



THE GRIMSBY INSTITUTE
of Further & Higher Education

ACCESS AGREEMENT

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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 deprivation¹
- A low rate of achievement of Level 2 qualifications²
- A significant shortage of economically active people holding NVQ4 Level qualifications, or above³
- A net outward migration of economically active people⁴

¹ 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.

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

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

⁴ 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 occupations⁵

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 fee level for the courses listed below will be £2,000 for a full academic year. 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.

The £2,000 fee will be introduced in the academic year 2006/7 and applies 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.

3.2 Bursaries and Other Financial Support for Students

⁵ Source: LSC Household Survey 2003

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 **mandatory** bursary – this will apply to all mature students, defined as over 25 years of age at the beginning of the course. In addition those students in receipt of partial state support, in the form of the Higher Education Maintenance Grant, will also be eligible.

The Institute has identified these two categories of student as most likely to be negatively impacted on by the 2006 charges. Bursary payments will be administered in the following manner:

- Two cash payments of £100, at the beginning of the Spring and Summer terms. The payments will act as an incentive to assist retention and progression between levels.
- A **discretionary** bursary – ranging from £100 to £300 it will be used for students who face economic hardship but who do not fall within the mandatory category. This will be administered on a case by case basis.

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 Finance Officer within the HE Administration Office.

- At 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 September 2006 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
- 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

| | Year 1 (£,000) | Year 2 (£,000) | Year 3 (£,000) | Year 4 (£,000) | Year 5 (£,000) |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Estimated additional fee income | 290 | 480 | 560 | 560 | 560 |
| Estimate of additional income to be spent on bursaries | 42 | 72 | 84 | 84 | 84 |
| Estimate of additional income to be spent on outreach work | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 70 |