

AECC University College

Summary of 2020-2025 Access and Participation Plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan sets out how a higher education provider will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress after university. You can see the full access and participation plan for AECC University College at <https://www.aecc.ac.uk/about/how-we-work/latest-policies/>

Key points

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

Data shows that students from low participation neighbourhoods are less likely to apply to AECC University College. Students with a disability, care leavers and those from Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority backgrounds are also less likely to enter the University College.

Students are less likely to complete their studies if they come from a neighbourhood where not many people go on to higher education or they have a disability. From the limited data we have, Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority students are less likely to progress into a chiropractic role.

Fees we charge

At AECC University College, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,250 for full-time students

You can see a full list of fees for courses at AECC University College at <https://www.aecc.ac.uk/about/how-we-work/latest-policies/>

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups who meet eligibility criteria in our bursaries and scholarships policy. This helps students to access higher education and to continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes:

- An **annual bursary** of £2,000 for the duration of the course to students from low income backgrounds. For 2022-23 this will be used to support the 15 students with the lowest income.
- A **diagnostic kit bursary** awarded to all students with a household income of less than £25,000 to support them with equipment needed for the chiropractic course

We evaluate our financial support for students on an annual basis using the [Office for Students \(OfS\) toolkit](#). Using feedback from students we review our offering to overcome barriers where we can. You can read more about our current financial support provision in our bursaries and scholarship policy on our [webpage](#).

Information for students

- Prospective students receive information, including updates on fees and financial support at events such as open days.
- Applicants and offer holders receive information including a student agreement setting out our terms and conditions and information about any costs associated with their course.
- Current students receive information through our virtual learning environment, and through email communications.
- Care leavers and students estranged from their families can find information on our website.

Updated information on fees and financial support for students is published on the policies page on our webpage <https://www.aecc.ac.uk/about/how-we-work/latest-policies/>

What we are aiming to achieve

Our aim is to widen access to AECC University College. As we do this we will foster an environment where all current students can reach their potential and succeed in their studies. We are committed to supporting our students in seeking employment or progressing to further study.

Based on our assessment of performance, we have chosen to focus on the following areas:

Supporting attainment at school and access to Higher Education

We work with schools to support attainment in health, social and sport sciences and will look to extend this within the core science subjects.

By 2024-5 we will increase the number of students from low participation neighbourhoods, Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority backgrounds, and with a disability entering our University College:

- Comparing geographical areas where students are most and least likely to go to university, we aim to reduce the gap to 18%.
- We aim to increase the number of students entering with a disability to 15% of our student population.
- We aim to increase the number of Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority students entering by 15%.
- We acknowledge we have small numbers of care leavers studying with us and are committed to increasing this.

For our students from low participation neighbourhoods, Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority students and those with a disability, by 2024-5 we aim to:

- eliminate the gap in continuation for students from low participation (from 3%) and for those with a disability (from 5%).
- eliminate the gap in progression for Black, Asian and students from an Ethnic Minority background.

Diversifying our provision

We are investigating ways to diversify our offer within the health sciences, including foundation degrees and apprenticeships, allowing us to meet a gap in provision of apprenticeships in allied health professions. This is subject to gaining entry onto the apprenticeship register.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

To achieve our aims, we will be focussing on the following areas of activity:

- We have an established programme of activities with local schools and partners, which we will extend to support **attainment in science**
- We are developing our partnership working with local primary schools, including development of a **forest school** onsite
- We are extending our support for students transitioning into higher education, and will be piloting **peer assisted learning**
- Following the implementation of contextual admissions, we will monitor progress of **students with a contextual offer**, ensuring we support all students to reach their potential
- In our review of digital teaching and learning we will focus on accessibility for all students
- We are implementing procedures to check our **curriculum is inclusive** for all students
- We will review our **financial support offer** and determine if this is still meeting students' needs

How students can get involved

We work collaboratively with the AECC Students' Union, student champions and our Specialist Student Ambassador team on our Access and Participation Plan. These groups are represented on our Access and Participation Steering Group which oversees the plan. Students who would like to get involved can contact our Access and Participation Manager, Lisa Bates at lbates@aecc.ac.uk

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our programme of access activities is based on the evidence of what works best for students, including our taster days and summer schools. We use published literature to support our practise to improve student transition to university, success and progression.

We will collect data to evaluate:

- the design and delivery of our activities
- the impact of our activities
- our overall aims of widening access to the institution and supporting student success

The Access and Participation Steering Group, a group of staff and students, review and monitor progress at quarterly steering group meetings. Where necessary, we adapt our activities to ensure they meet the needs of both prospective and current students.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Lisa Bates, Access and Participation Manager at lbates@aecc.ac.uk for further information.