



Access and Participation

Rochdale is one of the most deprived boroughs in England, ranked 25 out of 354 local authorities in the indices of deprivation and 55,000 people live in areas ranked in the 10% most deprived in the country. The proportion of qualified adults in the Rochdale Borough is below North West and national averages at every level. The percentage of working age population qualified at Level 3 and above is:

Rochdale 36%
North West 42.5%
England 44.5%

The profile of Rochdale and the low academic base of many of its residents puts an onus on the College to support learning for anyone wishing to improve their skills in ways that meet the needs of potential learners and this is at the centre of all that the College does and is one of the principle drivers for offering opportunities for Higher education with the Borough.

Hopwood Hall College is committed to meeting local and regional needs to widen participation in Higher Education (HE) by under-represented groups. The vision is to develop sustainable, high quality, responsive higher education with a clear focus on employability and widening participation.

The College's ambitions with regard to its HE provision are:

- To provide a high quality teaching and learning experience
- To provide a range of opportunities that meet learner and employer needs
- To deliver HE in a flexible and efficient way
- To enable students to develop and successfully achieve

As part of the admissions process, the College provides comprehensive information, advice and guidance (IAG).which is overseen by the Student and College Services Manager who manages a team of qualified Student and College Services IAG assistants. The Executive Director manages the Student and College Services Manager, the Head of Student Support and Equality and the Marketing & Transitions Manager, to ensure a cohesive approach to admissions through consideration of students' prior achievement and experience, career aspirations, and individual learning and welfare needs. The majority of prospective HE students are interviewed to assess their suitability for higher level studies and the chosen programme of study as well as to identify students' support needs, including study skills support.

The College actively encourages applications from disadvantaged groups and closely monitors recruitment and enrolment from these groups as well as success rates. Data on performance for equality and diversity indicators are reported to the College's Equality and Diversity Committee, the HE Committee, the Senior Management Team and the Cooperation.

Hopwood Hall College works with schools, Colleges, community groups, parents, employers and current level 2 and 3 students to raise awareness of the benefits of HE to individuals, industry and the local economy. Examples of activities undertaken by the College to widen access to HE include; a wide range of presentations, taster sessions, master classes, UCAS support, open days, campus tours, stepping up activities and one to one guidance from a Student Support Tutor. There are well established Access to HE provision which provide opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds and levels of education to progress to university level study.