- Our Female students achieve 10% more than our male students
- Students with identified learning needs achieve as well as those who do not

### **Fees we charge**

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At Moulton College, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,000 for full-time undergraduate course, for example a *BSc (Hons)*
- £7,200 for full time HNC/D courses
- £2,400 to £3,600 for part-time HNC/D students (depending on year of entry)

Please see our full list of the fees that we charge for courses at Moulton College at

<https://www.moulton.ac.uk/he/fees-and-financial-support>

Please note that these fees are based on courses starting in September 2022. Fees may be subject to change for courses starting in September 2023.

## Financial help available

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In its agreement with the Office for Students, Moulton College is committed to offering a range of bursaries dependent upon entry qualifications and/or assessed on income:

- **Moulton College Bursary** - available to full-time students based on a household income assessment. Students with residual household income of less than £25,000 will be eligible for £1,000 towards study costs. Students with a household income of less than £42,600, but more than £25,000 will be eligible for £500 towards study costs.
- **Hardship Fund Bursary** - A limited discretionary fund has been created to help if students find themselves in dire financial need which could impact on their ability to continue their course. Eligibility will be based on an assessment of household income and outgoings. To be eligible to apply for a hardship award applicants must have a residual income of under £25,000 per annum. Within this bursary, Care Leavers can apply for support to enable on-site residence, and/or continuation or completion of their studies.

## Information for students

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- **Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open day events, and by email communications.
- **Current students** receive information about fees and the financial support available through our student portal, internal communications campaigns, and emails.
- **Student support** is available through our student wellbeing and welfare team and can be found at open day events or through direct contact via the college email.

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

## What we are aiming to achieve

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**Our overall aim** is to support more people to access Higher Education. Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

- To provide a curriculum, that is accessible and meets the needs of learners and employers, so that barriers to participation are significantly reduced and students can progress to or within their chosen careers.
- To improve the quality of teaching delivery supporting all lecturers to achieve Fellowship status, so that all students receive learning that is active and engaging, with assessment geared for learning and supporting successful outcomes, eliminating gaps in success and progression.
- To work with partners and colleagues in Further Education to enable greater numbers of those who have not historically accessed higher learning to progress and succeed in Higher Education.
- To create a supportive community of higher education learners wherein students can access appropriate levels of assessment and support so that they can thrive and succeed.
- To further develop collaborative partnerships to reduce barriers for care leavers to access higher education.

## What we are doing to achieve our aims

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We have identified the following activity to support achievement of our aims and targets.

- Engage more with **external partners** to collaborate on reducing the barriers to higher education, support success in the chosen course of study, or progression to employment or further study.
- Developing our **work with schools** – Supporting more pupils from identified underrepresented groups to aspire towards attainment of good grades and progress to study for a higher education qualification.
- Reviewing our current Full Time and Part Time qualifications and ensure that they are all fit for purpose and delivered in a manner that allows fair access and **flexibility in learning**.
- Offering **financial support**, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England.
- Developing a **Success Coach** role to join our Higher Education team, targeting and supporting underrepresented groups to be confident and achieve well.

## How students can get involved

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We are committed to working with student representatives to gather input into the design and success of our access and participation plan. Students will be asked to attend our *Access and Participation Plan Working Group* which is responsible for overseeing implementation of the plan.

To provide feedback or to become involved in this work, students can contact the *Director of Quality and Higher Education* at [HE@moulton.ac.uk](mailto:HE@moulton.ac.uk)

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

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Our programmes of activity are informed by the best available evidence about what works for students. We will collect data, and the voice of our stakeholders, to evaluate:

- Our annual curriculum planning process
- The outcome data for all groups of students, to ensure we are reducing achievement gaps
- The success of our programmes in assisting students to progress
- The success of our action plan, containing the five points listed above.

We have a group of staff and students committed to monitoring the progress of the Access and Participation Plan who will monitor and report on these processes to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee. They will oversee implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against yearly milestones in our access and participation plan, and 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. We will publish evidence from our evaluations on our website (<https://moulton.ac.uk>) by July 2024.

## Contact details for further information

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You can contact our *Director of Quality and Higher Education*, using the [HE@moulton.ac.uk](mailto:HE@moulton.ac.uk) email address for further information.