



**THE GRIMSBY INSTITUTE**  
of Further & Higher Education

# **ACCESS AGREEMENT**

**MARCH 2005**  
**(UPDATED February 2010)**

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## APPENDIX A

Table documenting potential additional income and percentage spent on bursaries and outreach work

## 1. The Institute

The Grimsby Institute of Further & Higher Education is the main provider of further and higher education in the North East Lincolnshire Unitary Authority area. The Institute has been involved in the delivery of Higher Education for over 20 years and currently offers a range of degrees, foundation degrees, higher national diplomas and certificates. In 2004/05 the Institute enrolled 519 full time learners and 655 part time learners. Of the full time learners 83% were drawn from the locality. They are offered in partnership with a number of HEIs including Universities of Hull, Lancaster, Huddersfield, Leeds Metropolitan and Sheffield Hallam. In addition a number of courses are offered through Edexcel.

The approximate population of the Grimsby area is 156,000 with the nearest HEIs some 37 miles to the north and 36 miles to the west and south of the Institute. Whilst the Institute mainly serves the urban area of North East Lincolnshire it also provides educational opportunities to a significant rural hinterland which is also relatively distant from other major further/higher education providers.

## 2. The Challenge

The access agreement comes at a propitious moment in the development of Higher Education at the Institute. With the recent allocation of additional student numbers from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) the Institute has been able to increase substantially its portfolio of courses. Taken together with the Institute's commitment to widening participation, data drawn from the HEFCE widening participation allocation indicating for example that 89% of our full time students are drawn from a disadvantaged background, and the region's historically low participation rate in higher education (HEFCE 2005/03), the agreement provides perhaps a unique opportunity for the Institute to provide enhanced opportunities for its local population.

Currently N E Lincolnshire is one of the most socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged regions in the country. The area is characterised by:

- A high rate of social deprivation<sup>1</sup>
- A low rate of achievement of Level 2 qualifications<sup>2</sup>
- A significant shortage of economically active people holding NVQ4 Level qualifications, or above<sup>3</sup>
- A net outward migration of economically active people<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The area has some of the most deprived wards in the UK in terms of the index of local deprivation, for example, 3 wards out of 15 are in the lowest 10% in the country.

<sup>2</sup> 39.2% achieved 5 or more GCSEs at A\* - C – 14.5% below the national average.

<sup>3</sup> 14.3% as against the national average of 28.3% (source: UNS/NOMIS)

<sup>4</sup> Econometric forecasts predict an 8.1% decline in population over the next 10 years (source: Yorkshire Forward)

- Just over a quarter (28%) of economically active people in higher level occupations<sup>5</sup>

The challenge for the Institute is through its augmented Higher Education provision and in conjunction with its major Further and Higher Education partners to provide mechanisms for local people to achieve equality of access to high quality, economically relevant and life enhancing higher education.

### **3. The Agreement**

#### **3.1 Level of fees**

The provisions of this access agreement apply only to students enrolled on full time higher education programmes at the Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education.

Students enrolling on the higher education programmes listed below for the session 2010/11 course fees will be £2,400 for a full academic year.

Students enrolled on higher education programmes listed below for the sessions 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2009/10 will continue to pay fees of £2,000 for a full academic year.

Students enrolling on the higher education programmes listed below at our Yorkshire Coast College campus (which came under the management of the Grimsby Institute in 2009) course fees will be £1,500 for a full academic year for the session 2010/11. Existing students will continue to pay the standard fee of £1,255.

The courses are:

- 3.1.1 All degrees undertaken by full time study, which are directly funded by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE)
- 3.1.2 All foundation degrees undertaken by full time study, which are directly funded by HEFCE.
- 3.1.3 All Higher National Diplomas undertaken by full time study, which are directly funded by HEFCE.
- 3.1.4 All top-up degrees undertaken by full time study, which are directly funded by HEFCE.

This covers all full time directly funded HEFCE courses at GIFHE. The fee levels for franchised courses are the responsibility of the franchising institution and will be determined by them and specified in their particular access agreement.

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<sup>5</sup> Source: LSC Household Survey 2003

The **above fees apply** equally to United Kingdom students and students who are nationals of any other state of the European Union.

Students who begin a full time course part way through the academic year will pay a fee proportionate to the number of academic weeks remaining.

However, if students transfer from another institution or from part-time to full-time within one month of the course commencing they will be liable for 100% for the course fees.

**Payment of the bursary is conditional on the student being up to date with payment of tuition fees due to the Grimsby Institute.**

### 3.2 Bursaries and Other Financial Support for Students

3.2.1 The level of tuition fee set by GIFHE reflects the following Institute commitments:

- That the cost of full-time higher education study will not act as a barrier to potential students, both capable and willing to undertake such a course.
- That increased income from tuition fees will directly benefit students, and enhance their learning experience and encourage further progression and achievement.
- That additional revenue gained from enhanced income from tuition fees will be focused towards attracting under-represented groups into higher education.

3.2.2 The Bursary scheme will be characterised by:

- **A maintenance grant bursary – this will apply to all first year level 4 students in receipt of state support, in the form of the Higher Education Maintenance Grant and who have demonstrated an 85% attendance rate by the beginning of the Spring term.**
- **Students exempt from the bursary agreement are the introductory year (year 0) and students studying above level 4 (e.g. level 5, level 6).**

Bursary payments will be administered in the following manner:

- **One cash payment of £200 at the end of the Spring term. The payment will act as an incentive to assist retention and progression.**

### 3.3 Provision of Information to Students

Financial information will be made available to all prospective students prior to the commencement of their courses and will be clear, concise and accessible.

The information will stipulate the annual and aggregate fees for the course, bursary arrangements and other financial support which may be available (adjusted to take into account inflation). This will enable students to predict the likely level of debt incurred by the end of the course.

The information will be presented in a variety of ways:

- Through the Institute's Higher Education prospectus, published in June, 15 months prior to the commencement of the course.
- On individual course pamphlets.
- Through the Higher Education Admissions & Administration Office
- At HE Open Events and inductions where a presentation will be given on student finance.
- Outreach work, which will include talks at our partner colleges on student finance.

In addition, a rudimentary cost of living index for the Grimsby area will be provided, including typical cost of student accommodation.

### 3.4 Outreach Work

The Institute currently engages in an extensive outreach programme partly funded through Aimhigher and partly from its own resources. It is engaged in a number of activities with local sixth forms, sixth form partner colleges and the Institute's own level 3 students. Inter alia these include a sub-regional Higher Education Fair hosted by the Institute, a scheme to attract more people recovering from mental health problems into higher education, and Summer Schools aimed at both prospective students and their parents. In addition, through initiatives such as HE4U, the Institute has targeted Year 9 students for outreach work as a way of raising student aspirations in an area of traditionally low participation rates. Short courses are also provided in a variety of community settings, targeting specifically mature learners who typically fall within the widening participation brief.

The Institute has identified three key target groups to which additional fee income would be targeted. Firstly, those with Level 3 vocational qualifications who currently do not progress to Level 4, secondly mature students and finally those living on the Eastern coastal strip, centred on Mablethorpe and Skegness. In addition to its normal outreach activities, the Institute is committed by 2009 to:

- introducing a mentoring scheme open to both full and part time Level 3 vocational learners
- increasing the use of on-line/blended learning on its higher education courses
- extending progression agreements with local schools and colleges
- appointing a Higher Education Schools and Colleges Liaison Officer who will join our current Schools Liaison team with specific responsibility for higher education
- appointing a Higher Education Study Skills Facilitator dedicated to providing study skills provision to higher education students on all levels to aid retention and progression between levels.

- The appointment of a Higher Education Mentor to provide support to higher education students, particularly in their first year, to help build confidence, self assurance and improve retention.
- the establishment of a ‘job-shop’ which will create a link between students and local employers and provide information on opportunities for appropriate part-time employment.

### 3.5 Milestones

The Institute has identified the following milestones and objectives, which will act as key indicators of progression in improving access.

June 2005	Publication of details of the Institute’s fees and bursary schemes
September 2006	All outreach activities to be in place
September 2008	Retention on full time courses to rise by 5% (2004/05 base line)
	An increase of 10% of internal Level 3 vocational progression (2004/05 base line)
	An increase of 5% in Level 4 and Level 5 completion (2004/05 base line)
September 2010	The introduction of 10 new Foundation Degrees (2004/05 base line)
	To retain or increase the percentage of students drawn from social classes 4 – 7 (2004/05 base line)

### 3.6 Institutional Monitoring Arrangements

The Institute will undertake an annual monitoring process to ascertain the level of progress made towards the milestones and objectives. The report will be the responsibility of the HE Partnerships Director and will be presented to the Senior Management Team, the Academic Board and the Governors. Any remedial action required will form part of the report and be incorporated into the Institute’s Annual Business Plan. The report will form the basis of the return to OFFA by the end of July each year.



## APPENDIX A

### Potential additional income and percentage spent on bursaries and outreach work

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11
	Year 1 (£,000)	Year 2 (£,000)	Year 3 (£,000)	Year 4 (£,000)	Year 5 (£,000)
Estimated additional fee income	290	480	560	658	690
Estimate of additional income to be spent on bursaries	32	32	42	42	42
Estimate of additional income to be spent on outreach work	40	40	40	45	50

	11/12	12/13	13/14	13/15	15/16
	Year 6 (£,000)	Year 7 (£,000)	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Estimated additional fee income	723	760			
Estimate of additional income to be spent on bursaries	42	42			
Estimate of additional income to be spent on outreach work	55	60			

Calculations based on numbers of full time students recruited with a 5% growth each year from 9/10 to 12/13. Additional fee income being the HEI course fee minus the standard fee rate of £1225.

	9/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	
Estimated number of full time students new and continuing	850	890	934	980	

Updated February 2010