

Chesterfield College Access Agreement

Chesterfield College is a Learning and Skills Council Beacon College and provides education and training to the communities of Derbyshire, North Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire. These communities have within them pockets of extreme deprivation and low educational achievement. Hidden unemployment in Chesterfield and Bolsover is estimated to be 15%. In Derbyshire 22 wards are in the 10% most deprived in the country and the districts comprising our local catchment area have the lowest participation rates in learning in the county.

A key strategic objective of the college is to improve participation in Higher Education, to both meet regional needs to develop a high skill high qualification workforce and to develop individual ambition and aspirations. Only 35% of employees in Derbyshire are in higher order occupations compared to 40% nationally, while 25% are in lower order occupations compared to 20% nationally, a low pay, low qualification culture exists in the region.

The College has over 3,250 full-time further education learners, 15,000 part-time learners, 350 Higher Education learners and over 250 learners participating in work based learning.

The College is committed to meet the challenge of widening participation by the development of new Foundation Degrees, with our partner higher education institutions and the developing Lifelong Learning Network. Foundation degrees will be available by both full time and part-time modes of attendance, while the development of our existing directly funded Higher National provision will continue to respond to employers needs.

The college has 350 higher education students of which approximately 110 are full-time. There are 7 Foundation degrees are running at present with 5 scheduled to start in 2007, in addition the College offers 4 Higher National qualifications. The higher national courses continue to be highly regarded and well supported by local employers.

The estimated full time higher education cohort for September 2006 is 110, of which over 90% of whom will come from the locality.

The agreement is for the period of 5 years to 2011 and subject to reasonable adjustment for inflation.

Level of fees

- The level of fee will be £2,000
- This fee will apply to its Hefce Directly funded higher education. This currently applies to Directly funded BTEC Higher National Diploma courses and Foundation Degrees validated by Sheffield Hallam University or Leeds Metropolitan University
- This agreement does not apply to franchised provision with the University of Derby. Part-time fees for HEFCE funded course will be agreed by the Corporation along with fees for FE courses.

Bursaries and other financial support for students.

The College gives a clear assurance that it will give a **£400** annual bursary to all new entry students not on course franchised from the University of Derby. Mature students – defined as students who are **aged 23 or over** on the 1st September in the first year of the course will qualify for a further **£300**

Students who are under the age of 23 and **qualify for a Higher Education Maintenance Grant will also receive £300.**

The maximum bursary for any student is £700

The Bursary will be paid in 3 instalments:

1. First Instalment in October
2. Second Instalment in February
3. Third Instalment in April

The level of tuition fee set by Chesterfield College reflects the following college commitments:

That the cost of full-time higher education study will not act as a barrier to those students who are capable and willing to undertake higher education study. That increased income from tuition fees will directly benefit the students, enhancing their learning experience and encourage further progression and achievement.

That additional revenue gained from enhanced income from tuition fees will be focussed towards attracting under-represented groups, in our local communities, into higher education through focused outreach activities and the introduction of bursaries that are not currently available in the College.

Provision of Information to Students

Financial information will be made available to all prospective students prior to the commencement of their course and will be clear, concise and accessible.

The information will state the annual and aggregate fees for the course, bursary arrangements and other financial support i.e. the HE support fund which may be available. This will enable students to predict the likely level of debt incurred by the end of the course.

This information will be provided through a variety of channels and media including:

- On the college website
- In the Higher Level Courses brochure
- Through the Information Advice and Guidance Office
- Through the Student Services Office
- By contacting Registry
- At careers talks/events with our local partner institutions and schools
- Briefings and talks in-college by our team of higher education advocates, especially to our level 3 vocational students
- During Adult Learners weeks
- At all Higher Education interviews and inductions

Milestones

June 2005	Publication of College Higher Education fees and bursary scheme. Achieved
September 2006	Outreach activities implemented. Achieved
September 2007	Increase applications for full-time programmes from Derbyshire residents by at least 10% (2004/2005 baseline - 67 learners). Exceeded
September 2006	Fees and Bursary Scheme reviewed and amended.
September 2007	HE Module delivered to 16 – 18 year old FE learners in local schools
September 2008	Retention on all full time courses to rise by 5% (2004/2005 baseline)
September 2008	Increase by 10% internal level 3 vocational progression (2004/2005 baseline = 40)

- September 2008 Increase of 5% in level 4 and 5 completion
(2004/2005 baseline)
- September 2009 Increase by 5 % students from Social Class 4-7
(2004/2005 baseline = 19)

Higher Education Outreach Work

The college currently engages in extensive outreach work with schools and partners aiming to engage members of the local community in the North Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire Coalfields, which are areas of high deprivation. An extensive new building has been constructed in Clowne. It is an accessible centre for this region and the College aims to stimulate interest in a wide range of accessible educational opportunities through a range of targeting strategies.

A substantial community education programme has been developed to meet perceived demand and the College has recently introduced a staffing structure that specifically targets engagement with local employers and community organisations to service their staff development requirements. This forms a bridge to higher education learning opportunities, for individuals who have not traditionally participated and progression routes for employers to enhance their staff skills. Our particular focus is to target first-in-the-family students and students from low participation wards as identified in local AimHigher data.

The additional investment will be used to both enhance the existing outreach activity and also extend outreach work through the appointment of a Higher Education Outreach Manager charged with raising awareness of opportunities and benefits of higher education with those courses and groups of people traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

In 2008 the College proposes to offer schools the opportunity to participate in a Higher Education Module which provides their 16 – 18 learners with 30 UCAS Points.

Income/Expenditure	£
Fee Income: £220,000 110 X £2000	220,000
Baseline Fee Income 110 x £1300	143,000

Planned Expenditure:	
• 110 x £400 bursaries	44,000
• 75 x £300 bursaries	22,500
• {Outreach activity • {Building Relationships with schools	10,500
	220,000

Monitoring Arrangements

The College's Higher Education Manager will present an annual report to the Higher Education Strategy Steering Committee on the progress to achievement of the milestones and will produce an updated 3 year development plan to the same group detailing future strategies.

This report will be presented to the College's Senior Management team by the Chair of the Steering Committee. Any remedial activity required and progress made will be incorporated into the Colleges Strategic Plan. This report will form the basis of the return to OFFA by the end of July each year.

Updated November 2006