

**City College Manchester**

**Access Agreement 2006 – 07**

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**1. Introduction**

1.1: City College, in revising its' Higher Education Strategy, proposes to implement the introduction of variable fees above the current level for directly funded HEFCE programmes from September 2006.

1.2: The following statements articulate the college's determination to continue to further develop its widening participation strategies for entry into higher education, and its policies and intentions to provide innovative student support and guidance appropriate to need.

**2. Fee Limits**

From September 2006, variable fees will be levied to students entering into fulltime BA (Hons) Degree programmes within the School of Theatre at City College.  
Part time fees will not be subject to variable fee increases.

**3. Fee Levels**

3.1: **Full Time:** From September 2006, all students enrolling on BA(H0ns) Degree programmes in the School of Theatre will be subject to a top up fee, resulting in a total fee of.....**£ 3000 pa.\***

From September 2006, all students enrolling on Foundation Degrees, Higher National Diplomas and Higher National Certificates will not be charged a top up fee, resulting in a total fee of:.....**£ 1,200 pa.\***  
*\*Fee limits will rise in line with annual inflation rate*

3.2: **Part Time:** From September 2006, all students enrolling on part time higher education programmes including Foundation Degrees, Higher National Diplomas and Higher National Certificates will not be subject to an increased pro – rata top up fee.

**4. Marketing and Publicity**

From September 2005, the college will confirm its position on the charging of variable fees from 2006, and the measures it will implement relating to student support and guidance including both general HE Bursaries and Scholarships and those with a selective focus within the School of Theatre.

These will include:

- All prospective students will be informed of the cost of their tuition prior to applying for a place at the college through both corporate and programme – level publicity material.
- Appropriate information on variable fee increases and the support mechanisms of bursaries and scholarships available from September 2006 inserted into the current prospectus and other associated HE marketing and recruitment - focussed materials.
- Exploration of initiatives to utilise “virtual” publications available within the region.
- Information as above to be inserted into the Greater Manchester Strategic Alliance – HE in FE Consortium Prospectus and other publicity related materials.
- Information as above to be published on the college website.
- Building on the outcomes of the externally managed review of FE to HE Progression and Student Perception of HE delivered at City College (Responsive College Unit 2005), it is proposed to implement a range of initiatives to strengthen student awareness of progression opportunities. These will include a full FE to HE Curriculum Mapping exercise to identify gaps in articulation and promote debate to stimulate the development of new curriculum offers in HE provision. In addition to this, a series of Internal Progression Open Days and taster sessions will further strengthen student awareness of provision opportunities and the availability of broader financial and pastoral support mechanisms.

- Updating all HE Information packs for prospective students.
- On-going contact with feeder institutions during 2005/06 to ensure all prospective students are informed of the fee limits at City College and the accompanying student support mechanisms to ensure a high quality HE student experience. This will include the potential formation of an academic recruitment team (ART) comprising key programme personnel who will articulate with the HE Development Manager to develop strategies to strengthen on-going relationships with feeder institutions with particular attention to the promotion of City College's niche provision.

### **5. HE Support & Development (Outreach)**

The HE Development Team consisting of the HE Development Manager, HE Administrator and the "Headstart" coordinator (Aimhigher), will continue to work with the School's Liaison Officer and the HE Student Support team to strengthen and further develop access procedures and provide enhanced support through the following initiatives.

#### **5.1. Outreach**

- Enhancement of School's Liaison team to strengthen progression opportunities for Year 11, 12 and 13 students.
- Enhancement and further development of support materials for School's Liaison Team.
- Develop "Relationship Marketing" / Recruitment strategies to provide opportunities for academic staff to engage effectively with appropriate feeder institutions.
- Enhance data base intelligence of external level 3 programmes at feeder institutions in support of relationship marketing.
- Add value to, and extend, the range of "Aimhigher" activities in collaboration with the Greater Manchester Strategic Alliance (GMSA).
- Continue to further develop initiatives with mature learners in outreach centres.

#### **5.2. HE Support & Development**

- Increase the number of programme level and cross college HE events for internal and external students.
- Further develop post enrolment support through delivery of "Headstart" Study Skills programmes.
- Strengthen cross college ethnic minority marketing and enrolments.
- Introduce national auditions for theatre students in London, Birmingham and Bristol.
- Continue to develop and enhance the HE ethos, culture and environment within the college to provide continued improvement to the HE student learning experience.
- Provide appropriate staff development training to both FE and HE staff to consolidate awareness of the need to develop a full and comprehensive awareness of the College's HE strategies to provide greater opportunity for students to continue their studies on Level 4 programmes within the college.

### **6. Use of Additional Income**

Of the additional income generated from top up fees, approximately 30% will be directed to the investment of the HE support and outreach activities and the implementation of bursaries and scholarships.

**All students receiving the Full HE Maintenance Award will automatically receive the £300 top-up.**

### 6.1. Bursaries and Scholarships

The additional fee income will allow the college to offer a range of both general HE Bursaries and Scholarships and those with a selective focus within the School of Theatre. Whilst the college has yet to ratify its position on the specific focus of the awards, the School of Theatre will seek to offer bursaries and scholarships in line with both need and achievement. Current strategies indicate that a series of scholarships could be offered against achievements in auditions and progression from Level 1 through to Level 3. This strategy will ensure that financial support is front-loaded and continued throughout the programme.

### 7. Monitoring

The Higher Education Development Unit, in-conjunction with the Arts Curriculum Area & The School of Theatre, will monitor and review the targets and objectives set out in the agreement, producing a bi-annual evaluation report reporting to the Senior Management Team and the Academic Board.

### 8. Milestones

Milestones are based on HE enrolments with WP factor. Based on the evidence we have, 5% is a challenging yet realistic target, as we work to improve progression rates from Level 3 to Level 4 and migrate towards the broader college widening participation target. HE learners with uplift are flagged as eligible for ward-based uplift ie: their post code is deemed to be in a deprived area. A smaller percentage are also flagged with other codes such as studying a basic skills programme, homeless, ex-offender and asylum seeker

Year	Total HE Enrols.	HE Enrols with WP	WP as % of HE
2001/02	502	204	41%
2002/3	456	185	41%
2003/4	486	196	40%
2004/5	409	173	42%

	Baseline	Milestone 2006/7	Milestone 2007/8
HE Enrols. With WP Factor	40%	45%	50%
% Eligible for Bursary	53%	56%	59%

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