



Provider's name: Herefordshire, Ludlow and North Shropshire College

Provider's UKPRN: 10003023

Higher Education Access and Participation Statement

Herefordshire, Ludlow and North Shropshire College is committed to meeting local and regional needs to widen participation in higher education (HE) by under-represented groups. We acknowledge that increasing access to higher education is particularly important given that the percentage of the population with higher qualifications (Level 4 and above) in Herefordshire and Shropshire is below the national average and we understand this may contribute to skills gaps within the local and regional economies.

The College's strategies and policies set out clearly our commitment to fair access, including the minimising of barriers for applicants. In addition to setting out clear criteria for entry to higher education programmes, the College welcomes applications from students from diverse backgrounds and values work-related experience.

The College has a clear strategy for publishing information on its HE provision and for making this information as clear and accessible as possible for all prospective students. The primary approach is web-based through the College website. This is supplemented by a higher education prospectus. The website provides user-friendly information and a welcoming image to prospective students. It leads the learner to a range of course information, including web-based material with guidance on student support and financial matters, downloadable course information sheets providing a summary of programme content, entry requirements and key practical facts, and links to the relevant pages on the College website where students can examine related information and make their on-line application. Higher education staff are present at all College open days, which is particularly important since potential students require advice about HE opportunities and entry criteria.

As part of the admissions process, the College provides comprehensive information, advice and guidance. The College's Student Services offer advice and guidance to all prospective students on higher education applications, enrolment and student finance matters. Specific support is offered to Level 3 students (young people and adults) in making their UCAS applications, improving the student's chances of acceptance to higher education by enhancing the quality of their applications, especially personal statements. The majority of higher education applicants are interviewed to assess their suitability for higher level studies and the programme of study as well as to identify students' support needs, including study skills support.

The College has an excellent track record of providing fair access to higher education. The POLAR classification considers the likelihood of young people participating in HE across the UK and how this varies by area. POLAR is used to inform targeting, and support analysis, of widening participation activities. The classification separates local areas into five groups, based on the proportion of 18-year-olds who enter higher education aged 18 or 19.



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These groups range from quintile 1 areas, with the lowest young person participation (most disadvantaged), up to quintile 5 areas with the highest rates (most advantaged).

According to the July 2024 Access and Participation data from the Office for Students, regarding the college's higher education students:

-Of full-time students, 63% are from low participation (1-3) neighbourhoods. Of part-time students, 60% are from low participation neighbourhoods

- Of full-time students, 49% are male and 51% female. Of part-time students, 61% are male and 39% are female.

- Of full-time students, 22% have a declared disability. Of part-time students, 14% have a declared disability.

-Of full-time students, 63% are over 21. Of part-time students, 70% are over 21.