

# Moorlands College

## Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 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 Moorlands College at <https://www.moorlands.ac.uk/about/academic-excellence/access-and-participation/>.

### Key points

Moorlands College is a small, specialist higher education provider with its main campus situated just outside Christchurch in Dorset. We offer undergraduate programmes in two areas of applied theology. In addition to this we also offer two different postgraduate programmes. We currently have around 100 full time undergraduate students as well as around 70 part-time postgraduates. Our undergraduate programmes may be studied campus-based, or in hybrid mode (a balance of online and residential).

As a College we are fully committed to supporting all our students both academically and pastorally, throughout their time with the College. The focus of our plan is on improving access and success in studies for specific groups of undergraduate students. These groups are students with disabilities (including those with a mental health condition), students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, and students of black, Asian, mixed or other minority ethnicity.

See pages 1 to 4 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### Fees we charge

At Moorlands College, the maximum fees charged for undergraduate studies in 2025-26 are:

- £9,535 for full-time students
- £7,145 for part-time students.

These amounts are applicable only for the stated academic year and are likely to rise in future years, normally in line with inflation.

You can see a full list of fees for undergraduate programmes at Moorlands College at <https://www.moorlands.ac.uk/study-with-us/applying/fees-finance/>.

### Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from the groups that our data shows are less likely to come to Moorlands or to achieve successful outcomes. This helps people access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. The support includes:

- **maintenance bursaries** for students from low-income backgrounds
- **support service grants** for professional help for students with declared disabilities (including those with a mental health condition or a Specific Learning Difference)
- means-assessed **hardship grants** (available to all students) for those experiencing financial hardship during their studies.

See pages 18 to 19 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 days, with full information always available on our website at <https://www.moorlands.ac.uk/study-with-us/applying/fees-finance/>.

Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available through our Virtual Learning Environment, internal communications and emails, with full information always available at <https://www.moorlands.ac.uk/study-with-us/applying/fees-finance/>.

See page 18 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### **What we are aiming to achieve**

Our data shows that, compared with their peers at Moorlands:

- students with a mental health condition are less likely to continue their studies, complete their studies or to achieve a degree award of 2.1 or above,
- students with disabilities are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2.1 or above,

and compared with other prospective students:

- students from a neighbourhood which has high indices of multiple deprivation are less likely to come to Moorlands to study,
- students of black, Asian, mixed, or other minority ethnicity are less likely to come to Moorlands to study.

Based on the above four bullet points, our access and participation plan has four objectives:

- enable greater success in studies for students with a mental health condition
- enable greater success in studies for students with disabilities
- enable greater access for students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds
- enable greater access for students of black, Asian, mixed, or other minority ethnicity.

Our access and participation plan sets measurable targets for each of these objectives. Most of the targets are based on the gap in percentage points (pp) between the disadvantaged group and their peers. Our targets across the four years of our plan are:

- for students with a mental health condition:
  - reduce the gap in continuation rate from 15pp to 11pp,
  - reduce the gap in completion rate from 18pp to 8pp,
  - reduce the gap in attainment rate from 24pp to 14pp;
- for students with disabilities: reduce the gap in attainment rate from 23pp to 13pp;
- reduce the gap between the proportion of Moorlands students from IMD<sup>1</sup> Q1 and IMD Q5 postcodes from 12pp to 8pp;

---

<sup>1</sup> Index of Multiple Deprivation; see <https://data.cdrc.ac.uk/dataset/index-multiple-deprivation-imd>

- increase the percentage of Moorlands students of black, Asian, mixed, or other minority ethnicity, from 11% to 15%.

See pages 3 to 4 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

We have put in place a number of activities which are specifically focused on addressing the objectives of our plan, beyond the regular activities of the College that enable and support students' studies. These are:

- a financial support package to contribute to the costs of counselling or similar professional services,
- a financial support package to contribute to the cost of obtaining a disability diagnosis,
- a financial support package to contribute to specific costs associated with a student's disability,
- additional personal tutor support time tailored to individual needs, for students with disabilities, as identified by the Learning Assistance Department,
- increased support for accessing academic support,
- an annually means-tested bursary towards maintenance costs,
- targeted marketing towards recruitment of students from socioeconomically deprived backgrounds, and students of black, Asian, mixed, or other minority ethnicity,
- use of a consultant to develop a strategy for recruitment of students of black, Asian, mixed, or other minority ethnicity.

See pages 4 to 13 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### **How students can get involved**

Moorlands students have given input to our access and participation plan at various stages in its development. Our student focus groups included students from all levels and modes of study, and included students with disabilities, students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, and students of different ethnicities. Students are represented on our Access and Participation Committee, which is responsible for overseeing the activities in our plan. Students are also represented on our Student Welfare Analysis Committee, Programme Boards, Academic Board and Board of Trustees.

See pages 16 to 17 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

Every year we will produce a report which will evaluate the impact of the activities listed above, and their effectiveness in achieving our annual milestones. The reports will be based on a mixture of evidence, including numerical data and student feedback. Our Access and Participation Committee oversees this process, and can make appropriate recommendations to our Executive Leadership Team in the light of the evidence. The Executive Leadership Team is held accountable by the Board of Trustees to ensure progress against the specific milestones in our access and participation plan. Where appropriate, we adjust our activities in the best interests of our students.

See pages 17 to 18 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### **Contact details for further information**

Please contact [equiries@moorlands.ac.uk](mailto:equiries@moorlands.ac.uk), tel. 01425 674500, for more information.