

Myerscough College and University Centre Myerscough

Summary of 2024-25 to 2027-28 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.

[Click this link](#) to see the full access and participation plan for Myerscough College and University Centre Myerscough.

Key points

University Centre Myerscough (UCM) is specialist College Based Higher Education (CBHE) provider, set on an award winning 900-acre campus in rural Lancashire. UCM is the natural choice for students studying land-based, science, engineering and sport qualifications. We are committed to offering specialised degrees focussed on high academic and student experiences, equipping confident graduates for lifelong achievement in the global industries.

As part of our commitment to ensuring all students have the opportunity to study for a degree qualification, regardless of background or financial circumstances, we ensure that robust and transparent information is available to prospective and current students, and monitor access and participation data against key characteristics to enable us to address any potential risks to equality of opportunity.

Our access and participation plan outlines our whole provider approach to supporting access and participation, and identifies intervention strategies in place for 2024-5 to 2027-28 to meet the objectives outlined below.

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

Fees we charge

The fees vary based on the type and level of qualification, [click this link](#) for more information available on our website and see page 41 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Financial help available

We want to ensure that all students have the opportunity to study for a degree qualification, regardless of background or financial circumstances. A limited number of Myerscough College Bursaries and Scholarships are available, alongside the Higher Education Hardship Fund, to provide discretionary financial assistance for students to access and remain in Higher Education, particularly those students who need financial help to meet extra costs that cannot be met from other sources of support. Priority groups include students with children, lone parents, mature students with existing financial commitments, students from low income backgrounds and students in unexpected hardship.

See pages 26-27 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

Information is provided to current and prospective students on our website, this includes access to fee information and all our student-facing policies, including the tuition fees policy. We also provide a link to our students, to our partner University's website, where applicants are able to access the respective policies, rules and regulations of the University.

Our student enquiries, student finance, student services, admissions, course tutors and marketing teams provide information, advice and guidance (IAG) on tuition fees and financial support for higher education students through series of course advice events and open days for prospective students. In addition, our Inclusive Learning team provides specialist advice for students with additional learning needs and those in receipt of DSA.

We have an online facility to provide clear and easy access for applicants to information such as interview arrangements, course details, travel, finance, enrolment and joining instructions. At the point of offer, applicants are provided with specific information relating to their chosen course and upon enrolment, students are provided with a hard copy contract (Learning Agreement).

See pages 28-30 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

At University Centre Myerscough, our overarching strategic aims with respect of equality of opportunity, with future priorities are:

- Empowering research and academic for lecturers and future graduates.
- Using policy development, science and sustainability to underpin degrees, higher technical qualifications, higher and degree level apprenticeships.
- Develop critically minded and authentic graduates that challenge their subject realm.
- Dedication genuinely to social mobility and widening participation agenda to provide education that benefits all parts of society.

We have identified 5 risks to equality of opportunity, resulting in 5 access and participation objectives for 2024-24 to 2027-28.

Risk 1: There are lower proportions of students eligible for free school meals accessing higher education at Myerscough College and University Centre. Evidence suggests this is a function of knowledge and skills, access to information and guidance, perceptions of higher education and the course type and delivery mode available.

Risk 2: There are lower proportions of BAME students accessing higher education at Myerscough College. Evidence suggests this is a function of access to information and guidance, perceptions of higher education and the course type and delivery mode available.

Risk 3: There is a lower percentage of students who were eligible for free school meals at KS4 continuing in their studies than students who were not eligible for free school meals. Evidence suggests this is a function of access to academic and personal support, alongside the cost pressures associated with accessing higher education.

Risk 4: A lower percentage of students from IMD (2019) Q1 attain a 2:1 or above in comparison to students from IMD (2019) Q5. Evidence suggests this is a function of access to academic and personal support, alongside the cost pressures associated with accessing higher education.

Risk 5: A lower percentage of students with a reported disability attain degree outcome of 2:1 or above than students with no reported disability. Evidence suggests this is a function of access to academic and personal support, alongside the financial pressures associated with accessing higher education.

Objective 1: University Centre Myerscough will increase the proportion of students eligible for free school meals accessing higher education at UCM to 15% by 2028. Achieved through increased marketing activity, pre-entry aspiration raising and IAG sessions. Study and soft skill support by working with schools, local community groups and the UniConnect partnerships, including widening programme choice and mode of study availability (Linked to PTA_1).

Objective 2: University Centre Myerscough will increase the proportion of non-white students accessing higher education at UCM to 8% by 2028. Achieved through increased marketing activity, pre-entry aspiration raising and IAG sessions, and study and soft skill support by working with schools, local community groups and UniConnect partnerships and through widening programme choice and mode of study availability (Linked to PTA_2).

Objective 3: University Centre Myerscough will increase the continuation rates for students eligible for free school meals to 83% by 2028 through enhanced personal, academic and financial support (Linked to PTS_1).

Objective 4: University Centre Myerscough will increase the proportion of IMD (2019) Q1 students attaining a 2:1 or above to 70% by 2028 through career aspiration raising activity and enhanced academic and financial support (Linked to PTS_2).

Objective 5: University Centre Myerscough will increase the proportion of students with a reported disability attaining a 2:1 or above to 75% 2028 through further strengthening the dedicated support team infrastructure and aspiration and attainment raising activity (Linked to PTS_3).

See page 3 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

In order to achieve the objectives outlined above we have developed 5 detailed intervention strategies with targeted activities intended to enhance the student experience. Activities include:

- Targeted marketing activity and IAG
- Pre-entry aspiration raising activity
- Pre and post-entry knowledge and skills development activities
- Enhanced personal and pastoral support
- Financial support
- Targeted careers support

See pages 3-23 of the access and participation plan for more detailed information regarding the Intervention Strategies.

How students can get involved

Students were consulted throughout the development of the access and participation plan and students will continue to be engaged in the monitoring and evaluation through membership on the Access and Participation Working Group. The student member will contribute to monitoring and reporting in relation to the individual intervention strategies, alongside the monitoring and reporting in relation to the overall plan. In addition, students will be engaged in some of the activity outlined, for example engagement at Open Events, and will feed into the research projects outlined in the evaluation plan. If you would like to find out more about how you can be involved, the Careers Team, on careers@myerscough.ac.uk

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

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Each Intervention Strategy has an evaluation plan attached that will allow us to evaluate the activities and strategy as a whole. The overall plan and associated activity will be monitored by the Access and Participation Working Group, which will include membership from key stakeholders, including students. The working group will meet termly to report on activity and will produce an annual report against targets which will feed into the governance structure.

See pages 3-23 and 28 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact the Assistant Principal for Higher Education and the Director for Student Support for more information.