

**Warwickshire College**  
**Royal Leamington Spa, Rugby and Moreton Morrell**

**Access Agreement**  
**November 2005**

## **1.0 Introduction**

Warwickshire College has a proven track record in the delivery of high quality vocational higher education (HE) and in widening participation in HE. The College strives to ensure fair and equal access to HE courses for all those who wish to, and are able to, benefit from this level of study.

This Access Agreement details the terms of the variable tuition fees charged by Warwickshire College to HE students from 2006-07 and how the College plans to enable individuals to achieve their potential in HE.

## **2.0 Fee limits**

### **2.1 Courses covered by the Agreement**

This Agreement applies to all courses for which Warwickshire College receives funding directly from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

At the time of writing the Agreement, the only HE course excluded from the terms of the Agreement is detailed below. The fee charged for this excluded course will be determined by the appropriate university.

FdEng Motorsport Engineering – fees to be set by Coventry University

For any new course which is validated after the date of this Agreement and which will be excluded from this Agreement, the university setting the tuition fees will be clearly identified in all promotional media.

### **2.2 Students included within the Agreement**

All students who are eligible to pay EU tuition fees will be required to pay the fees outlined in this Agreement.

Students who are classified as overseas students will pay a separate tuition fee, details of the current overseas fee policy are available from the College's International Office.

### **2.3 Agreement renewal**

This Agreement is valid for 5 academic years commencing in 2006-07.

### **2.4 Variable tuition fees**

Warwickshire College will apply variable tuition fees to full-time students on HE courses. Higher fees are charged for courses which cost more to deliver. When differentiating between the cost of course delivery the standard HEFCE

price groups will be used, which group together subject areas of similar delivery costs, where price group B is the most expensive to deliver.

Current subjects delivered by the College are included in the following HEFCE price groups:

<b>HEFCE price group</b>	<b>Subject Areas</b>
<b>D</b>	Business, Leisure, Travel & Tourism, Public Services
<b>C</b>	Computing, Health/Care, Art & Design, Early Years, Counselling, Sport, Spa Management
<b>B</b>	Land-based (e.g. equine, animal welfare/veterinary nursing, horticulture, agriculture), Engineering

In addition to variation between subject areas, a premium fee will be charged for the final year of an honours (or ordinary) degree course.

The College may charge the maximum tuition fee for any course during the lifetime of this Agreement, based on the fee cap for 2006-07 this would be £3,000. However actual fees to be charged for 2006-07 will vary between £1,200 and £2,000.

The Government will revise the fee cap annually in line with inflation and Warwickshire College will review its tuition fees accordingly.

## **2.5 Part-time students**

Part-time students will pay a pro-rata tuition fee calculated on a modular basis in line with the current full-time student fee policy. Therefore the fees paid will depend on the number of modules to be studied in each academic year.

## **3.0 Bursary scheme**

Warwickshire College is fully committed to widening participation and is engaged in numerous activities in this area. In order to further encourage HE participation, the College will offer a generous bursary scheme. Financial support, in excess of the national minimum requirements, will be available to all full-time HE students from low income backgrounds.

The bursary will be an annual cash payment to provide support for living expenses, books, course trips, etc. Students will be eligible to apply for a bursary when they have been granted a partial or full Higher Education Maintenance Grant from the Student Loans Company (SLC). On receipt of evidence from the SLC regarding the level of the maintenance grant awarded the College bursary will be provided at the same level. For example, a student awarded a full maintenance grant will also be entitled to the full

College bursary while a student awarded a 50% maintenance grant will be entitled to 50% of the College bursary.

The College expects to commit 30% of its additional HE tuition fee income on its bursary scheme. The bursary level may vary in response to changes in recruitment of students from low income backgrounds. Nevertheless, a minimum of £300 will be available to any student charged a full £3000 tuition fee.

As the Government revises the fee cap annually in line with inflation Warwickshire College will review its minimum bursary level accordingly.

#### **4.0 Provision of information to students**

Clear information about the tuition fees that apply to HE courses at Warwickshire College and the financial support available to students will be readily accessible in the HE prospectus, website, course literature, leaflets and advice from the Student Services department and at interview. Information specific to the costs of College-owned and other local accommodation is accessible in leaflets and individual advice provided by the Residential Services department.

Prior to accepting a place on a course at Warwickshire College, all prospective students will be advised in writing of the aggregate amount of fees that will be charged for the completion of their chosen course.

#### **5.0 Outreach work**

Warwickshire College currently engages in a wide range of outreach activities and intends to maintain this level of commitment to widening participation:

- **Aimhigher**  
Warwickshire College is fully engaged in the Coventry and Warwickshire sub-region, including the provision of Access to College Education Days.
- **@ctiv8, Star 14, Gifted & Talented**  
900 year 10 and 11 students from local schools attend Warwickshire College to engage in vocational courses to provide additional breadth to their study and/or allow successful participation in vocational programmes that provide aspiration and real opportunities to pursue further study post-16. Over 600 young people attend College two days each week for two years to gain a QCA accredited vocational qualification. A range of student apprentices, bespoke provision and short courses are available to the remaining pupils.

- **Access to HE**

The College's Access to HE programmes attract hundred of new learners each year and provide real opportunities for students to develop skills and knowledge to enable them to progress to higher education.

- **Community education**

Warwickshire College actively promotes the ethos of lifelong learning. In addition to its five main college centres, more than thirty community venues are employed to deliver skills and training to the community including Basic Skills, IT, languages, horticulture and art and design. These programmes enable adults to improve their skills and knowledge that can enable them to access higher education and to support their children and relatives in their homework and encourage them to access higher education.

- **Employer engagement**

Warwickshire College was awarded Learning and Skills Beacon Status in recognition of its high level of engagement with employers. This includes the delivery of education and training to companies on-site (bespoke training, Basic Skills delivery, NVQ levels 1-4) and at College (including HNC and foundation degree programmes). The College interacts closely with industry to ensure its programmes deliver the skills and knowledge needed by employers from Basic Skills to degree level.

## **6.0 Milestones**

Warwickshire College aims to allocate 30% of its additional tuition fee income each year to its bursary scheme outlined in Section 3.0. As the scheme is directed solely towards students from low income backgrounds, the commitment to maintain this level of bursary support will evidence the number of students meeting this criterion that participate in HE at the College.

## **7.0 Institutional monitoring arrangements**

Progress made towards the milestone detailed in Section 6.0 will be monitored internally within Warwickshire College. Data specific to the milestone will be reported to the Director of Curriculum and monitored by the College Management Team.

An annual monitoring report will be submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Office for Fair Access.

Date of submission to OFFA for approval: 17 November 2005