



Sussex
Coast
College
Hastings

Access Agreement 2012/13 academic year

Sussex Coast College Hastings

Contact details: Dr. Mohan Chana
Vice Principal Skills and Innovation
E-mail: mchana@sussexcoast.ac.uk
Tel: (+) 44 7540 672076

Mr. David Fowler
Head of Higher Education
Email: dfowler@sussexcoast.ac.uk
Tel: 07813 255330

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1. College Vision and Mission

New vision and mission

- Our Vision for Transformation: Inspiring futures: Changing lives
- Our Mission: High Quality Education and Training in partnership

2. College in context

Sussex Coast College Hastings is a Further Education College serving the areas of Hastings and Rother, situated within the town of Hastings at two main campus sites, Station Plaza and Ore Valley. It also has vehicle workshops in Bexhill-on-Sea approximately 8 miles west of Hastings, east and an Energy Centre for plumbing, heating and nuclear training in St Leonards-on-Sea.

The college received £99 million for a capital build to inspire the community and raise aspirations. Therefore affordable Higher Education provision is key to the regeneration of Hastings.

The College has received awards or recognition from a large number of organisations including Action for Business, Centre for Vocational Learning, Investors in People, Positive about Disabled People, Action for Inclusion, National Skills Academy Nuclear, Wella Centre of Excellence, National Enterprise Academy & Cisco Networking Academy, National Skills Academy for Retail and National Skills Academy for Renewable Energies.

The College FE provision has been well evaluated, achieving Grade 2 at its most recent Ofsted inspection in 2008. Its largest subject areas are Construction/Engineering, Academy 6 (Sixth form) and the Visual Arts.

The College currently has approximately 1846 16-18 learners, 662 19+ FE learners, 179 full-time and 94 part-time HE students for the academic year 2011/12. HE accounts for 1/16 of the total income for the College.

The College works in partnership with two Higher Education Institutions, The University of Brighton (UOB), UCH (University Centre Hastings (University of Brighton) located in Hastings) and The University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN). The partnership with UOB has existed since 1987 and the College now offers foundation degrees and a BA (Hons) top-up programme. The college is working closely with UCH to ensure Hastings as a town delivers a coherent offer.

The University of Central Lancashire partnership was developed in 2010 to deliver a foundation degree in Nuclear Engineering.

The progression rate to Higher Education for the young people of Hastings and Rother is one of the lowest in East Sussex. Hastings is ranked as the 2nd most deprived ward in East Sussex and the 19th most deprived in the country. 60% of our 16-18 students last year received EMA with 93% receiving the maximum £30 per week; this shows the level of deprivation in the region.

This Access Agreement for 12/13 pays careful consideration to the local demographic in East Sussex. Through this agreement the College seeks to ensure that its vocational provision in HE is maintained at the highest standards. Higher Education is an important part of the work of the College and is carried out with the following aims:

- To widen participation so that more students and non-traditional students in the East Sussex area can access Higher Education.
- To provide a supportive progression route to Higher Education for those without the formal entry requirements or who have non-traditional qualifications.
- To offer opportunities for progression from within the college for those learners completing level 3.
- To provide blended and flexible learning including e-learning, off site, part-time and top-up provision to ensure the college engage with local and regional employers.
- To provide professional research and development opportunities for all staff
- To provide flexible HE that is responsive to local employer requirements, particularly in sectors where participation in HE is currently low.

3. Widening Participation

The undergraduate curriculum has been planned to encourage students to study at the College and developed in conjunction with local key industry partners. Through

information gained partly through the College's 'In business' team, the college now is focusing and investing further on a local vocational training agenda at HE level that will support key current local industry and anticipate the developments of new industry. It is hoped this will both encourage participation and demonstrate that the College is aware of the educational needs of the local community and committed to responding to these, through the HE offer including foundation degrees and Higher National Diplomas in several subject areas and a variety of study modes.

This offer seeks to improve existing levels of recruitment from under represented groups: 37% of the College's 2009 cohort came from NS-SEC categories 1-3, with 37% of this cohort also coming from Low Participation POLAR neighbourhoods 1 and 2. 41% of this cohort received the maximum available University bursary, because their household income was below £25,000. Despite the local issues of low participation and deprivation in Hastings and Rother, these rates are lower than at some other FECs in Sussex and the College has set targets to address this. In particular, the College will seek to:

- i. increase participation from under-represented groups as defined by NS-SEC and LPN data
- ii. increase internal progression from Further Education to Higher Education
- iii. increase continuation rates from the 2009-10 rate of 73%

4. Level of fees

Sussex Coast College propose to charge the following fees for all full time HE students:

Foundation Degrees	£7,000
Top-up Degrees	£7,500
HND	£3,250

5. Expenditure on Additional Access Measures

Given the widening participation objectives noted above, the College intends to spend 20% of additional fee income above £6,000 on access measures. This will equate to £25,625 in 2012-13. In line with OFFA guidance, we will target bursaries for students in support of the objectives and milestones identified in this agreement.

6. Financial Support for the Students:

Retention bursaries

In 2012-13 we will allocate £10,000 for bursaries to improve continuation rates. We will allocate a fee waiver of £500 to students progressing into their second year of study in 2013, who meet both of the following criteria:

- a declared income below £16,190

- Low participation neighbourhood: Polar 1

The college intends to join the NSP for the next academic year, our Scholarship proposals / criteria are at planning stage.

7. Outreach activities:

The remaining £8,625 will be dedicated to outreach to support progression to HE from the College's level 3 provision, in particular to the promotion and development of activities which engage 16-18 learners who are completing their level 3 qualifications, Access to Higher Education and other students who come with non-traditional qualifications. **Targets and Milestones:**

Targets and milestones for improving access are set out at the end of this agreement.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation:

This Access Agreement will be monitored on a regular basis placing emphasis on the key performance indicators at three key Performance Review audits throughout the year. The information will be shared with other Heads of Learning at the Higher Education Strategy Board. The College has introduced a link Governor Scheme who will meet the teams and the students twice a year. Key performance indicators will be reported to the Curriculum Quality and Standards Committee. The committee will review progress and make recommendations accordingly.

9. Provision of Information to prospective students:

Sussex Coast College will provide the following information for all our HE students and stakeholders:

1. Information on fees through our website
2. Course information through the HE prospectus
3. Details of financial support
4. Details of other resources available at the College

