



Access and Widening Participation Statement

Available at: <https://www.uspcollege.ac.uk/the-college/policies/>

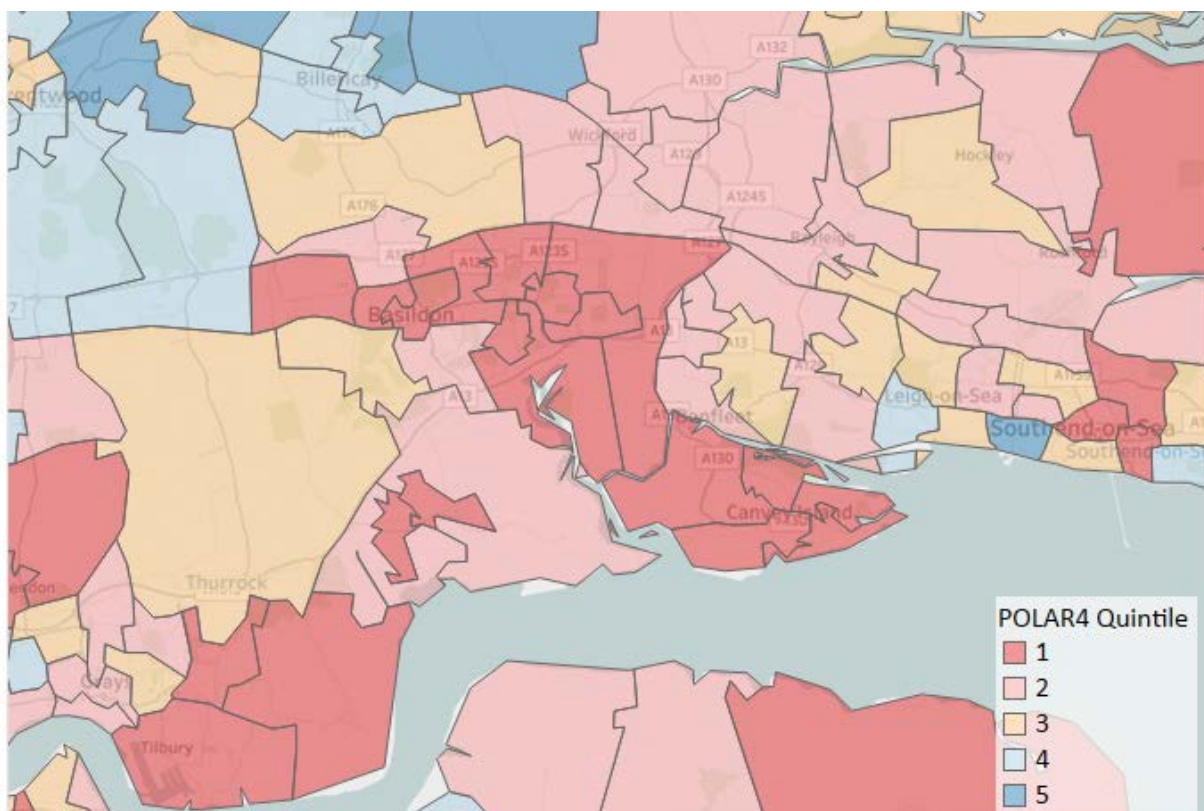
2018/19

Access and Widening Participation Statement

In August 2017 Seevic College merged with Palmer's College in response to the Area Review recommendations. The combined College, trading as "USP College" is a medium sized general further education college. The College delivers programmes in a significant number of subject sector areas and these range from pre-entry to advanced level. The College has a 16-18 population of approximately 3,700, of which around 1,400 are studying A-Levels and 1,700 Level 3 professional qualifications.

We are committed to making the USP College learning experience available to students, so that no student is disadvantaged by their ability to fund their studies.

The following map: POLAR – Participation of Local Areas – shows significant cold spots within the local community for HE participation.



NB <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/analysis/yp/POLAR/Map,of,young,participation,areas/>

USP College is committed to delivering high quality HE provision designed to meet local and regional needs and those of our College community. The College values the diversity of our student body and is committed to minimising barriers to entry for all our HE applicants and to widening access.

In order to encourage widening participation in HE, the College carries out a variety of activities:

- Working with key strategic partners to develop a curriculum portfolio that helps shape Higher Education by delivering highly flexible and affordable full and part

time degree courses, enabling people of all ages and backgrounds from the region to realise their potential;

- Engagement with school careers and information and guidance events to encourage progression opportunities;
- Progression briefings delivered by the HE team to existing Level 3 students on HE courses, offered by the College.
- UCAS workshops and application support for existing students through curriculum one to ones.
- Career and employment fairs to promote HE courses with representation from a large number of HE institutions.

USP College is part of the Essex Collaborative Outreach Network, which has just secured funding worth more than £5.8m to help young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to progress into higher education – particularly young white males and ethnic minority groups. Specific local areas in Essex will be targeted where participation in higher education is both low overall and lower than expected given GCSE attainment levels including Basildon, Canvey Island, and Southend.

USP College will deliver a programme of activities in partnership with local schools, colleges, universities and within the community aimed at connecting with students in the identified areas.

The College will be delivering targeted activities through the academic year and around critical decision points for students such as results day for BTEC and A-Level students.

The College provides impartial advice and guidance to ensure our HE applicants and students are well informed and are placed on appropriate courses. Criteria for entry is transparent, accessible and the College encourages applications from diverse backgrounds. The College values the importance of prior work experience, in addition to qualifications, that potential students may bring to their application. Where students may not meet the recommended or expected entry criteria, the HE team work hard to match prior learning and qualifications to courses and give impartial advice on how applicants may reasonably meet the criteria.

The College adheres to the its lead providers admissions policies for franchised courses. In addition, we have our own internal procedure for students wishing to enroll on Pearson Higher National qualifications. In all cases, the admissions process makes available a range of services, including information on courses, and support services available, both academic and non-academic. These processes are reviewed annually by the admission subcommittee of the HE Academic Board.

Ongoing support both inside and outside the classroom is extensive and includes personal and welfare support, academic and study skills support and support for those students with additional learning needs.

The College has a strong commitment to provide HE students with a high-quality learning experience. To this end, the College regularly engages with students to gain feedback on their experience.

HE Performance data is collated and reported to ensure equality and diversity indicators are considered and these are reported to the College Senior Management Team and College Corporation.