

# **MOULTON COLLEGE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

## **Access Agreement for Higher Education 2010-11**

### **1 Introduction**

This Access Agreement sets out the fee limits for higher education courses delivered at Moulton College for 2010-11. It describes the amount of additional fee income to be spent on access measures and how this income will be spent in order to safeguard and maintain fair access.

### **2 Fee limits**

The maximum fee for full-time students will be £3,290 for those registered on BSc(Hons) and BA(Hons) programmes and £2,150 for those registered on FdSc and HND programmes. Fees will be subject to an annual inflationary increase announced by the Government.

### **3 Amount of additional fees to be spent on access measures**

Twenty five percent of all additional fee income will be transferred to a trust fund, from which bursaries will be provided. The balance will be made available to support students who can demonstrate specific hardship as determined by the trustees.

### **4 Bursaries and other financial support for students**

The main target groups for financial support to help widen participation and increase access to higher education include those students who receive full or partial state support in the form of the Higher Education Maintenance Grant. Applicants will be required to submit evidence of their family income to allow the College to assess eligibility for a bursary.

Bursaries will be available to the majority of students paying their own fees of £3,290 and who qualify for the full or partial maintenance grant. Eligible students will receive a bursary worth between £500 and £1000 per year. Those whose household income is up to £40,000 will be entitled to a bursary as follows:

<b>Household Income</b>	<b>Bursary Value per year</b>
£25,000 or less	£1000
£25,001 - £30,000	£700
£30,001 -£40,000	£500

Foundation Degree and Higher National Diploma students who will not be paying the full fee of £3,290 are not eligible for a bursary.

Students enrolling from September 2010 who are paying their own fees of £3,290 and are who in receipt of bursaries from other bodies will not be entitled to a bursary as set out above unless they are in receipt of a full maintenance grant and in which case they will be entitled to a statutory bursary of £329.

Entitlement to a bursary will be assessed on application. The bursary and fee schemes are separate and the use of an awarded bursary is entirely at the discretion of the student.

Part time students, paying their own fees, will be eligible to apply for bursaries which will have a pro-rata value to those available to full time students.

## **5 Provision of information to students**

Information for students relating to fees and the financial support available will be included within the College Prospectus and on the College website. The prospectus will also include details of other support available to students at the College to help them successfully achieve their qualifications. Moulton College prides itself on the high level of achievement and pastoral support it provides for its students.

Information in relation to finance, fees and bursaries will also be made available at careers events, open days and higher education taster events.

Students will also be provided with information and signposting to key contacts via the student handbook. Details of the bursary scheme will be sent out to applicants via Student Services on receipt of UCAS applications and will be made available at enrolment for late applicants.

## **6 Widening Participation Strategy**

The success of the College's Widening Participation Strategy is measured at all levels across the academic infrastructure. Recruitment, retention and achievement are monitored at course level, reflecting individual performance six times per year. This profile is monitored at subject area level in association with the University of Northampton and overall within the College.

As part of its widening participation commitment the College actively works in partnership with organisations such as Aimhigher, through delivery within its "Moving On Up" conferences which are designed to increase participation from non-traditional HE entrants, such as those from care, low socio-economic groups or low participation neighbourhoods. Moulton is also a member of CULN (the Colleges - University of Leicester Network), a regional lifelong learning network, LANDEX (land-based colleges aspiring to excellence) and CULTIVA (an alliance

of the country's five leading land-based colleges); all of which have promotion of widening participation in HE as a strategic principle.

The College has provided an outline of the aggregated level of investment from the College for Widening Participation to show the:

- Direct notional commitment, reflecting bursaries, outreach and other commitments funded via the College HEIFES
- Indirect allocation for undergraduates funded via the University of Northampton HESA, and outlined in their Widening Participation Strategic Assessment Framework 2009-2012
- Pay and non-pay of managing widening participation, reflected in both allocations but not duplicated
- Pay and non-pay of academic and support staff
- Commitment of the College to its ethos regarding curriculum delivery
- Academic infrastructure

Full details can be found in the College's Widening Participation Strategic Assessment 2009-2012 document.

## **7 Milestones**

The College will focus on the following widening participation activities during the duration of the current widening participation strategic assessment:

- Increasing the number of students entering HE from advanced apprenticeships.
- Increasing the number of female students participating in construction programmes.
- Increasing the number of ethnic minority students on Foundation Degree programmes.

As a minimum milestone the College aims to equal or exceed the HEFCE benchmarks in relation to participation of under-represented groups in HE, and the action plan is outlined within the College's Widening Participation Strategic Assessment 2009-12 document.

## **8 Institutional monitoring arrangements**

Widening participation activity is led by the Assistant Principal (Academic) and its strategic implementation is overseen by the College Academic Board and Equality and Diversity Monitoring Committee, chaired by the Principal and the Deputy Principal Curriculum and Quality respectively. Further committees, such as the Marketing Group and Academic Divisional Team serve to ensure that there is a fully integrated approach towards achievement of widening participation targets.