

Annex I: Plan summary

Exeter College

Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 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 Exeter College at [Exeter-College_APP_2025-26.pdf](#)

Key points

Exeter College is a highly successful, thriving and dynamic college which places teaching, learning and student success as our top priority.

We offer a range of academic and technical programmes to young people and adults across Exeter, Devon and beyond with a focus on level 4 and 5 provision across 6 main areas: Construction, Engineering, Sport, IT/Digital, Business and Health.

Based on our vision for access, success and progressions of our HE students our key areas we are seeking to improve are:

- Access – Increasing the proportion of students from identified priority groups accessing HE
- Success – Supporting all students to continue their programme and attain their intended qualifications with gaps in success between identified priority groups and other HE students reduced
- Completion – To reduce the gap in completion rates between full-time and part-time learners.
- Progression – The college is playing an active role in the formation of the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP). Working with our partnerships the successful progression of our learners into relevant employment, further academic study or starting their own enterprise continues to be a key driver for us as a college.

See pages 1,3 and 38 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

At Exeter College, the maximum fees charged for 2025-26 entrants are:

£8695 for Full-time students

£5463 for part-time students

We will not raise fees annually for 2024-25 new entrants

See page 42 of the access and participation plan for more information.

You can see a full list of fees for HE courses at Exeter College at [Fees and Funding - Exeter College](#)

Financial help available

We offer financial support to all our HE students and encourage applications from students from underrepresented groups.

A Financial support fund of up to £750, subject to a means testing process based on the balance between income and essential expenditure.

Priority groups include:

- Single parents;
- Mature students
- Disabled students; and
- Students from low-income families
- Care leavers*

*funding support for care leavers is a non-means tested bursary of £750 in every year of study.

See 6-27 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

- **Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as our open events, or they can contact our Adult Advice Hub via email, phone or in-person meetings with our Adult Advisors (face-to-face and online).
- **Current students** receive information about fees and the financial support available through our student portal, student handbook, internal communications campaigns from the Adult Advice Hub and Student Experience Lead and 1:1 information, advice, and guidance meetings.

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

Further information can be found on our website [Financial Support - Exeter College](#)

What we are aiming to achieve

Our overall aim is to support students to access higher education leading to skilled employment, with a focus on local skills needs.

Exeter College aims to provide a range of high-quality study opportunities with a focus on Higher Technical Qualifications that;

- are accessible to adult returners as well as school college leavers
- provide aspirational routes into high value professional and technical careers within the local region of learners.
- provide high-quality level 4 and 5 qualifications with clear routes into skilled employment or progression to level 6 and beyond.

Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following objectives;

- To increase the proportion of students from IMD (2019) Q1 entering higher education at Exeter College to 12% by 2028.
- To reduce the gap in participation between mature and young learners from 31.6pp to 9.6pp by 2028.

- To reduce the gap in continuation rates between full-time and part-time mature learners from 27.5pp to 0pp by 2028
- To increase continuation rates for students with a reported disability to 88% by 2028
- To reduce the gap in completion rates between full-time and part-time mature learners from 34.9pp to 15pp by 2028

See pages 1-3 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

We have identified the following programmes of activity to support achievement of our aims and targets.

- Raise the aspirations of learners from low-income areas and mature learners by promoting career change and development opportunities provided by higher level technical courses aimed at supporting local and regional skills needs.

To increase continuation and completion rates for mature and disabled students by;

- Engaging students in their own development of personal, social, and professional skills through our online Wrap Around for Adults and Apprentices (WRAAP) platform.
- Enhancing support for successful outcomes through information, advice, and guidance for prospective and current students through our Adult Learning Hub, Adult Advisors, Disability Support Coordinator and Student Experience Lead and Employability and Enterprise Advisor.
- Offering financial support, including bursaries and hardship funding for eligible students, and practical support for students applying to Student Finance England and the Disabled Student Allowance

See pages 3-27 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

The College consults with students in relation to plans for enhancing access, success and progression using the system of Student Representatives.

Students will be made aware of the outcomes of monitoring, evaluation, and review processes through HE Student Voice activities.

To provide feedback, students can contact our [Student Experience Lead](#)

See page 28 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We will be engaged in ongoing monitoring and evaluation of our intervention strategies and will continuously reflect on and respond to evaluation findings to improve and develop our practices. To facilitate monitoring we will review both quantitative and qualitative outcomes of evaluation activity.

The College will produce an annual report against targets which will feed into governance via the Quality Annual Review and Self-Assessment Report process.

We are committed to improving our data access and will work with our university partners to share data and evaluation where possible.

See pages 4-29 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

For further information on our Access and Participation plan please contact our Adult Quality and Student Experience Manager, Marianne Readman, at mariannereadman@exe-coll.ac.uk or more information.