



ACCESS AGREEMENT

September 2007

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The mission of the College is to

‘transform lives and build prosperity by attracting young people, adults and employers into learning, and by inspiring them all with excellent opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills’.

1.2. The College has an excellent track record in attracting into HE students from a wide range of under-represented groups, as follows. In 2006-07:

43% of all higher education students are from widening participation post code areas (based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation)
71% are from the Wakefield district
50% were over 24 years of age
5% from an ethnicity minority (compared to local ethnic minority population of 2.3%)
4% declared themselves to have a disability

1.3. The QAA have recently commended the quality and standard of our HE provision. OFSTED have also recently endorsed the quality of our FE provision.

1.4. The College’s Strategic Plan 2007-10 and the Strategy for Higher Education have objectives, outcomes and actions related to widening participation.

2. FEE LIMITS

2.1 Provision included in the agreement.

2.1.1 This Agreement applies to all courses for which Wakefield College receives funding directly from the Higher Education Funding Council for England, including provision where funding is allocated to the College via the West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network.

2.1.1. The fee charges for in-directly funded provision offered at the College will be determined by the University providing the funding.

2.2 Students included within this Agreement

2.2.1. Full-time students who are eligible to pay EU tuition fees are included within this Agreement.

2.2.2. Part-time students and non-EU students recruited to provision offered at Wakefield College are subject to fees determined by the College, which are renewed annually by the Fees Policy Group.

2.3 Review of Agreement

2.3.1. This Agreement will be renewed annually by the College Fees Policy Group and approved by the Senior Management Team.

2.4 Tuition Fees

2.4.1. From 1st September 2008, Wakefield College will charge an annual fee of up to £1,500 to students on full-time HEFCE funded courses.

2.4.2. The higher level fee will not apply to current students on programmes commencing prior to 1st September 2008.

2.4.3. Fee levels beyond 2008/09 for all students will be subject to the inflationary increase announced by the Government.

3. BURSARY SCHEME

3.1. Wakefield College will not be operating a bursary scheme as this Agreement has been submitted to cover actual costs incurred by the College as a consequence of the requirement to register students with awarding and validation bodies. The fee is calculated for 2008/09 using an assumed tuition fee of £1,255 plus a cost of £245.00 p.a. to cover the costs of registration and the administration of payments to the awarding institution. This Agreement provides the College with the opportunity to claim the full costs incurred. It will not disadvantage the student because it will ensure that there are no 'up front' costs in the form of registration fees. These costs can then be incorporated into individual loan agreements.

4. PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO STUDENTS

A variety of methods will be employed to ensure that information regarding fees and financial support is widely available. These include:

- The Higher Education prospectus
- The College web-site
- Student Services, in particular student welfare and financial support services
- The Schools Liaison team
- Regional and national HE exhibitions
- College 'parents' evenings', Open Days and other progression events

5. OUTREACH WORK

The College has historically made considerable efforts to encourage students from under-represented groups, especially from local communities, to apply to the College and raise the aspirations of those who would not normally do so to apply to higher education. A significant proportion of the College's provision has been developed with employers with the explicit intention of engaging work-based learners who otherwise may not engage in higher education.

The College is an active partner in the West Yorkshire Life Long Learning Network and will work with partners to develop progression routes and curriculum to enable new groups of learners (especially vocational learners) to enter higher education.

The AimHigher projects that the College is involved in sub-regionally include:

- Apprentices Go Higher - Wakefield College is the lead institution
- FE to HE Progression – in partnership with Leeds, Trinity and All Saints College
- Higher Education Guidance Network – in partnership with The Open University

The College will continue to engage with local and sub-regional initiatives and agencies to attract under-represented clients into learning. This will be through existing strategies rather

than through any additional resources generated by the income received from the tuition fees charged through this Agreement.

6. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The College will measure the impact of participation in higher education through:

- An increase in higher education recruitment
- Improved progression from College FE into HE
- An improvement in retention, attendance and achievement of HE students
- An increase in awards and provision available to meet employer demand
- Regular review of learner feedback
- Monitoring of student profiles in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, disability and levels of disadvantage

7. INSTITUTIONAL MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

Arrangements will be introduced to report on the impact of this agreement through the following:

- Fees Policy Group
- Academic Board
- Senior Management Team

The Director of Higher Education has responsibility to report and monitor compliance with the commitments stated within this Agreement