

# DN Colleges Group: Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 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 DN Colleges Group at [DN-Colleges-Group-2025-2026-to-2028-2029-Access-and-Participation-Plan.pdf](#)

## Key points

DN Colleges Group (DNCG) was established in November 2017 following the merger of Doncaster College and North Lindsey College. DNCG is a mixed economy college and a significant regional provider of education and training across Yorkshire and the Humber, operating from two main sites in Scunthorpe and Doncaster. Provision includes further education (FE), higher education (HE), adult learning programmes, apprenticeships and programmes for students with high needs.

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes for specific groups of students. Data shows that, compared to their peers at DNCG, outcomes are lower for certain groups of students in the rates of access, success and progression. See pages [1 – 9] in the access and participation plan and pages [2 – 21] in Annex A: Assessment of Performance.

In the full plan there is a summary of our biggest risks to equality of opportunity on pages [3 – 6] and mapped against the OfS Equality Risk Register pages [7 – 8].

The analysis of the data also showed that there were signs of indicators of risk to opportunity to some other student groups, which is outlined in the Other Identified Risks section, pages [9 – 13] of the full plan, and will be monitored and evaluated throughout the duration of the plan.

We aim to improve the outcomes for these student groups by delivering a range of support activities as outlined in the Intervention Strategy section of the full plan on pages [15 -24].

## Fees we charge

At DNCG, the maximum fees charged for the majority of courses are:

- £7,940 for full-time students
- £3,970 for part-time students.

You can see a full list of fees for courses for 2024-25 at DNCG at [DN-Colleges-Group-2025-2026-to-2028-2029-Access-and-Participation-Plan.pdf](#) and in the APP Annex document.

## Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups to help them to access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes:

- A range of targeted bursaries and financial help to support specific student groups such as the **Care Experienced Bursary; Low Income Bursary; HE Mentoring Employment Scheme; Fee Waivers; DSA Equipment Allowance and Dyslexia Screening Allowance.**
- **Student Opportunity Fund / Hardship Loan:** To assist eligible, HE students who are facing financial hardship and difficulty. A non-repayable payment that is dependent upon personal circumstances.

Further information of the Financial Support available can be found on page [26] of the access and participation plan.

## Information for students

**Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support through a range of media including college websites, at in-person events, such as our open days, pre-entry financial information workshops and newsletters, by email communications, finance department and the University Campuses Information and Advice Offices.

**Current students** receive information about fees and the financial support available through our student portal on Canvas, internal communications campaigns including financial information workshops, programme handbooks, emails, finance department and the University Campuses Information and Advice Offices. See pages [26: 27:31] of the full plan.

**For the most up-to-date information, see our website(s) at [University Campus Doncaster – Financial Help](#) and [University Campus North Lincolnshire – Financial Help DN-Colleges-Fee Summary 2425 10004695.pdf](#)**

## What we are aiming to achieve

**Our overall aim** is to provide excellent, flexible and relevant education and apprenticeships which is accessible to all and provide support to students to access, succeed and progress from higher education. We want to create an environment where all students at DNCG can achieve their full potential.

Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following student groups that are at greatest risk to equality of opportunity at DNCG, at different stages of the student lifecycle, and on which to focus our work:

- Full-Time First Degree and Other Undergraduate Female students accessing STEM subjects.
- Full-Time First Degree and Other Undergraduate Care Experienced students accessing higher education at DNCG.
- Full-Time First Degree and Other Undergraduate White, Male, IMD (2019) Quintile 1 students accessing higher education at DNCG, continuing in their studies and completing their studies with a higher education qualification.
- Full-Time First Degree and Other Undergraduate IMD (2019) Quintile 1 students continuing and completing their studies with a higher education qualification.
- Full-Time First Degree and Other Undergraduate Students with a Disability completing their studies with a higher education qualification or attaining a 2:1 or above qualification.

Based on the assessment of performance we developed the following targets:

- **Target 1:** To increase the number of females who access STEM subjects, to 32 by 2029.
- **Target 2:** To increase the number of White Male Full-Time First Degree students attaining a 2:1 or above degree Classification compared to their Q5 counterparts, by reducing the gap to 5% by 2029.
- **Target 3:** To reduce the 18% gap between the number of IMD (2019) Quintile 1 Full-Time All Undergraduate students continuing in their studies compared to their Quintile 5 counterparts by 2029.
- **Target 4:** To reduce the Completion gap between those Full-Time First Degree students with a Disability and those with No Disability, by increasing the number of Disabled students that complete their studies to 73% by 2029.

Further information of the Objectives and Targets can be found on pages [5 -9] of the access and participation plan and on page 65 in the *Financial Investment and Targets Table*.

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

For each of the targets outlined above we have developed an Intervention Strategy which are summarised below:

- **Target 1 - Intervention strategy 1 (IS1): Outreach Children, Young People and Adults** - designed to reach individuals and groups in school and college settings. This will include Internal and External Outreach activities such as Level 3 Progression workshops, taster sessions, Open events and outreach activities. More targeted activities for the specific underrepresented groups identified will be developed and evaluated i.e. the increase in applications and enrolments of IMD Q1 (including White Males) students / Care Experienced students / Female students in STEM.
- **Target 1 - Intervention strategy 2 (IS2): Outreach non-educational settings and Communities** - Interventions designed to reach individuals and groups in settings outside of schools and colleges, for example, by working with community groups, Doncaster City Council and Scunthorpe leaving-care teams and through social media and targeted campaigns. This will include general outreach activity in non-educational settings, such as, workshops and taster sessions, alongside the development of targeted initiatives specifically designed for underrepresented groups identified throughout the duration of the plan.
- **Target 2, 3 and 4 - Intervention strategy 3 (IS3): Academic and Additional Support** – interventions designed to provide targeted support, removing barriers to student success and progression both pre and post enrolment. We have a centralised HE student support provision, who offer a range of workshops, one-to-one support and online resources. Specific targeted activities for our underrepresented groups of students will be developed, that will be aimed at increasing the continuation, completion and attainment of these students.

Further information of the Intervention Strategies can be found on pages [13 -24] of the access and participation plan.

## How students can get involved

Students will continue to be represented on our deliberative structures through the APP Working Group and Student Engagement and Experience Sub-Committee that will oversee the implementation and evaluation of the APP.

The wider student body will be informed on a regular basis of the developments and progress of the plan and interventions through the Student Society and Student Representatives.

See pages [27 - 28] of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

The APP Working Group will oversee implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against yearly milestones in our access and participation plan. We 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. The APP Working Group will report into the HE Teaching, Learning and Assessment Committee to ensure the evidence informs the development of curricula, support and student experience and then feeds into the HE Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). This then reports to the HE Academic Board, HE Performance and Quality (HEPQ) and DNCG Corporation Board. See pages [18 – 31] of the access and participation plan.

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