

PLYMOUTH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

ACCESS AGREEMENT

1. Context

Plymouth College of Art and Design is a specialist art and design college offering provision at both Further Education and Higher Education levels. The College has a strong commitment to widening participation and has regularly exceeded targets for recruiting students from under represented groups.

This access agreement covers the period 2006/07 to 2010/11.

2. Level of fees

From September 2006 the College will charge fees up to the maximum permitted by the Office for Fair Access to all UK and EU full-time students on its foundation degree and BA Honours Top Up degrees. The fees charged will be fixed for the duration of the individual student's course; they will not rise in years 1 and 2 of a foundation degree, however a different fee level may apply to the BA Honours Top Up degree as this is regarded as a separate course.

1. Bursaries and other financial support

The College intends to allocate up to a maximum of 20% of the additional fee income generated on a range of targeted grants, bursaries and scholarships as outlined below:

Type	Description
Grant	Top Up Grant A grant of £300 to be paid to all students in receipt of the full Higher Education Maintenance Grant (HEMG).
Bursary 1	Learning Materials Bursary A bursary of £300 awarded to all students in receipt of the full HEMG for essential course related materials.
Bursary 2	Exhibition Bursary A bursary of £200 awarded to all students in receipt of the full HEMG to help with the cost of exhibitions of student work.
Bursary 3	HE Residential Bursary A bursary of up to £1,000 to FE students progressing to study at the College who were in receipt of a residential bursary while studying at FE level and who are in receipt of the full HEMG. A tutor report would be required.

Bursary 4	FdA Year 2 progressing to a BA (Hons) top up Bursary A bursary of up to £550 to year 2 students on Foundation Degree courses who are in receipt of the full HEMG to compensate for the reduction in available loans.
Scholarship 1	Art and Design Scholarship A one off payment of £500 will be made after enrolment to students from schools/colleges in Devon and Cornwall who are first generation HE students and/or meet other Widening Participation criteria.

Total additional expenditure on the above measures is estimated at

2006/07	£120,000
2007/08	£180,000
2008/09	£180,000
2009/10	£180,000
2010/11	£180,000

4. Provision of information to students

Comprehensive information about course fees and details of the range of financial support available to students will be publicised as follows:

- Written material eg prospectuses, specific information in relation to financial support for students, student handbook, correspondence with feeder institutions
- College website
- Open days and careers events either at College or other venues eg schools, UCAS fairs
- Telephone and email enquiries
- One to one interviews eg with student welfare team, advisory interviews prior to application, course interviews

Any changes such as additional bursaries which may be developed during the life of this agreement in response to identified student need will be widely publicised using the media mentioned above and any other appropriate mechanisms.

5. Outreach work

The College has a successful track record of providing innovative outreach work to widen participation and increase access to art and design HE study. Some of this work has been delivered in partnership with other providers and through funding received through the Aimhigher initiative.

The College intends to allocate up to a maximum of 10% of the additional fee income generated on a range of new outreach activities to facilitate sustained interventions with key target groups.

Aims:

- To raise aspirations from under represented groups who would not otherwise consider HE study
- To enhance and develop existing collaborative provision

The following activities will be undertaken in the three years of this agreement.

Target Group	Description of activity	Target numbers
Widening Participation Schools	Art and Design workshops targeted at key stage 3 and 4	Year 1 – 2 schools Year 2 – 2 schools Year 3 – 2 schools
Gender representation	Activities targeting those areas of HE study where a particular gender bias has been noted eg females on fashion, males on multimedia	A different area of the College curriculum will be identified in each year with the aim of achieving equal gender representation by 2010/2011
Widening participation postcodes	Art and design summer school The summer schools will be open to younger and more mature participants	One summer school in each year
Potential part-time Foundation Degree students working in the Creative Industries	A range of outreach activities to encourage part-time HE study	By year 3 to have engaged with 150 people resulting in an increase in part-time recruitment

Total expenditure on outreach activity is estimated as follows:

2006/07	£60,000
2007/08	£90,000
2008/09	£90,000
2009/2010	£90,000
2010/2011	£90,000

6. Expenditure on access measures

In 2006/07 academic year the College plans to spend a total of around £229,000 on access-related activity. This total is made up of the following component measures:

Existing widening participation activity	£49,000
New bursaries/scholarships	£120,000
New outreach activities	£60,000
Total	£229,000

All new activity will be funded entirely through additional fee income – 20% on new bursaries/scholarships and 10% on new outreach activities. It is anticipated that these percentages will remain constant during the life of this Access Agreement.

7. Institutional milestones

Through the additional financial support measures and outreach work the College intends to increase participation in HE study by under represented groups, specifically:

1. Students from widening participation schools and postcodes
2. A more equal participation by gender on all courses
3. Students undertaking part-time Foundation Degrees

Group	Baseline 2004/05	Milestone 2008/09	Milestone 2009/10	Target 2010/11
WP postcodes	12%	15%	17%	20%
More equal gender balance on all courses	Multimedia – 8% -female Fashion – 10% male	15% 20%	30% 30%	50% 50%
Students undertaking PT Foundation Degrees	0	10	20	30

8. Monitoring

The implementation and effectiveness of the access agreement will be monitored through a variety of means including uptake of bursaries, student feedback, evaluation of outreach activities, and the number of students from under represented backgrounds enrolling at the College.

Live data in respect of enrolled students will be available 24/7 on the College MIS. Formal monitoring will take place through reports to relevant College committees

and groups including Equality and Diversity Working Group, Quality Improvement Group, Academic Board, individual programme meetings and annual reviews. An annual report will be made to the Corporation Board.