

Access and Participation Statement

Some learners who wish to progress to Higher Education (HE) face a number of barriers and obstacles. For example, if you come from a lower socio-economic background you are less likely to study at a HE level than your more affluent peers. In addition, if you are disabled, a mature learner returning to study with non-traditional entry qualifications, come from a Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) background or you have grown up in care then you are less likely to study at HE level. Other barriers to HE include being the first in the family to consider HE, finding the cost of study prohibitively expensive or taking vocational qualifications.

Our priorities are:

- Raise awareness and expectations of the Higher Education offer in the local community
- Mature students returning to education with non-traditional entry qualifications
- Students from BME
- Students from deprived postcode areas
- Increase retention of vulnerable students on programmes.

1. Brooklands College vision states that

'Brooklands College will be an outstanding provider of education and training for every member of our community, every day.'

We are committed to promoting the benefits of higher education and continuing lifelong learning for the communities we serve. This means: giving fair access to the provision offered by us through high quality information and professional support seeking to remove all artificial barriers to students being able to access our programmes and services delivering effective teaching, learning and assessment strategies which meet the needs of students and employers

2. The College is fully committed to accepting, enrolling and retaining students from all backgrounds, ages, disabilities and ethnicities in a transparent and fair recruitment process. The UCAS entry criteria offer the opportunity for a wider pool of applicants and the process supports the maintenance and enhancement of quality standards in Higher Education. College actions support inclusion of able students whose circumstances may mean that their potential would go undeveloped and remain unrecognised

3. Brooklands College embraces the diversity of its student body and value the range of experiences and perspectives which adds to the depth of learning and understanding for all. Teaching and learning are supportive and inclusive, enabling all students to thrive and achieve no matter what their background, age or ethnicity.

4. The college is student centred and fully accessible. It is committed to providing full support services to enable learners to maximise their time with the college and optimise outcomes. Pastoral, tutorial and academic support is available for all including extra resources, financial and pastoral for identified widening participation and first generation HE students. Support also encompasses extra study skills and employability programmes to support the social mobility of learners.

5. We will support a student's application by providing:

- clear and accurate information about programmes, qualifications and entry requirements
- referral to additional advice and guidance services whenever appropriate
- an opportunity to see the college(s) and the facilities available for the student prior to committing to a programme of study.
- scheduled interviews for those students resident in the UK who wish to be admitted to a full time or substantial part time programme of study

In addition we currently provide the following support:

- Help with UCAS and Student Finance England (SFE) applications
- Interview preparation (including attendance if specific needs require)
- Pre-entry study skills support for students entering higher education
- Tailored one-to-one support – face to face or online
- Study Skills workshops
- Support for DSA applications