

Bishop Burton College

Summary of 2025-2029 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 Bishop Burton College at

<https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/uploads/files/Our-Policies-and-Procedures/Higher-Education-Policies-and-Procedures/Access-and-Participation-Plan-2025-26-to-2028-29.pdf>

Key points

Bishop Burton College is a specialist land-based college, with campuses located in the East Riding of Yorkshire and in Lincolnshire. The college offers a range of further and higher education programmes, including agriculture, animal, equine and bioveterinary sciences, ecology and conservation, sport science, floristry and initial teacher training. The majority of students are under 21 years of age (67%), and most are enrolled on a first degree or foundation degree programme.

Through our assessment of performance, we have identified low numbers of care-experienced students and students eligible for free school meals enrolling at the college. We have also identified that lower numbers of students from deprived areas successfully complete their programme of study. These are the main areas of focus of this access and participation plan.

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

Fees we charge

The maximum fees for full-time degree programmes is £8950 per annum, and for full-time higher national certificate/diploma programmes is £7500.

The maximum fees for part-time degree programmes is £5966, and for part-time higher national certificates/diploma programmes is £3750.

More information can also be found at the following link: <https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/university-centre/information/fees-and-finance>

See page 37 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Financial help available

We offer financial support to eligible students via our HE Support Funds policy. Information regarding financial support and eligibility criteria can be found on the College website at the following link: <https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/university-centre/information/fees-and-finance>

Students may be eligible for the following financial support:

1. Cash bursaries for eligible students including:

- Students from low-income backgrounds
- Students from areas of low-participation in higher education
- Disabled students
- Care experienced and carers
- Students eligible for free school meals

- Black, Asian or minority ethnic students
 - Students with children (especially lone parents)
2. Student Opportunity (Hardship) Fund- a discretionary bursary aimed at supporting eligible students that are in financial hardship.
 3. Childcare Bursary- an award for eligible students with children under the age of five.
 4. Employability Bursary- a bursary is aimed at supporting eligible students to complete additional qualifications or engage in industry specific qualifications which will support career opportunities.

Students can apply for bursary each year of the plan and will be eligible for a maximum of £2000 cash bursary, depending on personal characteristics and circumstances.

See page 26 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

We provide financial information for current and prospective students on the college website at the following link: <https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/university-centre/information/fees-and-finance>

Individual course fees are advertised on course pages on the College website, and students are provided with information during open days, induction and enrolment activities.

See page 26 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

We are aiming to achieve improvements in the following areas through this access and participation plan:

1. Increase the number of enrolments from students eligible for free school meals
2. Increase the number of enrolments from care-experienced students
3. Improve completion rates of students from areas of low-participation in higher education
4. Improve the number of young students achieving high grades

See pages 6-9 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

One of the main areas of activity will be improved information, advice and guidance for both care-experienced students and students eligible for free school meals. We will provide this through targeted work with schools, on-campus events and provision of guidance to parents/carers and teachers. We will provide financial support for both care-experienced students and students eligible for free school meals.

To improve student success and successful completion of studies, we will enhance our life-coaching activities for students enrolled at the college. This activity will focus on pastoral, academic and learning support for students in the target groups. We will further seek to improve mental health support for students through this service.

We will seek feedback from eligible students relating to barriers facing them when applying to higher education, and will support staff training to ensure students receive appropriate support.

See pages 10-16 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

Students have had the opportunity to contribute to the setting of targets identified above via focus groups and other feedback opportunities. Students will be involved in the monitoring of this access and participation plan through membership of groups responsible for reporting of progress.

We are committed to growing our population of student ambassadors to promote and assist with the activities described in the intervention strategies. Where possible, students will represent target groups and will be supported by initial and ongoing training to support their participation.

See pages 23-24 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We will evaluate our activities against the TASO (Transforming Access and Student Outcomes in Higher Education) framework. TASO is an independent resource for higher education professionals to access research, toolkits and evaluation guidance. We will use a combination of surveys, enrolment data, and student outcomes data to evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention strategies.

Progress will be reported through the college committee structure and will be published in an annual report.

See pages 13-22 and 24-25 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

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The full access and participation plan is available on the College website at the following link:

<https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/uploads/files/Our-Policies-and-Procedures/Higher-Education-Policies-and-Procedures/Access-and-Participation-Plan-2025-26-to-2028-29.pdf>