



Nazarene Theological College

Summary of 2022-25 Access and Participation Plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan shows how the College works to improve equality of opportunity for students from underrepresented groups, so they can access higher education, then succeed in their studies and progress onwards following those studies. You can see the full access and participation plan at [this link](#).

Key Points of NTC and this plan

As a theological college, NTC tends to draw students who are a bit more mature and diverse than those typically present in Higher Education. The focus of our access and participation plan is on attracting, and improving outcomes for, particular groups of students:

- Students are less likely to complete their studies if they come from a neighbourhood where not many people go on to higher education.
- The following groups of students are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above
 - Students from low-income backgrounds
 - Ethnic minority students
 - Mature students who left formal education at an early stage
- These same students are less likely to progress to highly skilled employment or further study

See pages 6-7 of the full plan

See pages 4-5 of the full plan

See pages 3, 5, 11 of the full plan

Progression and completion rates for these students are encouraging, but there remains work to do in helping these students attain the highest outcomes.

Fees we Charge:

For undergraduate students, NTC has the following maximum fees (for 2022 entrants)

- £8400 for full time UK students
- £6300 for part time students

You can see a full list of fees at NTC at <https://nazarene.ac.uk/studies/fees-and-funding/>

Financial Help Available

The College offers financial support for students from underrepresented groups. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed. This support includes:

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- A **hardship fund** to support students who encounter financial need during the course of their studies
- **Bursary Support** to encourage students to progress beyond BA level

Information for students

- Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at in-person events, such as on our open days, by email, and as part of the interview process for each student
- Current students receive information about fees and financial support through internal communication such as the weekly Bulletin, and via the student 'virtual learning environment'

What this plan aims to achieve

The overall aim of NTC's access and participation plan is to support student access to higher education, and to create an environment where students can flourish and achieve their full potential.

The College has identified the following areas on which to focus:

See pages 14-15
of the full plan

- **Support access to higher education** – We are working with a range of schools and faith-based charities to encourage potential students to access level three and pre-degree courses as a stepping-stone to study, and are sponsoring competitions to raise academic aspirations in high school students .
- **Ethnic Minority Students** – We are working to reduce the success gap for ethnic minority students, whose grade outcomes have been 7% below their peer group, to 3.8%, by 2024-25, and to increase the level of their progression into professional employment by 5% by 2024-25.
- **Students from low-participation neighbourhoods:** students from a neighbourhood where not many people go on to higher education are less likely to get a high-level degree than their fellow students. The College aims to close this gap to 2.6% by 2024-25, and also to increase the level of their progression into professional employment by 7% by 2024-25.

What we are doing to achieve this

The College has identified six measures to reach these targets:

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17 of the full
plan

- **Invest in peer learning support workers,** to help students adjust to higher education.. We intend for these support workers to be successful graduates of the College, to be themselves mature students, from low participation neighbourhoods and non-white backgrounds.
- **Invest in Pastoral Care:** Every undergraduate student is part of a pastoral care group, and has a personal tutor who will meet with them
- **Supporting students with Disabilities:** The College has invested in additional learning support staff, and a dedicated Learning Support Coordinator, in order to ensure that students with disabilities have the support they need to flourish.
- **Helping Mature Students:** The College has reduced out-of-pocket expenses for students by removing additional academic fees, and by increasing funding for its 'hardship fund.'
- **Offer pre-degree classes:** The College will offer a range of classes at different levels and at reduced rates to enable students who are apprehensive about HE study to experience the learning environment before committing themselves to a full course of study.

- **Make learning more flexible:** By responding to timetabling challenges, and by introducing online options, the College makes it more possible for students to flourish.

How Students can get involved

We have elected student representatives who are full members of the Undergraduate Working Group that reviews this plan, and of the Academic Board and Board of Governors that approve it. We will also have opportunities for students to be part of focus groups to discuss how this plan is being implemented.

**See page 22 of
the full plan**

How we'll evaluate what we've achieved

We have a range of ways to check if this plan is working. We'll undertake surveys with students and staff who have been involved with the measures we're putting in place. We'll look at the data – internal and external – about what the results of these measures are. And that data will be reviewed by a special committee to see if the plan is proving effective.

**See page 22-23
of the full plan**

Contact details for further information

For more information on the Access and Participation Plan, please contact the Academic Dean, at 0161 445 3063, or via enquiries@nazarene.ac.uk