



Access and Participation Statement 2018-19

OVERVIEW

New College of the Humanities (the College) is committed to fair and equitable access and support for students. The College takes a personal approach to all its teaching and support, offering small group lectures and one-to-one tutorials with the aim of providing all undergraduates, regardless of age, gender, background, disability and any other protected characteristic with the best chance for success after graduation.

This statement summarises the College's commitment to outreach and access in the 2018-19 period.

OUTREACH ACTIVITY

The College's outreach activity is focussed on equipping young people with the information, advice and guidance they need to make effective, realistic and confident decisions about their future. The College also aims to inspire young people to pursue education to Higher Education level and have the confidence in their own abilities.

Projects and activity for 2018-19 are highlighted below.

PARTNERSHIPS

- 1) IntoUniversity (IU): The College works closely with IU in running 'buddy days' at the College. These are run by current NCH students and offer younger learners from aspiring schools to engage with extra-curricular activities which offer a taste of university life. Other IU activity includes buddy mentoring and a scholarship for successful NCH applicants who have completed 50 hours with IU.
- 2) Transformation Trust: The College will host their annual 'Junior University' and build further links with the schools with which the Trust works, offering talks, mentoring and support.
- 3) Potential Plus: The College will host an event aimed at young learners, run by NCH staff and students which will provide a taste of university life.

PARTNER SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

The College will expand its links with target schools, offering the chance to visit the College, with guaranteed free tickets to Taster Lectures and scholarships for successful applicants from these schools.

OTHER EXTERNAL TALKS, WORKSHOPS AND SCHOOL VISITS

Non-partner schools are also welcome to request an academic speaker to visit their school to run a lecture or workshop for young and aspiring learners with the aim of

promoting the value of studying at Higher Education level. The College also visits a high number of schools to give talks, advice and guidance on Higher Education.

The College will build into its strategy a priority for outreach activity in areas of low participation in London and the South East, using both HESA and POLAR datasets to target specific areas. Activity will include all the above plus offering funding towards school trips to NCH and other external training events such as the annual UCAS Teachers & Advisers conference.

NCH LECTURE SERIES

Regular talks from high profile speakers are offered free of charge to school groups and individuals. The College aims to provide such lectures each term and communicates with a range of schools in order to ensure the timing of such events are not restrictive to the school timetable. Priority is given to those schools in areas of low-participation with which the College has a working relationship. The number of such schools is due to grow in the 2018-19 period.

OTHER ACTIVITY

Other specialist and intensive widening participation interactions include annual taster days, workshops, and bespoke events for aspiring schools.

The College will also expand its outreach for Mature Learners, focusing on Further Education Colleges and offering places on taster days and lectures.

ADMISSIONS

The College takes an individual approach to its undergraduate admissions, offering all candidates a named point of contact within the admissions team.

The College is committed to giving equal consideration regardless of background, school or any other protected characteristic. Due to the personal approach for College admissions, applications which are ambiguous or incomplete will be contacted for further information rather than being rejected outright. The aim is to ensure all candidates are given equal consideration.

The College welcomes applications from mature learners and works with such candidates on an individual basis to ensure their application is given equal consideration.

Interviews form a key part of the College's admissions to all undergraduate degrees. Interviews are used to assess a candidate's likelihood of thriving in the College's small group and one-to-one tutorial environment. Interviews are designed to be a discursive experience, offering the candidate the chance to engage with the tutor in a way that resembles an undergraduate tutorial.

The College is committed to ensuring that students with access needs are fully catered for during the application and interview process.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The College is committed to reducing barriers to entry for students from low-income backgrounds and offers two types of financial support:

- Academic scholarships

- Bursaries

Academic scholarships of up to £2,000 are open to all UK and EU/EEA applicants. Applicants do not apply for academic scholarships but are considered at the point of offer. To qualify for an academic scholarship, applicants need to have shown a clear enthusiasm for studying at the College, the potential to thrive at the College and have made a strong positive impression at interview.

Bursaries are applied for after being awarded an offer and are based on a means test which takes into account both income and assets. When making decisions on whether to offer a place, the admissions team and tutors have no knowledge if a bursary will be applied for.

INCLUSIVE AND DIFFERENTIATED TEACHING

All students, regardless of financial support, background or disability are offered the same experience at the College, including:

- Small group lectures
- One-to-one tutorials
- Regular in-person feedback
- The NCH Diploma
- Tailored careers support and advice
- Personal student support

One-to-one tutorials provide a differentiated learning experience for all students, allowing learners to engage with the course, discuss topics, ask questions and receive feedback in a manner suited to them, in a low risk environment away from the scrutiny of their peers. This ensures that students from areas with low-participation rates are given enough support and have the same opportunities as the rest of the student body.

NCH DIPLOMA

The NCH Diploma consists of core courses and LAUNCH.

The core courses offer all students the chance to explore and engage with subjects outside their chosen discipline, including lectures and teaching from high profile academics.

LAUNCH is the College's tailored careers advice and support programme. It includes weekly workshops in a range of careers related skills, regular and individual careers advice and guidance with internship and job applications.

The core courses and LAUNCH programme are inclusive of all undergraduate students.

STUDENT SUPPORT

The College is committed to providing personal and high quality support for all students throughout their time at NCH. The College employs a full-time Student Wellbeing Coordinator who is in contact with each student, ensuring that there is a smooth transition to university life.

The College's 'Buddy' system matches offer-holders to current College undergraduate students (Buddies) with the aim that the offer-holder is encouraged and supported in their transition especially prior to enrolment.

Students with disabilities, mental health problems, Specific Learning Difficulties and/or who are on the autism spectrum are given tailored support and, where appropriate, offered free private counselling for which there is an allocated budget.

The collegiate environment is well suited to mature learners and provision is made for those with dependents.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The College reviews this statement on an annual basis to ensure accuracy of the College's planned activities and that it reflects changes to the Higher Education sector. The statement is then approved by Academic Board, who has overall responsibility for the admissions at the College.

Title	Access and Participation Statement	Author	Executive Dean
Location	NCH Academic Handbook	Approved by	Academic Board
Version	2.1	Last updated	September 2018
Publication date	September 2018	Review date	N/A ¹
Related policies	None		
External Reference Point(s)	Office for Students; UK Quality Code: Admissions, Recruitment and Widening Access		

¹ For 2019-20, the Access and Participation Plan, as approved by the Director of Fair Access and Participation at OfS will replace this statement.