

East Lancashire Learning Group

Summary of 2024-25 to 2027-28 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan 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 East Lancashire Learning Group at www.eastlancslearning.ac.uk.

Key points

The purpose of Access and Participation Plans is to promote equality in Higher Education by taking deliberate steps to help students from groups that are underrepresented in English Higher Education to enter appropriate courses, succeed and progress into high value employment.

The Group already outperforms the wider sector in many areas of supporting underrepresented groups. It has, however, identified targeted areas where it could promote Higher Education in general and further enhance opportunity and success for particular groups. These actions are set out in pages 7-28 of the plan, and the evidence base behind them is set out in Appendix A.

Fees we charge

The Group currently charges £9,000 per year for all full-time programmes of regulated Higher Education. It does not currently offer accelerated or sandwich programmes but should it do so accelerated programmes would be charged at £10,800 per year and the sandwich year at £1,800.

Part-time programmes are charged pro-rata for the volume of study undertaken at the same rate per full-time equivalent as full-time programmes.

The Group reserves the right to increase fees annually in line with RPIX (the Retail Price Index excluding mortgage interest), subject to any applicable legal maxima.

See page 72 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Financial help available

The Group operates a Higher Education Support Fund to which students may apply for financial help. The fund is open to all students but is cash-limited to a fixed proportion of applicable Group income and subject to detailed eligibility criteria.

An outline of the fund and its eligibility criteria can be found on pages 31-32 of the access and participation plan.

Information for students

Details of the Access and Participation Plan itself will be published on the Group's external websites, in applicant literature, in induction literature, on student VLE pages, and in student inductions and tutorials. Performance on the Plan will be shared with the Student Council and the APP Monitoring Team. Evaluation and Review of the Plan will be shared with the Student Council and the APP Monitoring Team

See page 31 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

The underlying thinking behind our plan is to take actions to maximise the opportunities available to our local communities and to support students into, through and beyond Higher Education. The details of the targets we have set ourselves and the reasoning behind them are set out in pages 7-28 of the plan and are summarised on page 74.

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

Our plans are set out in detail in pages 7-28 of the access and participation plan.

How students can get involved

The principal way students can get involved in the plan is through the Student Council. This is made up of representatives from every Higher Education programme. Students can volunteer to become representatives, or can engage with the plan by talking to their programme representative.

There is also an opportunity for a small number of students to engage directly with the monitoring, evaluation and enhancement of the plan by becoming members of a staff-student APP Monitoring Team.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Each of the Group's planned interventions has an accompanying evaluation strategy by which it will measure the impact of the actions taken over time. These measures and their evaluation strategies are set out in pages 7-28 of the plan. The evaluation methods chosen for each intervention aim to gather information to enable the Group to determine the extent to which its actions are having the expected outcomes and to allow the plan to be updated in line with experience.

See pages 29-30 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Charlotte Scheffmann
Dean of Higher Education
East Lancashire Learning Group
Scotland Road
Nelson
BB9 7YT
charlotte.scheffmann@eastlancslearning.ac.uk