

PROVIDER ACCESS STATEMENT 2025-2026

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1) Purpose

The purpose of this statement is to:

- Ensure compliance with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on provider access (Section 42B of the Education Act 1997, Baker Clause).
- Outline the College's approach to managing provider access requests.
- Guarantee students have access to impartial information about a broad range of education and training opportunities.
- Support the College's commitment to impartial careers guidance and raising student aspirations.

2) Scope

This policy applies to all external providers seeking access to students at Northampton College including:

- Further Education providers
- Higher Education providers
- Apprenticeship providers
- Employers and training organisations

3) Student Entitlement

All students at Northampton College are entitled to:

- find out about higher education and technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point;
- hear from a range of local and national providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events;
- understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses, and for employment.

Provider encounters will be scheduled during the main college hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:

- share information about both the provider and the career opportunities that the provider offers
- explain what career routes those options could lead to
- provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider
- answer questions from students

4) Meaningful Provider Encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between students and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all students using the Making it Meaningful checklist:

[Making it Meaningful: Benchmark 7 | CEC Resource Directory \(careersandenterprise.co.uk\)](https://careersandenterprise.co.uk)

5) Procedure for Provider Access

1. Request Submission: All provider access requests must be made in writing to the Careers Lead at least 4 weeks in advance. Requests should include:
 - Name and nature of the organisation
 - Intended audience (e.g., courses, levels)
 - Purpose and format of the visit
 - Proposed date(s) and time(s)
2. Approval: The Careers Lead will review the request and respond within 10 working days. Approval will be based on relevance to students, alignment with the College's curriculum, and logistical considerations.
3. Safeguarding Compliance: All visiting providers must comply with the College's safeguarding and health & safety policies, including providing DBS clearance where applicable.
4. Access Arrangements: Once approved, the College will coordinate the visit to minimise disruption and maximise student benefit.

6) Premises and Facilities

The College will make the lecture theatre, teaching rooms or private meeting rooms available where possible for discussions between the provider and pupils, as appropriate to the activity. The College will also make available AV and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader or a member of their team.

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to live online engagement with our pupils from providers.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the College Libraries to be made available for students to access in the Careers section.

7) Roles and Responsibilities

- **Careers Lead:** Manages and coordinates provider access, maintains records, and ensures compliance with statutory guidance.
- **Staff:** Support the delivery of provider engagements and facilitate student participation.
- **Providers:** Ensure all materials and presentations are accurate, impartial, and suitable for the student audience.

8) Management of Provider Access Requests

A provider wishing to arrange access must contact:

Mark Owen, Assistant Principal Student Services & Careers

Email: mark.owen@northamptoncollege.ac.uk

Tel: 01604 734015

9) Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains compliant with statutory requirements and responsive to the needs of students and providers.

Policy approved by: Mark Owen, Assistant Principal Student Services & Careers

Date: August 2025

Next Review Date: August 2026