

Exeter College Access Agreement from 2009

1.0 Introduction

Exeter College has a proven track record both in delivering high quality vocational Higher Education and in promoting widening participation in Higher Education. This Access Agreement sets out the terms of the tuition fees charged by Exeter College to Higher Education students on those undergraduate courses at the college directly funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

2.0 Fee Limits

The new fees will be charged to students entering full time courses from September 2009 onwards.

2.1 Level of Fees

All students who are eligible for EU tuition fees will be charged an annual fee of £1,700 for 2009/10 per student for a Degree Programme, Foundation Degree and a HND programme. A fee of £2,100 per student will be charged for those undertaking a HNC Fast Track in one year. The fee will rise to £1,890 for all new students in 2010/11 with the exception of the HNC Fast Track which will be charged at £2,200. Students who are classified as overseas students will pay a separate tuition fee and are not covered by this agreement.

The fees are charged at a flat rate so continuing students will continue to pay the same rate in year 2 with no inflationary increase.

3.0 Use of Additional Fee income/bursary

As our fees are below the fee cap we do not intend to offer any bursaries.

4.0 Outreach Activities

The College has an extensive range of outreach Widening Participation Commitments including:

- Wide and increasing Access to HE provision which traditionally takes people with low formal qualifications. Co-ordinated by a discrete manager who links with HE Office
- Access to HE and HE joint guidance events, supported by the Aim Higher initiative
- A recruitment & selection procedure which is not based only on entry points
- Raising awareness of HE progression with existing students by offering internal progression events, including embedding internal progression within the tutorial scheme of work
- Raising awareness of HE progression with work based learners, including advanced apprentices via specifically targeted events
- Nurturing & fostering good links with harder to reach groups e.g. Bay Tree Exeter Community Initiative, UJIMA & Black & Minority Ethnic groups
- Wide distribution of the HE prospectus
- A bespoke HE section on the College's website and a full range of course leaflets
- Display & presence at all open events including the Adult Learning Fair
- The HE Office to manage the Access to Learning Fund and to highlight the availability of this fund to students

- Actively engage with a number of high profile employers including The Met Office and Flybe and with over 600 SMEs.

5.0 Milestones and Monitoring

The College has a diverse population already. Traditionally we have tracked students by disability and ethnicity. Absolute numbers for these have increased over the past 3 years and we aim to increase these numbers by carrying out all the commitments stated above. By the academic year 2012/13 our targets are to increase our student numbers with a disability from 5% to 10% and ethnic minority groups from 6% to 9%. We commit to monitoring the participation and achievement rates of learners from lower socio economic backgrounds.

The College will achieve this by:

- Positively creating opportunities for students with disability reflecting DDA best practice
- Undertaking a major review of the HE prospectus
- Removing barriers to participation
- Providing per-course, on-course and post course support
- Exploiting existing links and creating new ones with the International Business Community
- Providing an infrastructure which supports international learners

The College undertakes to monitor compliance with the commitments made under this agreement. The following indicators will be monitored annually:

The retention and achievement rates for HE students

The age, gender ethnicity and socio-economic characteristics of the students

The Head of HE Office will report on the above annually to the Senior Curriculum Group, Senior Leadership Team and Governors.

6.0 Providing Information to Prospective Students

The College proposes to use a number of methods to publicise its tuition fees including:

In the HE prospectus

On the college website

On course leaflets

On the student loan company website

7.0 Summary

Widening participation is central to the College's mission and we are confident that this Access Agreement underlines our commitment in this respect.