RTC Education Ltd

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 RTC Education Ltd (Regent College London, 'the College') at Regent College London | Access and Participation Plan.

Key points

The College delivers Higher Education programmes in collaboration with three university partners, the University of Bolton, Buckinghamshire New University, and St Mary's University, and with Pearson. Some of the students we teach are admitted directly to us whilst others are admitted indirectly via our partners.

We are proud of our commitment to provide highly flexible education, skills training and personal support to a diverse community of students. The majority of our students are over 31 years of age, are non-UK nationals and have daytime caring or term time part-time work commitments.

We are committed to inclusivity and delivering outstanding, personalised education. We prioritise providing access to higher education to disabilities, ethnic minorities and mature students who may historically have experienced inequality in respect to accessing and succeeding in higher education.

Our analysis has identified numerous risks to equality of opportunity for our potential students. Our access and participation plan has set out a series of objectives, targets and intervention strategies to address the underlying risks to equality of opportunity. Our access and participation plan focuses on the six most prevalent risks to equality of opportunity related to the student lifecycle of access, participation and successful progression after attending the College with an emphasis on the following student groups:

- individuals with disabilities accessing higher education;
- individuals from ethnic minorities accessing higher education;
- lower socio-economic groups successfully completing their studies and gaining good degree outcomes:
- younger mature students (21–25-year-olds) successfully completing their studies;
- black heritage students successfully completing their studies and gaining good degree outcomes, and
- all student groups with regards to ensuring that they progress to further study or professional careers.

See pages 1-5 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

The College's 2025-26 to 2028-29 access and participation plan has been designed using the expected maximum fees permitted under government regulations prior to the November 2024 announcement of the new undergraduate fee regulations. The fees are as outlined below:

Current Fees for Home Undergraduate Students:

- £9,250 for full-time courses
- £6,935 for part-time courses

Fees for classroom-based Foundation Year/Year 0:

- £5,760 for full-time courses
- £4,315 for part-time courses

It should be noted, the maximum tuition fee for the 2025/2026 academic year will increase in line with the government's regulations announced in November 2024. The new fees will be as follows:

Fees for Home Undergraduate Students (2025/2026 academic year):

- £9,535 for full-time courses
- £7,145 for part-time courses

Fees for classroom-based Foundation Year/Year 0 (2025/2026 academic year):

- £5,760 for full-time courses
- £4,315 for part-time courses

These fees may increase each academic year in line with inflation or changes to UK government policy for both new and continuing students.

Further information can be found on page 30 of the access and participation plan and on the College's website at Regent College London | Fees and Funding.

Financial help available

Our aim is to ease the financial burden associated with students participating and succeeding in higher education. We offer support through bursaries targeted at students with disabilities and students from black heritage backgrounds. We also provide hardship funds that all students in need can apply for.

The Student Enablement Fund provides up to £2,000 annually to support disabled students with the costs of studying which their peers do not share including the costs of special equipment, software, extra travel costs or the support of a helper.

See pages 73-74 of the access and participation plan for more information.

The Hardship Fund provides up £1,000 annually to direct entry students who experience severe and unexpected financial difficulties during their programme.

See page 85-86 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

We are committed to providing clear and accessible information to all current and prospective students face-to-face and through a range of online channels. The College website provides information on our fees, financial support, courses, extra-curricular activities available to current and prospective students and additional support available to students at risk to equality of opportunity. Specifically:

- prospective students can access information through open days held at our various sites, via online events and through outreach activities. Details of these sessions are available on the Regent College London | Open Days and Events website;
- prospective and current students can access a wide range of student and study skills support
 resources and services as well as support for progressing from their course through the Regent
 College London | Student Support website.

See pages 6-26 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

The College aims to address the risks that could affect a student's ability to access, fully engage and succeed in higher education. We aim to:

- improve access rates for prospective students who are declaring a disability;
- improve access rates for prospective students who are from ethnic minority groups;
- improve continuation and attainment rates for students for mature students from lower socioeconomic groups;
- improve continuation and completion rates for 21–25-year-old students, and

improve continuation, completion and attainment rates for black heritage students.

See pages 4-5 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

The College's access and participation plan presents six intervention strategies which provide a comprehensive set of activities and support services that aim to eliminate or mitigate against the barriers to equality of opportunity affecting disadvantaged students.

Our intervention strategies aim to:

- raise awareness of the support provided by the College to disadvantaged prospective students;
- provide academic and personal development skills support to increase student confidence during their studies with the College and after graduation, and
- alleviate financial burdens, where appropriate, for those in need.

Our intention is to provide flexible access to higher education, to improve academic performance and raise aspirations for underrepresented groups, particularly those in the economically deprived locations where our sites are located. To achieve our aims we provide comprehensive academic and personal support and continuously review our approaches to teaching and learning in order to close continuation, completion and attainment gaps. We will also focus on improving employability through the continuous improvement of our careers service to ensure that all students have the resources necessary to progress to further higher education or professional careers.

Over the lifetime of the access and participation plan and beyond we will use rigorous data analysis to continually refine our intervention strategies.

See pages 6-26 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

The College works in close partnership with our students. The Student Council and student representatives play a critical role in representing student interests. Student representatives are included as full members on the majority of our deliberative committees and participate in deciding on initiatives and policies to improve prospective student access to the College, student success and the financial support available to students. We also actively encourage students to contribute to deciding the direction of the College by completing surveys (end-of-unit, end-of-course and NSS), focus groups and course level staff-student committees.

See pages 27-29 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our access and participation plan commits the College to continuously collect data and evaluate the success of the initiatives that we have implemented to improve the success of the groups we have identified as at risk from equality of opportunity. Our evaluation approach focuses on:

- embedding evaluation into all activities to ensure a culture of learning, reflection and evidence-informed development of policies and practices;
- the use of data analytics to, in collaboration with our students and partners, ensure that staff have access to robust data to monitor progress and strengthen our strategic decision making;
- embedding our access and participation plan targets into the College's governance and academic quality assurance cycles.

Evaluation findings will be published on our website on an on-going basis. See page 29 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact Aamena Hanif, Academic Registrar, <u>Aamena.Hanif@rcl.ac.uk</u>, ++44 (0) 7411 078589 for more information.