
Condition A2: Access and Participation Statement

Background

City of Bristol College is a large further education college situated on four sites in Bristol. The college offers more than 1,000 courses from entry to degree level and offers the widest range of academic and vocational qualifications in the South West. The college caters for learners of all ages and backgrounds, including 16 to 18-year-olds, adult learners, apprentices and higher education (HE) students. The college's industry-standard facilities and specialist teaching staff help us provide education and training to more than 11,000 learners each year.

The College contributes to the prosperity of the city and the wider region as a key provider of high quality education, training and skills development. The University Centre at City of Bristol College has many of the significant features in place to ensure further HE success, for example, a long history and good reputation for HE provision. The College was last visited by the QAA in November 2015 and met all of the UK expectations.

The College was awarded a silver in the Teaching Excellence Framework in 2017. The University Centre offers a wide range of approved higher level and professional courses across a range of subjects. Higher Education is delivered in a professional and supportive environment with dedicated specialist teachers. Strong links with employers in a wide range of industries leads to 94% of the College's HE students progressing to work and/or further study, within six months of graduating.

The University Centre works with a range of Higher Education Institution partners (HEIs) and Awarding Organisations (AOs), with the majority of programmes being validated by Plymouth University (PU), followed by the University of the West of England (UWE), Pearson (P) and finally one validated programme each with University of Gloucestershire (UOG) and Bath Spa University (BSU).

Good relationships are fostered across all levels of the organisation and local communities. City of Bristol College sits in a prime strategic location to contribute to the development of the skills, knowledge and capability of the region's citizens, working alongside good quality schools and two prestigious universities. Through students' success, the College contributes to the wider West of England economy. The College is at the heart of the city's growth and development.

Bristol is the only UNESCO Learning City in England and the College is a key player in the Learning City. The College's role is to enable access to higher learning, employment, career progression and independence through the development of technical and vocational skills and professional behaviours. City of Bristol College is part of a diverse strategic and operational network of local and national organisations, including West of England Local Education Partnership, Learning Partnership West, Bristol City Council, Bristol Women's Commission, Safeguarding Children's Board, Prevent Regional Office – South West, Somerset and Avon Police, schools and universities and many more.

Demographics

The population of Bristol has become increasingly diverse and some local communities have changed significantly. There are now at least 45 religions, at least 187 countries of birth represented and at least 91 main languages spoken.

Bristol has a higher proportion of working age (16-64 year old) than the English and Welsh average – 68% of the total population in Bristol is of working age compared to 63% in England and Wales. The highest proportions are amongst the 20-30 year old category which make up 30% of Bristol's total population compared to 20% nationally. Many of these people in this age group will be students living in Bristol during term time.

The age profile within each ward also varies significantly. Wards where more than a quarter of the population is aged under 16 includes Lawrence Hill (26%), Filwood (26%) and Hartcliffe and Withywood (26%).

The Black or Minority Ethnic Group (BME) population (all groups with the exception of all the White groups) make up to 16% of the total population in Bristol. This is an increase from 8.2% of all people in 2001. 'White British' make up 78% of all people and 'White non-British' make up 6% of all people.

Widening Participation Priorities

City of Bristol College's widening participation priorities are as follows:

- Simple and affordable fee structure
- Effective and targeted marketing
- Fair and effective admissions process
- Tutorial and additional support to improve retention and achievement
- Flexibility of provision to enable growth
- Targeted aspiration building for potential students

Simple and Affordable Fee Structure

City of Bristol College aims to provide the best possible service for our learners while maintaining affordable tuition fees. The college offers value for money to encourage students from non traditional HE backgrounds to aspire to Higher Education.

Effective and Targeted Marketing

City of Bristol College delivers targeted marketing campaigns to different market segments, enabling potential students to access the College's HE offer. Testimonials reflecting a diverse range of HE students form a part of the College's HE marketing strategy and support widening participation initiatives. This is further enhanced by a range of open events and activities including the HE graduation ceremony and end of year shows. Internally, the College promotes HE progression routes to all students through a calendar of activities including tutorial sessions, careers appointments and Progression Festival activities.

Fair and Effective Admissions Process

Our Admissions Policy is regularly updated to ensure its fairness for applicants from all backgrounds and abilities. We employ a Widening Participation Officer and an Equality and Diversity Lead who are jointly responsible for reviewing, developing and ensuring that applicants and students from all backgrounds are provided with the same opportunities.

Tutorial and Additional Support to Improve Retention and Achievement

All full time HE programmes include a tutorial slot where a personal tutor will carry out one to one progress reviews with each student. Careers advice is also available through student services. In addition to this the college has Study Centres at each of the four sites with advisers who can support with study skills. Study Centres have extended opening hours to provide students with access to IT services and the internet. Students can also access University Partner libraries and resource centres. The college offers a dedicated welfare service for HE students. Students can self-refer or request referrals from their personal tutor. We carry out full DSA assessments for Higher Education students and appropriate support is put in place. Financial advice is available at each site.

Flexibility of Provision to Enable Growth

In order to grow HE there are a number of courses that offer flexible delivery models. The College's Curriculum Strategy aims to increase the offer for FE students to access HE across HNC, HND, Foundation Degree, BA and Higher / Degree level apprenticeships.

The College makes extensive use of its e-learning to provide materials for students. It is well used and remains a supportive tool to supplement the lecture materials.

Targeted Aspiration Building for Potential Students

City of Bristol College is a significant member of the Future Quest Consortium. A programme which encourages young people into education from backgrounds which are underrepresented. Members include UWE Bristol, University of Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College, South Bristol Youth, Bristol Learning City and the Local Enterprise Partnership.

The consortium aims to:

- Increase application rates from young people in target areas to HE.
- Improve academic attainment at Key Stage 4 and 5.
- Improve educational perseverance (positive transition from Key Stage 4 to HE pathway appropriate Key Stage 5, and continuation within Key Stage 5).
- Increase conversion post application to HE.

The College has a dedicated Future Quest Co-ordinator who works towards these aims by organising and offering opportunities to students.

Monitoring the Widening Participation Strategy

City of Bristol College is working to improve widening participation for all HE provision. It is part of the whole college strategic plan and success is monitored through retention and achievement data. The key performance indicators are monitored by the Strategic Leadership Team and the governing body.

Key Performance data for 17/18:

Retention	94%
Achievement (16/17)	93%
Attendance	90%

Updated: May 2018