



Hull College Group

Higher Education Access Agreement

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The provisions described in this agreement apply to Hull, Harrogate and Goole Colleges.

Aims and Purpose of the Agreement

This agreement was prepared following the decision by the Corporation of Hull College to raise its full time undergraduate tuition fees above the standard level from 2006/7. The agreement was originally based upon the College Mission and Strategic Plan for the period 2005-8, which outlined a clear commitment to widening and increasing participation in Higher Education in Hull and in Yorkshire and the Humber.

The aims of the agreement are:

- To provide a financial support package for students entering higher education, making it easier for them to meet the initial costs of study.
- To enable the college to invest in resources which will enhance the quality of the learning experience.

The percentage of 18 year olds entering Higher Education in Yorkshire and the Humber when this agreement was entered was only 18%, which along with the North East, was the lowest in the country. The percentage of those in the 19+ age group entering HE was 8%, only 2% higher than in the North East, placing Hull within the area of the second lowest national participation rate for England across all age groups.

This agreement aims to widen participation in Higher Education by creating HE opportunities which raise aspirations, promote progression from FE and address financial barriers.

Hull College Higher Education Strategy is based upon its proven capacity to deliver high quality vocational education at levels two and three, using Centres of Vocational Excellence as a platform for the development of vocational higher education. The strategy aims to deliver growth and increase participation through directly funded HEFCE places in areas highlighted as regional priorities, and where there are skills gaps and needs for higher level vocational skills. Growth of Higher Education at Hull College in the period 2002-7 has been achieved largely through the development of Foundation Degree, BA and PGCE programmes, in partnership with Hull, Huddersfield, Lincoln and Leeds Metropolitan Universities, and as a member of Yorkshire and Humber East Lifelong Learning Network.

Hull College will direct the additional income generated from tuition fees to promote participation in higher level vocational courses. This will be facilitated by direct financial support for students, and through investment in specialist, differentiated teaching and learning resources, and strategies aimed at increasing internal progression from level

three. Progression initiatives such as 'Aimhigher' activities and focussed marketing of access arrangements are included in this investment strategy.

Fees levels

From the academic year 2010/11 the Hull College Group will charge a full time undergraduate fee of £2,600 per academic year. The fee will apply for the full duration of the course.

Full Time Courses	Validating Partner	Funding	Fees Sep 2010
Foundation Degrees	Leeds Met	Direct	£2,600
BA/ BSc (Hons)	Leeds Met Lincoln	Direct	£2,600
PGCE	Leeds Met	Direct	£2,600
MA/MSc	Leeds Met	Direct	£3,600

Fees for part time courses will not be linked to full time fees and will be differentially priced. Hull College Group, through its fees policy, will consider on an annual basis, the needs of learners on part-time programmes where there are skills shortages, or where the provision is particularly price-sensitive.

Bursaries and financial support

The Hull College Group approach to student bursaries aims to widen access and participation in vocational higher education by addressing financial barriers to participation. It will also aim to encourage progression from our own level three provision, and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Bursary support will be available in the following circumstances:

- Full Time undergraduate students progressing from a level three course will be entitled to claim a bursary of £500 per year
- Full time undergraduate students who are eligible for full Higher Education Maintenance Grant will be entitled to claim a bursary of £750 per year.
- Students progressing to the honours stage from a level three programme within the Hull College Group will be entitled to claim an annual bursary of £750.
- Full time honours degree students who are in receipt of the full Higher Education Maintenance Grant will be entitled to claim a bursary of £1,000 in their final year.

Availability of other Financial Support

There are some local companies and charitable organisations which provide bursaries which students may be eligible to apply for. Details of these are available from student services.

Impact of the Agreement

Based upon the analysis of the current cohort we estimate that the agreement will be likely to advantage some 60% of those who study HE programmes at the Hull campus. Data for Harrogate and Goole campuses will be gathered during the period 2009-11 and will be used to create progression targets against which the impact of the agreement will be measured in each locality.

Of new entrants to HE in 2004/5 some 35% progressed from level three programmes within the college. Data gathered each year indicates a consistent rise in progression to Higher Education within the organisation and to HE elsewhere. This includes those progressing to non-prescribed higher level programmes, which include employment with training at level four and above.

Through the provisions of the agreement the Hull College Group aims to increase its current numbers. The continued development of new Foundation Degrees, Honours Degrees and postgraduate qualifications will provide opportunities for growth and diversification.

Collaborative Arrangements

Where programmes are offered through partnerships, we will seek to minimise any potential impact of differences in fee levels.

Provision of information to students

The Hull College Group will utilise HE Access and support staff on each campus to provide information for prospective students, parents, careers staff and employers on the financial support available to students on Higher Education Courses at Hull, Harrogate and Goole.

The Hull College Group will create a 'plain speaking' guide in a range of formats which will be shared widely using direct marketing, including information events for all level three learners in the city. Events will be delivered on employer's premises and through all workforce development activities.

The college will engage in collaborative events with partners in Yorkshire and the Humber, aimed at offering clear and comprehensive information to students, families and employers about Higher Education opportunities in the Yorkshire and Humber Region.

Outreach activities

In addition to the current outreach activities aimed at informing prospective students, their parents and employers about Higher Education opportunities, the Hull College Group will offer a programme of 'HE for a day' taster activities and summer schools and targeted progression activities to level three learners in schools and colleges in each locality.

Impact measures

The Hull College Group undertakes to monitor the impact of the access agreement by gathering comparative data from each cohort, creating reliable benchmarks, and reporting to the HE Management Group and HE Academic Board. Following the establishment of baseline data, realistic targets for increased participation and planned growth in under-represented areas will be monitored at two points throughout each academic year.

The impact of the agreement will be measured through:

- **Monitoring the increase in numbers of students progressing from levels three to four, and four to five in comparison with previous year's data.**
- **Analysis of the profile of students enrolling on HE programmes to assess increase in applications from under-represented groups.**
- **The Student Voice** – engaging students as 'Partners in Learning'
- **Post code analysis** – targeted progression and aspiration-raising activities in areas where progression is lower than the surrounding locale.
- **Benchmarking against regions with similar patterns of under representation** – opportunities to benchmark against participation rates in regions sharing socio-economic characteristics will provide an indication of success of the agreement, though it is acknowledged that the relative impact of single factors may be difficult to assess.
- **Comparing student support packages with other providers locally** – comparing student support packages with other colleges of similar size and cohort characteristics will enable Hull College Group to realign its access and bursary package to provide the most effective range of support measures.