

# **HRUC Access and Participation Statement 2023-24**

## **Background**

HRUC is an umbrella further education corporation that includes Harrow College, Richmond-upon-Thames College, Uxbridge College and Apprenticeships and Skills, which is the employer focused training arm of HRUC.

This statement was written in Autumn 2022 when Richmond-upon-Thames College was not part of the wider college group. Richmond-upon-Thames College became part of the College group in January 2023. Future work on access and participation will incorporate Richmond-upon-Thames College as part of the statement.

In total, there are 6603 full time students studying at HCUC in '21/22, 2,722 part-time learners, 646 apprentices and 311 students on HE programmes. 87% of HCUCs FT students are aged 16-18. HCUC is the largest further education corporation in west London, and while our four main campuses are located in Hillingdon and Harrow boroughs, learners participating in HCUC programmes are drawn from right across west London. It is worth noting, for example, that 62% of Harrow College's full-time learners travel into Harrow from other adjacent boroughs while 58% of Uxbridge College's full-time learners reside in other nearby boroughs.

There is a rich curriculum offer across HCUC with provision available in 15 out of the 15 recognised sector subject area categories. The provision on offer ranges from entry level to HE at undergraduate Levels 4 and 5, ensuring locally available progression pathways for HCUC learners. In addition to the breadth of provision at HCUC, emerging specialisms have been fostered in the STEM areas including in science, engineering, computing and digital and health and social care.

The first three years of the WLIoT has seen it perform well in its engagement with its Anchor partners and a wider set of employers, acknowledging the impact of the pandemic particularly on the recruitment of Higher Apprenticeships. A post Covid reset of objectives, which pays due attention to re-building the local and regional industry connect as that recovers, as well as developing a strong pipeline base at level 3 (and indirectly linked to level 1 and 2 and local school IAG relating to technical education), all of which will help ensure the WLIoT continues to respond to the skills needs of Industry 4.0.

HCUC recruits a sizable proportion of learners from areas of high social and economic deprivation (56%), supports a very high proportion of students from BME backgrounds (75%), as well as 372 Looked After Children.

Hillingdon had the lowest percentage (47%) of pupils at KS4 obtaining 8 A\*-C GCSE including Maths & English among the local West London boroughs in 2019. Positive destinations have improved after KS5 to 83% higher than other West London boroughs except Ealing at 86% and it is the same for performance on English and Maths post-16 which is high at 89% only improved by Ealing at 94%. However, below other West London Boroughs for A levels and Applied General Qualifications. All these performance indicators are above the national averages for England.

76% of our 263 HE students (2021/22) offer is in STEM including Digital Technologies, Engineering Electronics, Engineering Mechanical, Construction, and Civil Engineering (Construction and the Built Environment). We run a successful BTEC International Travel and Tourism Management pathway, Business, and Music Technology pathway also. The expectation is to grow our HE offers at HCUC, including through the IoT. Included within are the HCUC co-developed HTQs (in partnership with Brunel University London & Pearsons).

There is a clear skills gap in Hillingdon. Although increasing, in 2018 only 43.2% of Hillingdon residents had a NVQ Level 4 or equivalent qualification compared to the London average 53%, though it is above the UK average 39.3%. For NVQ level 2 and 3, a lower number of residents possess qualifications compared to the London average. 9.3% of Hillingdon residents have no qualifications which is now higher than in London at 6.6% and 7.8 in the UK.

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## **Social Mobility**

In line with the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 and the drive for higher education to increase social mobility, the College aims to improve access to and participation in higher education and to ensure all its HE students, regardless of their background and starting points, succeed and progress.

The College has continued to promote and consolidate its Level 3 and HE provision to a diverse cohort, including underrepresented groups and this has enhanced progression opportunities for learners with local and regional HEIs as well as the College's HE offers.

The College intake is approximately 70% BME, as compared to 35% BME in the West London region, and these higher than 'average' BME rates are also reflected in the College's HE cohorts.

The College also contributes to the widening participation agenda by virtue of the local offer that allows learners to embark on HE programmes more cost effectively.

The College's HE in FE environment, together with the style of delivering learning is known to suit and attract certain learners. Students from high index deprivation post codes and those who are first in family to HE are well represented.

The OfS dashboard for HCUC indicates the following:

1. The College has recruited mature learners a few percentage points above the national figures. However, it is considerably below selected FE colleges. This is likely to be a reflection of the fact that HCUC recruits mainly from internal students who are predominately 16-18-year-olds. The trend for mature learners is downwards, a sharp drop since AY '17/18.
2. The College seems to do well in recruiting students from low income/deprivation areas (IMD 2019 Quintile 1 & 2.). Percentage intake is above both All English HE and Selected HE in FE Colleges. At Uxbridge, where majority of the HE learners are, 1816 students claim a bursary of which 49% (898) are Hillingdon residents. Of the 898 Hillingdon residents, 93.3% live south of the borough, with 60% in 3 sub districts – Hayes/West Drayton/Yiewsley.
3. College figures regarding disabled learners is on par with All English Providers for 19/20, however it is below Selected HE in FE Colleges. The College has an increasing number of learners who declare a disability at FE levels. Expectation is that the number of learners progressing to HE should grow.
4. The College has a higher proportion of FSM eligible learners than HE generally but is 1.3 percentage points below Selected HE in FE Colleges.
5. The College recruits well from the Asian community for its HE courses, However, when compared with Selected HE in FE Colleges it falls well below the average for both Black and White learners.
6. Uxbridge College recruits 30.4% full-time FE learners from wards with low HE participation rates, (POLAR 4 & TUNDRA LSOA).
7. College HE recruitment is heavily biased towards male learners with 75%. The Selected HE in FE Colleges has an average of 39.8%. This may be an indication of the large proportion of courses HCUC has in Computing and Engineering, which have been traditionally seen as male orientated subject areas.

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## **Widening Participation Access and Participation Priorities 2023-24**

As a result of the self-assessment process for HE, the College has identified the following groups which require focused approach.

### A) Access Priorities

- Mature Learners – ensure that the percentage of learners is on par with HE in FE Colleges
- Disabled Learners – increase the proportion of learners with a disability
- Ethnicity – increase Black and White ethnicity learners from low participating areas, south of Hillingdon borough, especially West Drayton and Yiewsley)
- Increase the proportion of female learners studying STEM related HE subjects.

### B) Participation and Success Priorities

- Maintain the improved retention of Bangladeshi (8 learners) and Pakistani learners, (23 learners.)
- Ensure the achievement of Bangladeshi learners is with 5% of college average.
- Ensure the disability achievement gap is with 5% of the college average

### C) Reviewing and Monitoring Impact

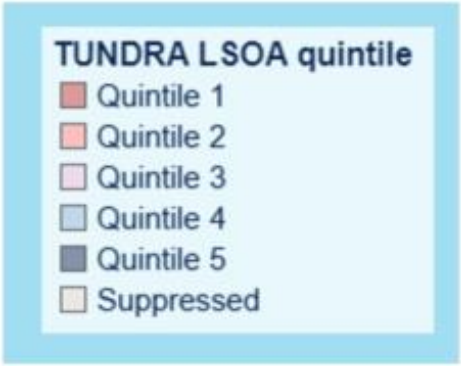
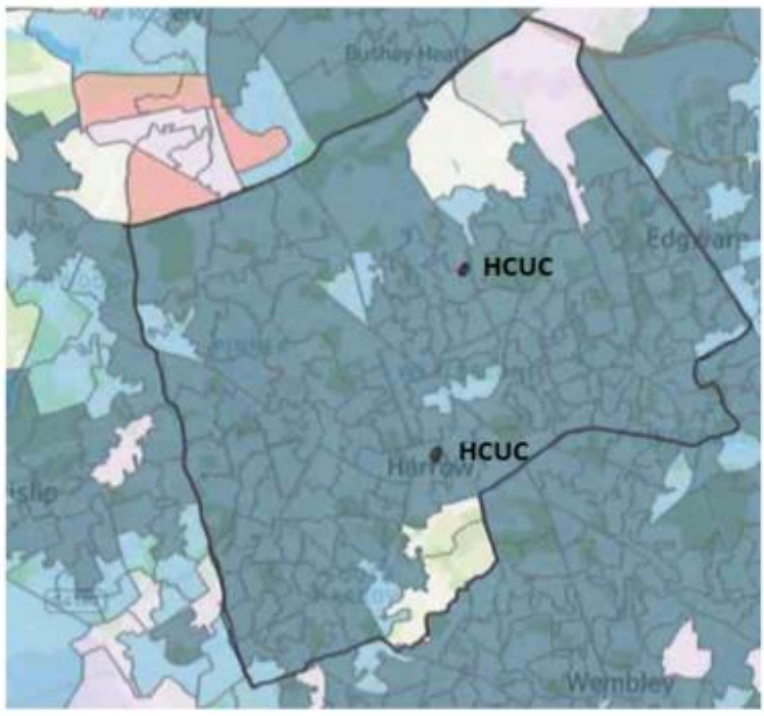
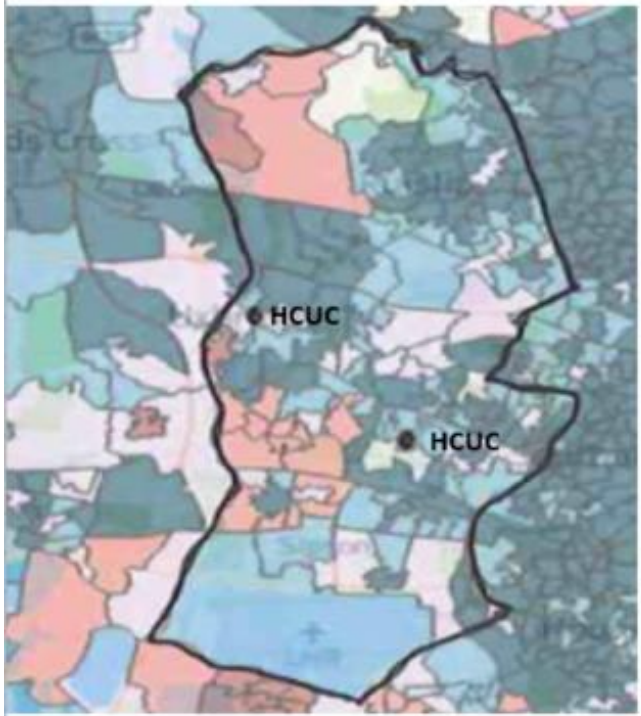
- The College will review the impact of its Access and Participation Action Plan on a termly basis at the Higher Education Academic Standards Committee and at the QCS Governor Body and make adjustments as necessary.

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**Appendix 1 – Areas of HE Participation**

**HILLINGDON**

**HARROW**



<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/maps-of-participation-in-higher-education/>

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## Appendix 2 - HCUC achievement data for HE courses

College, HE Profile (HE SAR 2020/21)

	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
HCUC HE Achievement	91.9%	99.4%	95.2%	96.9%	98.07%	91.1%
HC HE Achievement	90.7%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100%	100%
UC HE Achievement	92.4%	99.1%	94.4%	96.6%	97.84%	90.05%
HCUC HE Enrolments	205	220	210	195	232	273
HC HE Enrolments	49	40	23	17	22	26
UC HE Enrolments	156	180	187	178	210	247
L4+ Teacher Training Enrolments	45	52	47	45	47	45
HCUC Total (incl. Teacher Training)	250	272	257	240	279	318

### By Ethnicity/Gender/Disability

20/21

#### By Ethnicity

#### HCUC

Ethnicity	Starts	Ret	Ret In Yr %	Comp	Comp %	Ach	Ach%
Any Other	9	7	77.8%	7	77.78%	7	100.00%
Bangladeshi	4	3	75.0%	3	75.00%	3	100.00%
Black African	21	20	95.2%	20	95.24%	20	100.00%
Black Caribbean	9	7	77.8%	7	77.78%	7	100.00%
Black Other	4	4	100.0%	4	100.00%	3	75.00%
Indian	80	75	93.8%	75	93.75%	74	98.67%
Mixed	10	9	90.0%	9	90.00%	9	100.00%
Other Asian	37	35	94.6%	35	94.59%	35	100.00%
Pakistani	23	19	82.6%	19	82.61%	19	100.00%
White	82	74	90.2%	74	90.24%	72	97.30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>90.7%</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>90.68%</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>98.42%</b>

#### By Ethnicity 21/22

Ethnicity	Starts	Ret	Ret In Yr %	Comp	Comp %	Ach	Ach%
Any Other	15	11	73.3%	11	73.33%	10	90.91%
Bangladeshi	8	6	75.0%	6	75.00%	4	66.67%
Black African	20	18	90.0%	18	90.00%	17	94.44%
Black Caribbean	6	6	100.0%	6	100.00%	6	100.00%
Black Other	3	3	100.0%	3	100.00%	3	100.00%
Chinese	1	1	100.0%	1	100.00%	1	100.00%
Indian	99	84	84.8%	84	84.85%	79	94.05%
Mixed	13	10	76.9%	10	76.92%	10	100.00%
Other Asian	45	40	88.9%	40	88.89%	36	90.00%
Pakistani	18	14	77.8%	14	77.78%	13	92.86%
White	90	84	93.3%	84	93.33%	77	91.67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>87.1%</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>87.11%</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>92.42%</b>

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### By Gender 20/21

By Gender	HCUC						
	Starts	Ret	Ret In Yr %	Comp	Comp %	Ach	Ach%
Female	92	88	95.7%	88	95.65%	88	100.00%
	92	88	95.7%	88	95.65%	88	100.00%
Male	187	165	88.2%	165	88.24%	161	97.58%
	187	165	88.2%	165	88.24%	161	97.58%
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>90.7%</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>90.68%</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>98.42%</b>

### By Gender 21/22

Gender	HCUC						
	Starts	Ret	Ret In Yr %	Comp	Comp %	Ach	Ach%
Female	103	94	91.3%	94	91.26%	90	95.74%
	103	94	91.3%	94	91.26%	90	95.74%
Male	215	183	85.1%	183	85.12%	166	90.71%
	215	183	85.1%	183	85.12%	166	90.71%
<b>Total</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>87.1%</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>87.11%</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>92.42%</b>

'20/21

### By Disability

Category	HCUC						
	Starts	Ret	Ret In Yr %	Comp	Comp %	Ach	Ach%
Learner considers himself or herself to have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem	30	28	93.3%	28	93.33%	28	100.00%
	30	28	93.3%	28	93.33%	28	100.00%
Learner does not consider himself or herself to have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health	249	225	90.4%	225	90.36%	221	98.22%
	249	225	90.4%	225	90.36%	221	98.22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>90.7%</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>90.68%</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>98.42%</b>

'21/22

### By Disability

Category	Starts	Ret	Ret In Yr %	Comp	Comp %	Ach	Ach%
Learner considers himself or herself to have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem	31	26	83.9%	26	83.87%	22	84.62%
	31	26	83.9%	26	83.87%	22	84.62%
Learner does not consider himself or herself to have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem	287	251	87.5%	251	87.46%	234	93.23%
	287	251	87.5%	251	87.46%	234	93.23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>87.1%</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>87.11%</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>92.42%</b>