

## Nescot

### 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 Nescot at [www.nescot.ac.uk/about-nescot/uni-level-info/access-participation-plan/](http://www.nescot.ac.uk/about-nescot/uni-level-info/access-participation-plan/)

#### Key points (see pages 1-8 of the full plan)

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes for specific groups of students, however by doing this it is likely that many of the changes we make will also positively impact all students.

Data has shown that the following groups of students are less likely to enter higher education and once there less likely to stay and succeed:

- students with a disability,
- students from neighbourhoods where not many people go on to higher education
- ethnic minority students
- mature students
- students from households with low income

Overall, we have seen positive progress for all the groups above, but we have still more work to do.

#### Fees we charge (see Fee Summary Tables 4a and 4b of the full plan)

At Nescot the **maximum fees** charged (2022/23) are:

For full-time students £9,000

For part-time students £4,500

However, the fees are dependent upon the course you chose and are listed for future years on the website at [www.nescot.ac.uk/HEfees](http://www.nescot.ac.uk/HEfees)

#### Financial help available (see page 18 of the full plan)

We provide support and advice to students that require help to access the Student Finance package available through Student Finance England and work closely with our Admissions Team to support this.

Financial support is additionally signposted on the website, prospectus and Open Days.

Any student who needs additional help or who is not eligible for support through Student Finance England, for example due to previous study, is eligible to apply to the College Hardship Fund.

Soft checks can be completed by the student finance team at any point (including at the time of enrolment) to ensure students' can achieve their maximum potential and understand what they are entitled to (with financial support, if available to them).

Hardship funds are based on the access to learning fund spreadsheet which determines if a student is entitled to any money. The spreadsheet calculates the minimum amount of money needed to sustain a basic need. It should be noted the hardship loan is directed to all students and applications are made on a case-by-case basis

Our latest fee policy can be accessed via this link [Nescot Fees Policy 2022-23](#)

### **Information for students (see pages 17-19 of the full plan)**

**Prospective** students receive information on fees, financial support and course requirements at in person events such as open days, webinars and emails.

All information is also available with relevant staff contact details on the website.

Terms and conditions and any other pertinent college information is distributed to students at the time of offer and will be checked at enrolment ([www.nescot.ac.uk/about-nescot/uni-level-info/terms-and-conditions-and-regulations-for-he-students.html](http://www.nescot.ac.uk/about-nescot/uni-level-info/terms-and-conditions-and-regulations-for-he-students.html))

**Current students** receive information about fees, financial support and course requirements at Induction events and this is followed by in person visits to classes, communications campaigns through Nescomms and email.

Student Representatives also share information with peers following staff, student consultative committee meetings.

For most current information please see our website: <https://www.nescot.ac.uk/about-nescot/uni-level-info/>

### **What we are aiming to achieve (see pages 10-12 of the full plan)**

#### **Our overall aims are to:**

- Support students to access higher education.
- Create an environment where students at Nescot can achieve their full potential and give them more than a qualification.

Based on assessment of our performance, we have identified the following areas on which to focus our work:

#### **By 2024/25 we aim to:**

Decrease the gaps in students accessing higher education in the following groups versus their peers:-

- Increase the student intake from low income and low participation backgrounds (to 25% by 2024/25)
- Increase the numbers of students with a disability accessing our higher education to 17% by 2024/25
- Decrease the gap between BAME students and white students to 5% by 2024/25.
  - Support all BAME students to stay and succeed on their courses at least in line with their peers (decrease the non-continuation gaps)
- Decrease the gap between young and mature students staying on their courses to 4% by 2024/25 (decrease the non-continuation gaps)
- Decrease the gap between disabled and non-disabled students staying on their courses to 2% by 2024/25 (decrease non continuation gaps)
- Diversify our provision to offer more inclusive higher education opportunities in a broader, more relevant range of courses in order to address employment gaps and support the local economy.

This will include revising the mode of delivery and developing higher and degree apprenticeship routes.

### **What we are doing to achieve our aims (see pages 12-15 of the full plan)**

- Continue to develop transitional support resources for entry to higher education
- Develop aspirational role models
- Target additional support through identification of higher risk students
- Develop data gathering to help flag other higher risk students such as those previously in receipt of care
- Offer financial support including bursaries or flexible payment methods
- Offer practical support for students applying to Student Finance England or for Disability Support Allowances (DSAs)
- Develop innovative, inclusive modes of delivery and teaching
- Increase the breadth and range of non-traditional courses including Higher Technical Qualifications, (HTQs) and higher and degree apprenticeships
- Continue to implement early support for addressing development of academic skills
- Further develop students' engagement in the development of the wider professional, academic and personal skills
- Operate a continual cycle of evaluation of policies and the support systems for students to inform changes and to involve students in this process

### **How students get involved (see page 16 of the full plan)**

Students are involved through discussions in our Student Council, Staff Student Consultative Committees, Boards of Study and other student meetings through the year. Feedback from a range of sources such as module reviews, Nescot surveys, NSS and destination surveys also help Nescot to engage with students to ensure that views are fully considered in the design and implementation of the access and participation plan.

### **Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved (see pages 16-17 of the full plan)**

We use a variety of things to measure progress, both quantitative and qualitative and we ask questions to understand why we are where we are. These measures include:

- Access- who is coming to our college and which courses are most popular? Why are some more attractive than others?
- Retention- do students stay on the courses they chose and if not why?
- Continuation- do students progress from year to year of their course and if not why?
- Outcomes- do students do well on their courses? Do they succeed and achieve the higher grades/classifications? And if not why?

The HE Board (attended by student representatives) will monitor and report on these processes and oversee implementation of actions to ensure progress against milestones. We will monitor impact on target groups to ensure we are addressing our aims, and this will report into our Equality and Diversity Group. Where appropriate we will adjust our interventions to ensure best outcomes are achieved.

We will publish the outcomes to our website in Spring 2024

**Contact details for further information**

You can contact Nicki Adams [nadams@nescot.ac.uk](mailto:nadams@nescot.ac.uk) or Naomi Williams [nawilliams@nescot.ac.uk](mailto:nawilliams@nescot.ac.uk) for further information.