

Stratford-Upon-Avon College

Access Agreement

November 2007

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Stratford-Upon-Avon College has only recently become a directly HEFCE funded Further Education College, having previously been in partnership with Coventry University.

1.2 It is the intention of the College to increase the current fees in order to develop wider access and secure success for our learners.

1.3 We currently have 30 directly funded learners who cover age, gender, race and ability. We wish to promote our programmes to raise awareness of the opportunities available and increase recruitment.

1.4 We are increasing our provision for the academic year 2008-09 in response to requests from current FE Level 3 learners.

1.5 Under the Higher Education Act 2004 the College is required to submit an access agreement which sets out how it will safeguard and promote fair access.

2. LENGTH OF AGREEMENT

2.1 This agreement is for 3 years from the academic year 2008/09.

3. FEE LIMITS

3.1 We will charge a fee of up to £2300 per year for ALL full-time directly funded undergraduates.

4. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE SUPPORT

4.1 ALL directly funded learners will receive IT resources for their exclusive use whilst on the programme. The specific content of the resource will depend on the specific programme being followed.

Example:

An HND Media (Moving Image) student will receive a laptop/notebook with AVID editing programme and 500GB portable storage. Technical support for the resource will be supplied by the College technical teams, as appropriate.

4.2 ALL directly funded, final year learners will have the opportunity to participate in the overseas project each year, with all travel and accommodation costs paid.

4.3 A percentage of the fees will also be administered by the College's HE Student Learner Support Service – who will be able to use the income to aid directly funded learners with financial and resource support. The College already has an imbedded procedure for assessing individual learner needs.

5. PUBLICISING FEES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

5.1 In order to ensure prospective learners are as clear as possible about the fees they will have to pay and the support available to them, the College proposes to clearly publicise the intended financial and resource support in a number of ways:

5.1.2 An insert in all prospectuses already printed indicating the intended changes to fees and support available.

5.1.3 An update of the College's website, clearly outlining the intended changes to fees and support available.

5.1.4 Inclusion in all promotional materials and advertisements specifically aimed at our directly funded provision

5.1.5 Through information packs sent to prospective learners

5.1.6 The details will form part of the discussion at interview stage, and will be included on the interview checklist, to be signed by the interviewer and interviewee.

5.1.7 It will be clearly articulated in writing at the offer stage

6. OUTREACH

6.1 It is intended to increase the number of venues visited by our outreach team. The additional fee income will enhance current work by enabling workshop activities, giving a practical hands-on experience of the programmes available.

7. INSTITUTIONAL TARGETS AND MILESTONES

7.1 It is the intention that the additional income from fees will :

7.2 Increase recruitment by 50% over the term of the agreement. (As we have such a low baseline figure, we do not feel this figure is unreasonable).

7.3 Increase retention

7.4 Increase success

7.5 Increase progression from our Level 3 provision

7.6 Increase recruitment from older adult learner sector. Non-traditional learners in HE make-up 100% of our provision as all of our provision is vocational.

7.7 The baseline will be 2007-08 data

8. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

8.1 We shall formally review the progress of the access agreement at least once a year through the College Management Review Process. This will then be referred to the Board of Governors in the annual Self Assessment Review (SAR)

8.2 The SAR will form the basis of our annual monitoring report to OFFA.