

## Access and Participation Statement

### 1. Introduction

University Campus Barnsley forms part of Barnsley College. Barnsley College is a large General Further Education and Tertiary College serving Barnsley Metropolitan Borough and the surrounding areas in South Yorkshire. The College is the main provider of post-16 education in the Borough. Barnsley Metropolitan Borough has a population of 239,300. It is made up of both rural and urban industrial areas, including the main town of Barnsley (population just under 96,000) and other smaller towns and former mining villages.

The College is committed to promoting its higher education programmes to students coming from all widening participation categories, and to achieve this aim it undertakes a range of activities directed towards raising aspirations, eliminating any artificial barriers to entry and enhancing the student experience.

The programme offer includes a wide range of Foundation Degree, HNC/D, Honours Degree and professional level courses that employers require to meet their higher level skills solutions.

The College has a committed team of staff teaching and supporting our Higher Education provision, whose priority is high quality learning and teaching, high quality learning environment, providing a range of programmes with differing access points, and exceeding student aspirations in their employment prospects.

University Campus Barnsley's aim is to provide a life enhancing educational experience, through inspirational teaching, working in partnership and helping individuals to be the best they can. Our vision is simple "Transforming Lives".

We achieve this through our Purpose and Values.

**Purpose** - to ensure that all our students:

- Have a great time
- Achieve their aims
- Progress onto work or higher education

**Our Values:**

- Aspirational- courage to shape a better future
- Supportive - encouraging, compassionate and understanding
- Caring- hearts and minds
- Respectful - inclusive
- Genuine - be clear, be real

### 2. Our Focus

University Campus Barnsley takes an inclusive approach to the work of engaging with individuals and groups of individuals with protected characteristics (as defined by the Equality Act 2010). Barnsley College is the major provider of education and training in Barnsley, delivering from Pre-Entry programmes in Further Education through to Honours

Degrees in Higher Education. The College operates a differentiated approach to the support needs of our students. A key priority for the College is to inspire and support progression at all levels.

University Campus Barnsley is focused upon the development and delivery of high quality, vocationally relevant programmes to support internal progression, widen participation and to meet external demand.

We have four key priorities for Higher Education at University Campus Barnsley

- Maximising internal progression
- Focus on local and regional priorities
- Employability and skills development
- Creating a high quality, differentiated HE experience for our students

### **3. Recruitment**

Recruitment to HE programmes at the College is supported by a number of strands of activity designed to widen participation.

- Programmes are structured to facilitate flexible delivery. This enables those in work to attend on a part-time basis. Full time delivery is also planned so as to cluster teaching so that students are not required to attend across a number of days.
- The College offers a range of Access to Higher Education programmes supporting those who are returning to education facilitating study at a higher level.
- Open Days and “taster” sessions are offered to applicants throughout the year giving them the opportunity to attend University Campus Barnsley prior to enrolment.
- The College has a specialist Higher Education Disability Adviser to provide dedicated support for our HE students and applicants with disabilities. Both full-time and part-time applicants to HE programmes are supported in applying for Disabled Students’ Allowance.
- The College Schools Liaison Team introduces and promotes Higher Education during school presentations and taster activities for all ages.
- The entry criteria for all higher education programmes at the College include ‘non-traditional’ options so as to encourage applications from those who have not followed a standard route and may not have sufficient / any UCAS tariff points.

### **4. Learner support**

**Academic and Pastoral support** – All students are provided with a range of academic support during their study at University Campus Barnsley. These include tutorials, on-line support through the Moodle VLE platform. Additional study support is offered to all Higher Education students. The provision can help to identify ways to improve academic writing by offering advice and tuition on studying and writing strategies.

**Advice and guidance** - University Campus Barnsley can provide impartial advice to all students on their existing programmes, and a range of progression opportunities. This service holds Matrix Quality Standard accreditation.

## 5. Access and Participation

University Campus Barnsley has particular focus and will monitor its success in widening participation for:

- further education learners
- part-time learners
- under-represented migrant groups
- mature learners re-entering education
- local learners and those on low incomes
- people with disabilities or facing barriers to learning
- Improving retention and success on our HE programmes

## 6. Monitoring

Student enrolments are reported through the College's Individual Learner Record. This data will be compared to annual data released by HESA. POLAR (and Gaps) data and TEF Metrics will also be used in tracking widening participation outcomes.

- The College is aware that it currently recruits 88% of its full-time and 100% of its part-time students from quintiles 1-3 POLAR classification groups (47% full-time and 52% part-time fall into Quintile 1)
- 53% of our full-time students and 66% of our part-time students enter HE programmes that are low or non-tariff.
- 16% of our HE student cohort has a declared disability
- 11% of our HE student cohort are of an ethnicity other than white
- For the postcode S70 (Barnsley) the following POLAR and Gaps data indicates:
  - Polar 4 Young Participation = **Quintile 2**
  - Polar 3 Young Participation = **Quintiles 1 and 2**
  - Adult HE Qualification = **Quintile 1**
  - Participation Gap (by Ethnicity and GCSE) = **Quintile 2**
  - Participation Gap (by GCSE) = **Quintile 3**

## 7. In-Year Reporting

The College reports the performance of the students undertaking its Higher Education programmes throughout the academic year. Performance Monitoring meetings are held during the year. Data monitored includes recruitment, attendance and retention, student survey responses and minutes of student fora.