

THE COLLEGE OF NORTH WEST LONDON

Access Agreement

1. Introduction

The College of North West London is a large general further education college situated in the London borough of Brent. Programmes in Construction, Engineering and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) make up a significant proportion of its provision. 68% of students are of ethnic minority origin; in the most recent Ofstead/ALI inspection (January 2004) the College's response to educational and social inclusion was described as 'outstanding'.

The College's mission statement is 'to lead in the provision of learning for work in response to the changing needs of London's economy and in partnership with employers and the community.' One of the College's key aims is to realise opportunities for student progression.

The College offers a range of HE provision funded directly or indirectly by HEFCE: - HNCs, HNDs, and Foundation degrees (which have been validated by partner Universities). Students on those courses are recruited locally and many have progressed from the college's FE courses.

2. Fee limits

2.1 The College of North West London may raise its tuition fees for full-time HE courses to £3000 p.a. with effect from September 2006.

In the context of this agreement, full-time HE courses are Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) for which the college receives direct funding from HEFCE.

2.2 A range of Foundation degrees validated by universities are offered by the College on a part-time basis and are not covered by this agreement.

However, should these courses be offered on a full-time basis, the fees charged will be those set by the validating University and the corresponding University access agreement will apply.

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

2.4 Students who are classified as overseas students will pay a separate tuition fee, details of which are available from the College's international office.

3. Bursaries and other financial support for students

3.1 The majority of our current HE students are from groups which are under represented in Higher Education. Such students are likely to qualify for the full new HE maintenance grant of £2700.

3.2 A minimum bursary of £300 p.a. will be awarded to those students in receipt of the full HE maintenance grant when the fee set by the College for full-time HEFCE funded courses is £3000.

3.3 The actual bursary available will be calculated on a pro-rata basis according to

- The actual HE fees set by the College in each academic year.
- The size of the HE maintenance grant awarded (as confirmed by the Student Loans Company). The College will revise its bursary awards in line with inflation.

3.4 The College expects to commit 30% of its additional fee income to bursaries and other forms of financial support to its full-time HE students

4. Information for Students

4.1 The College will provide clear information about tuition fees that apply to its full-time HE courses and the financial support available to students through its HE prospectus, course brochures, leaflets and its web site. The advice and guidance teams at each centre of the college will advise prospective students at inquiry on the details of tuition fees and the support that is available.

4.2 All students accepted onto an HE course will have a written statement identifying fees payable for the duration of their course. Briefing events for potential students for the College's HE provision will include information on tuition fees.

5. Outreach Work

5.1 The College will maintain its commitment to widening participation and of supporting internal progression onto its HE provision Specific activities include: -

- Aimhigher – the College will continue to engage in and support all Aimhigher initiatives with its partner FE Colleges and Universities within the London West LSC area. Events will include summer schools, tasters, and master classes.
- Progression days – events encouraging and facilitating internal progression.
- University Fair
- Visits - from partner universities to provide advice, guidance and information, and workshops
- Industry day (Technology) – aimed at employers, schools and college students; events and information covering apprenticeships and progression to HE via the work-based learning route.
- Access to HE provision – the college will maintain its commitment (subject to LSC funding) to provide significant numbers of mature learners with the opportunity of developing the skills and knowledge needed for progression to HE.

6. Milestones: -

6.1 In the context of this access agreement the College will use 3 measures to monitor its implementation: -

- The number of learners from widening participation postcodes enrolled on full-time HE
- The percentage of learners eligible for a bursary enrolled on full-time HE
- The success rate of full-time HE provision as an aggregate figure

Baseline date will be established in September 2005; an agreed percentage increase for each measure will be agreed for each year of the agreement. In the first year (2006/07) this increase will be a minimum of 5% for each measure.

7. Monitoring: -

7.1 The effectiveness of the access agreement and progress towards milestones will be monitored by the Curriculum Planning and HE Manager. An annual report will be produced for consideration by the executive management team and the HE Quality Standards committee (reporting to the Academic Board and the Corporation). Recommendations and changes to practice will be reflected in the annual HE implementation plan.