



**Bridgwater College  
Access Agreement February 2009**

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1. Introduction

Bridgwater College has a proven track record of delivering high quality vocational higher education (H.E.) and in promoting widening participation in H.E. It is committed to providing career relevant HE courses in a personal and cost effective way to the people of Somerset and surrounding counties.

Bridgwater College works in collaboration with five partner universities; Bath Spa University, Bournemouth University, Oxford Brookes University, University of Plymouth, and the University of Central Lancashire and also provides undergraduate courses directly funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

This Access Agreement sets out the terms of the variable tuition fees charged by Bridgwater College for those courses directly funded by HEFCE

2. Length of agreement

This agreement is for 5 years from the academic year 2009/10.

3. Fee limits

- 3.1 Full time students who are eligible for EU tuition fees will be charged £1,500 per year for all Bridgwater College HND or Foundation Degree courses from the 2009/10 academic year. The fee limit will rise with inflation (in line with annually published Government regulations).

Students who are classed as overseas students will pay a separate fee and are not covered by this agreement

- 3.2 Part time students will be charged £800 for all Bridgwater College HND or Foundation Degree courses from the 2009/10 academic year. The fee limit will rise with inflation (in line with annually published Government regulations).

#### 4. Bursary support

- 4.1 There will be no bursary support for students as the College will be charging substantially below the fee limit of £3,225

#### 5. Publicising fees and financial support

- 5.1 A number of methods will be used to ensure that prospective students are as clear as possible about the fee charged, and the amount of student support they may be entitled to. These are outlined below:
- 5.2 The website will contain a section on finance, including fee and support information. Information will include institutional support and support available through the government through the maintenance grant, teaching bursaries and maintenance loans.
- 5.3 This information will also be published in our prospectus and advertising.
- 5.4 This information will be clearly communicated to applicants in the information pack sent to them at the offer stage.

#### 6. Monitoring

The number of students on the College's directly funded HEFCE courses is very small and therefore the setting of detailed milestones and monitoring is not deemed appropriate. The College, however, will be noting the impact of these measures on widening participation as part of its monitoring of its total HE provision through Aim Higher and reports to HE Area Review Group and our annual report to the Board of Governors.

#### 7. Summary

In the absence of a university in Somerset, Bridgwater College is committed to supporting all prospective H.E students from the county and the surrounding areas through its outreach centres in Cannington, Yeovil, Paignton and Minehead. Widening participation is central to the College's mission and we are confident that this Access Agreement underlines our commitment to this.