

# Pearson College London

## Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 access and participation plan

### What is an access and participation plan?

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 the full access and participation plan for Pearson College London at the following link: <https://www.pearsoncollegelondon.ac.uk/about-us/governance/access-and-participation-plan.html>.

### Key points

Our access and participation plan sets out how we will improve outcomes for specific groups of students over the period 2020/21 – 2024/25. Research and data show that outcomes tend to be lower for certain groups of students, so this is where we have chosen to focus our plan. Because we are a small and relatively new College, in some cases we have relied on national trends to decide our approach, rather than our own data.

- Students are less likely to study with us if they come from a neighbourhood where young people are least likely to go on to higher education. These same students may also be more likely to drop out of their courses.
- Black students are more likely to drop out than other groups of students, and less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above once they complete their studies.
- Disabled students are less likely to achieve a 2:1 or above, compared with students who are not disabled.
- Students who are care leavers are less likely to study with us than other young people, and are more likely to drop out of their courses.

### Fees we charge

For the 2022/23 academic year, the maximum fee we charge is £9250 per year for undergraduate students. This may increase annually in line with the maximum fee cap set by the government. We publish [a summary of our fee levels every year](#).

### Financial help available

We offer financial help to some students from underrepresented groups. The following applies to UK undergraduate students only.

- **Travel grants** (paid travel expenses) for applicants to attend open days and admissions workshops if they are care experienced, have a household income below £25,000, are eligible for Free School Meals, or are from a neighbourhood where young people are least likely to go on to higher education.
- **Laptop loans** for care leavers, students who have a household income below £25,000, and students from neighbourhoods where young people are least likely to go on to higher education.
- A **bursary** of £1500 per year. The eligibility rules for the bursary will change for the 2023/24 academic year.
  - For new students starting in the 2023/24 academic year onwards, the bursary is available to care leavers, or to students who have a household income below £25,000 and who come from neighbourhoods which are the most deprived in the country, or where young people are least likely to go on to higher education.

- For current students who started their programmes in 2020/21 – 2022/23, the bursary is available to care leavers, and to all students who have a household income below £25,000.

## Information for students

- Prospective students and applicants get up-to-date information on fees and financial help at events such as open days and by email. In addition, there is a Fees and Funding section for every programme we advertise on our website, which sets out all the likely costs of studying with us.
- Current students get information about fees and financial help through emails and other communication channels.

## What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall aim is to support students to access higher education, and to create an environment where all students at Pearson College feel included and can achieve their full potential. Based on our data and national trends, we focus on the following areas, as these are where the biggest challenges exist:

- Students from neighbourhoods where young people are least likely to go on to higher education:
  - Increase the percentage of students we enrol who are from these neighbourhoods, to achieve a ratio of 3:1 between the most and the least represented neighbourhoods.
  - Increase the continuation rate (the percentage of students continuing to the next year of their course) to 90%.
- Care leavers:
  - Increase the percentage of care leavers we enrol to 1.1% of our undergraduate intake.
  - Increase the continuation rate to 80%.
- Black students:
  - Increase the continuation rate to 90%.
  - Increase the percentage of students achieving a degree award of 2:1 or above to 60%.
- Disabled students:
  - Increase the percentage of students achieving a degree award of 2:1 or above to 74%.

You can see our performance on these figures on the Office for Students [Access and Participation Data Dashboard](#).

## What we are doing to achieve our aims

To achieve the aims of our access and participation plan, we will:

1. Extend our outreach work with schools to raise attainment, build greater knowledge of creative and entrepreneurial careers, and support expectations of further study in higher education. We are forming new partnerships to collaborate with other universities and colleges to do this successfully.
2. Deliver new, targeted outreach specifically with care leavers, such as tutoring. We will work with Local Authorities and Virtual Schools to make this a successful and collaborative effort.
3. Review our admissions procedures, to ensure that these do not create barriers for students from underrepresented groups.
4. Create more flexible modes of learning, such as new short courses, to open up new opportunities for students who otherwise might not consider higher education.
5. Understand and transform our curriculum and student support provision, creating a supportive and inclusive learning community in which all students have equal opportunities to succeed.
6. Offer new, targeted student support, including study skills tutoring and mentorship.

7. Offer targeted financial support to reduce pressures on students from under-represented groups, allowing full participation in the learning and social life of the College.
8. Improve our data systems to allow faster, more effective support for students who may be struggling academically or with their wellbeing.

## **How students can get involved**

There are many ways our students can get involved with the access and participation plan:

- We employ paid Student Inclusivity and Wellbeing Ambassadors as members of the team. They act as crucial links between other students and college staff, and they shape how we deliver our plan.
- The committees which govern the work of the College include student representatives, who were involved in the development of our plan.
- At programme-level Student Voice Fora, student representatives provide feedback on the student experience.
- The Pearson College Student Association represents the student body, and has a role in our access and participation plan activity.

If you are a student who would like to get involved in access and participation at Pearson College, you can contact [access@pearsoncollegelondon.ac.uk](mailto:access@pearsoncollegelondon.ac.uk) for more information.

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

The strategies set out in our access and participation plan were informed by evidence on effective approaches to achieving our aims, together with data analysis on our current performance.

We will continuously collect data on the activities we deliver as part of our plan, and on outcomes for students who participate. We will use these data to produce evidence of whether these activities achieve their intended impact. For example, using surveys, we assess whether children who participated in an outreach programme changed in their attitudes to learning, and we subscribe to a tracking service with which we measure whether they later went on to higher education. Where possible, we use external services to evaluate our activities, to ensure that this evaluation is independent.

One reason why we measure impact is to improve our own performance, adjusting our activities where necessary in the best interests of students. Another reason is to provide reliable evidence from which other colleges, universities and researchers can learn in future. To support this, we share evaluation reports with public bodies who review, study and publish this evidence. We will also publish evaluation reports on our website by January 2024.

## **Contact details for further information**

If you would like further information on our access and participation plan, you can contact [access@pearsoncollegelondon.ac.uk](mailto:access@pearsoncollegelondon.ac.uk).