

BCNO Ltd.

Summary of 2024/25 to 2027/28 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan sets out how a higher education institution will improve equality of opportunity for all backgrounds to access, succeed at and progress from higher education.

You can find the full plan for BCNO at :<https://bcnogroup.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/bcno-ltd-app-2024-25.pdf>

Key points:

BCNO Group is a specialist, independent Higher Education (HE) College that offers university-level courses. BCNO has a diverse student population currently over two campuses.

BCNO's plan is to provide an educational environment conducive to study and well-being, allowing each student to reach their potential irrespective of social or cultural background.

The main areas we are concentrating on are:

- To increase the number of students enrolling on our courses from areas that are considered deprived.
- Increase the number of students who were eligible for free school meals to match those who were not eligible for free school meals.
- Support students who have experience of being in care, estranged from their families or adult carers.
- Increase the number of students who declare a disability and continue the course.
- Support students with mental health conditions.
- To improve the number of students continuing and completing their studies who are from non-White ethnic backgrounds

See pages 5-7

What we are aiming to achieve

Area 1: The low number of students from deprived areas studying on our courses

Target: To double the percentage of students enrolling on the courses from IMDQ1.

IMD is the index of multiple deprivation, a widely used measure of deprivation in England that ranks areas from the most deprived to the least.

Area 2: The lower number of students who were eligible for free school meals.

Target: To reduce the percentage difference between students who were eligible for free school meals and those who were not eligible for free school meals.

Area 3: The lower number of students with a disability who continue the course

Target: To reduce the gap between students who declare a disability and those who do not for continuation in the course.

Area 4: Supporting students with mental health conditions.

Target: Supporting students with mental health conditions throughout their journey at BCNO.

Area 5: The difference in continuation and completion rates for students from non-white ethnicities compared to their white counterparts.

See pages 5-6

What are we doing to address the key risks to equality of opportunity

Our plan outlines five intervention strategies which we will implement to address the risks of equality of opportunity that we have identified.

1. Access: This includes raising awareness of BCNO through career events, work experience and the use of named student ambassadors to support and answer applicant questions.
2. Financial- BCNO recognises the financial impact of studying at higher education, and many students spend time working, resulting in challenges with studying. BCNO have therefore created financial support for specific groups of students.
3. Academic support- support students and staff with a bespoke training programme around disability and academic support, along with support through the welfare officer and personal tutors.

4. Mental health support- increase self-efficacy in our students with a declared mental health condition.
5. Support different academic backgrounds through various academic strategies such as workshops, personal tutors and courses,

See pages 8-25

How will we measure what we have achieved?

BCNO has drawn on activities that have clear aims and are supported by evidence. Various methods will be used to gather feedback and measure the impact of interventions, including both verbal feedback and numerical data. We will review the activities regularly and make changes if they are not having the effect we were expecting.

The work and outcomes will be shared internally and externally, and the Student Inclusion and Welfare Committee will oversee all work.

See pages 29-30

How students can get involved

The BCNO student union and association engaged in the development of the plan. BCNO will collaborate with staff and students to evaluate and co-create a collaborative approach from all groups. Reports will be written for various committees to share the information and findings. Websites and, where appropriate, publications will be used to disseminate our findings.

See pages 29-30

Fees we charge

Details of our fees can be found: <https://bcnogroup.ac.uk/access-and-participation-plan/>

Financial help

A number of bursaries and grants are available for students, depending on eligibility.

See pages 12-14

Information for students

Information is available through open days, email communication and the website.

Current students receive information through emails, the VLE and the website.

Contact details for further information

Please contact carl.norris@bcnogroup.ac.uk for further information.