



BURNLEY COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY COURSES



Burnley College University Courses

Strategy 2025-2029

INTRODUCTION

As a well-established Further Education College, Burnley College is set in the heart of East Lancashire, North West England, and delivers Higher Education through Burnley College University Courses (BCUC).

BCUC serves a community that experiences significant levels of deprivation. The most recent Government Index of Deprivation (IMD 2019), ranks Burnley as the eleventh most deprived local authority, out of 317 local authority districts. Of the student population studying Higher Education at BCUC, over 85% live within 12 miles of the campus. It is reported that Burnley has proportionally more neighbourhoods recorded as highly deprived, in six out of the seven domains of deprivation: including, health, living environment, employment, income, crime and education. It is within this challenging socioeconomic environment, that BCUC works to support students to access education and achieve successful outcomes, whatever their background.

The university provision at BCUC is a result of several successful partnerships with other universities and awarding bodies, offering a wide range of courses accredited by: the University of Lancashire, the University of Greater Manchester, Pearson and most recently Edge Hill University. Through these collaborations, the volume of programmes offered by BCUC have continued to grow and there are currently 58 courses, across a variety of pathways: including, Access, Foundation Entry, Higher National Certificates/Diplomas, Foundation Degrees, Bachelor Degrees, Post-Graduate Certificates, Top-Up Degrees and Degree Apprenticeships. As of academic year 2023-2024, this provision also includes Higher Technical Qualifications and a Masters Degree.

BELIEVE.
ACHIEVE.
SUCCEED.

OUR MISSION

Burnley College University Courses (BCUC) foster a vibrant learning community dedicated to transforming lives and shaping a brighter future for all students.

At the core of our mission is the commitment to **'Building Futures and Changing Lives'**.

The College's mission is supported by seven strategic objectives including to 'significantly expand the range of local opportunities for university-level study whilst maintaining high standards' and 'to maintain outstanding equality of opportunity.'



OUR CORE VALUES:

Creativity & Curiosity

Being open to new activities, thinking and learning

Ambition & Challenge

Pushing your boundaries to ensure success

Care, Trust & Belonging

Working with and supporting others

Collaboration

Demonstrating respect and inclusivity

Leadership for All

Embracing personal growth as a role model

Building Beyond

Displaying commitment and passion for your future



OUR STRATEGIC GOALS ARE:

1. Be responsive to the needs and aspirations of students, employers and the community by providing accessible and flexible university study programmes.
2. To achieve an Investors in Equality Diversity and Inclusion award to further demonstrate our unwavering commitment to providing an inclusive environment for all.
3. Achieve by 2029 Silver status in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) whilst working towards Gold status.
4. 1,000 students enrolled on full time and part time studies.
5. Achieve and maintain outstanding student outcomes: Continuation, Completion and Progression rates.
6. To significantly increase educational gains for all students; the distance travelled, knowledge, skills, work-readiness and personal development.



DELIVERING STRATEGIC GOALS:

Our strategic goals will be achieved through our strategy for 2025-2029 focusing on delivering five key priorities:

1. Delivering an Exceptional Learning Experience and Learner Outcomes

(Creativity & Curiosity, Ambition & Challenge)

We are dedicated to providing an exceptional and supportive learning environment that nurtures talent, fosters creativity, and empowers learners to achieve their full potential. Our commitments include:

- **Personalised Education:** Offering an excellent and tailored education to a growing and increasingly diverse student body.
- **Outstanding Facilities:** Continuously investing in state-of-the-art facilities that spark student curiosity, fuel a passion for learning, and develop skills and knowledge to support local, regional, and national employers.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** In collaboration with our university partners, BCUC is dedicated to continually enhancing the student experience, refining the curriculum, developing staff, and evolving our learning and teaching practices.
- **Student Involvement:** Encouraging students to be co-creators and evaluators of their educational journey. Opportunities include joining the Student Executives Board, participating in the Student Representatives Team, and providing feedback through Student Staff Liaison Meetings, Modular Feedback Questionnaires and National Student Survey.
- **Provide Outstanding Learning and Teaching Experiences:** We will ensure that the student experience and outcomes are consistently outstanding, reflecting high quality learning and teaching that positively impacts students' future ambitions. We strive to empower students to achieve their full potential.



2. Innovative and Inspiring Curriculum

(Building Beyond)

We are dedicated to delivering a curriculum that is both innovative and inspiring, tailored to meet the evolving needs of employers. Our approach includes:

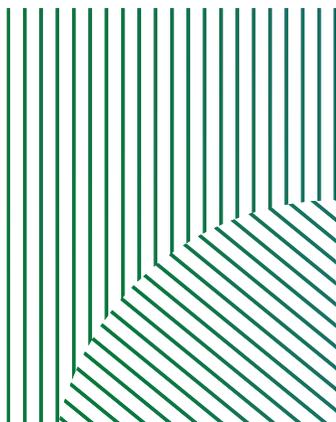
- **Employer-Driven Curriculum Design:** Collaborating closely with industry leaders to ensure our programmes align with current and future workforce demands, equipping students with relevant skills and knowledge.
- **Cutting-Edge Teaching Methods:** Utilising the latest educational technologies and pedagogical strategies to create engaging and effective learning experiences.
- **Real-World Applications:** Integrating practical, hands-on experiences into the curriculum, allowing students to apply their learning in real-world settings and gain valuable insights.
- **Continuous Curriculum Improvement:** Working closely with our partners, regularly reviewing and updating our courses to reflect industry trends and advancements, ensuring our graduates are well-prepared for employment.



3. Graduate Employability and Progression *(Leadership for All)*

We are committed to helping students reach their full potential and make positive contributions to local, regional, and national communities. We will:

- **Cultivate mature, confident, and ambitious learners:** We will ensure our learners are fully prepared for the workforce; work-ready, equipped with the skills, knowledge, and self-assurance needed to succeed in their chosen careers.
- **Flexible Learning Programmes:** Introduce more level 4 and 5 qualifications including Higher Technical Qualifications and modular study programmes through the Lifelong Learning Entitlement. We will continue to offer programmes that allow students to study flexibly (part-time and full-time), upskill, reskill, develop within their current roles, and change careers.
- **Focused Employability and Enterprise:** Providing a targeted approach to student employability and enterprise, with the aim of securing high graduate employment rates aligned to regional and national priorities. We enhance employability by facilitating connections between students and employers.
- **Comprehensive Student Support:** Offering all students:
 - Independent advice and guidance throughout their studies.
 - Opportunities to engage with guest speakers and participate in visits that promote career development.
 - Guidance and support for preparing for their next steps, whether that be employment or further studies.





4. Supportive and Inclusive Environment

(Care Trust and Belonging, Collaboration)

We are dedicated to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where every student feels valued and empowered to succeed. We achieve this by promoting diversity and ensuring equal opportunities for all, regardless of background or circumstance.

Our commitment includes:

- A curriculum designed to support students returning to education, regardless of their previous qualifications. Our goal is to create pathways (Access and Foundation Entry programmes) to higher education for all, ensuring that every learner has the opportunity to advance their academic and professional journey.
- Providing comprehensive support services, such as academic advising, mental health and wellbeing support.
- Financial support including a BCUC Bursary for all full-time students throughout their study programme.
- Impartial and Matrix accredited Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance.
- We also encourage an open and respectful campus culture through initiatives that celebrate different perspectives and experiences. By creating a welcoming atmosphere, removing barriers to learning and offering tailored support.
- We aim to help every student thrive both academically and personally.

5. Commitment to Staff Professional Growth *(Leadership for All, Building Beyond)*

We are committed to developing our staff to ensure they possess the up-to-date knowledge and skills required to teach at both industry and university academic levels. We will ensure our staff are well-equipped, supported, and valued. Our approach includes:

- **Equipping and Supporting Staff:** Providing the necessary resources and support to enable our staff to excel in their roles and to deliver research informed curriculum.
- **Valuing Staff Contributions:** Recognising and appreciating the efforts and achievements of our staff.
- **Encouraging Innovation and Growth:** Promoting a culture of continuous improvement where staff are encouraged to achieve higher level qualifications, innovate, grow, and develop their talents and skills.
- **Exploring New Academic Possibilities:** Supporting staff in exploring new academic opportunities and advancements to enhance their teaching and professional development.







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