

Access Agreement Proposal (revised 12 November 2010)

Introduction

Bishop Burton College's Strategic Plan 2006-2010 articulated the intent to expand Higher Education opportunities. This commitment incorporated the objectives of promoting pathway progression for our own level 3 learners, increasing the number/type of Foundation degrees and developing an HE Centre at the College. This was achieved and future plans aim to build on this to further increase the opportunities in higher education in the subjects that we offer.

The opportunity to raise variable fees needs to be seen in the context of our market position with land based higher education provision and our success in engaging with students from state sector schools, a HEFCE measure of success of widening participation. The introduction of variable fees has increased fee income to the College enabling it to invest further in the infrastructure for learning at levels 4, 5 and 6, and to offer a range of outreach activities to promote and explain higher education at the College.

Bishop Burton plans to continue to direct the additional income generated from tuition revenue to promote participation in vocational, largely land based higher education. This will be facilitated by direct financial support for students, by enhancing teaching and learning resources and encouraging progression and achievement within an enhanced learning resource environment that has a bespoke e-learning facility and enhanced access to an increased range of e-resources.

The following summarises the key elements of our proposed Access Agreement

1. Level of Fees

- Level of fee or fee limits: £ 3,375 per year for all directly funded full time students. This fee will be introduced in the academic year of 2011/12. It will be levied to all United Kingdom students and to students who are nationals of any other state of the European Union.
- The fee will apply for the full duration of the course and will be subject to an annual inflationary rise.

2. Bursaries and other financial information

All students starting full time degree courses in 2011 will be eligible for a Netbook package enabling mobile broadband access to enhance their study capability. This is a small lightweight Netbook computer for computing on the move. It is a cross between an internet ready mobile phone and a laptop computer enabling communication and study wherever you are.

Bursary support will be available for new students starting in 2011/12 as follows:

- Students on a full maintenance grant will be eligible for bursary of £338 in each year of study.
- In the first year this bursary will normally be spent on the Netbook but students may opt to have the cash amount instead if they wish.

3. Outreach activities to be funded through additional fee income:

Bishop Burton College is already successfully engaging with under represented groups in higher education, all additional outreach activity will consolidate and build upon this.

The College intends to continue to promote and develop a range of initiatives. These are currently largely focussed on the 16-18 age group locally students and further the articulation between our own Level 3 provision and higher education at Bishop Burton College.

We intend to continue to raise aspiration of a much wider audience, including:

- Targeted outreach activity for Key Stage 4 learners in local schools, particularly in the Hull area.
- Other feeder further education colleges (locally and regionally)
- Local adults through a range of outreach activities.
- Summer tasters
- Targeted promotional material ,events and transport to visits to the campus
- Further employer links with a view to developing employer based bursaries.

IAG staff will be used to raise the progression aspirations of work-based applicants and make progression opportunities clearer to non-traditional learners.

We will continue to target professionals in the local landbased industries to promote HE participation exploiting the significance placed on the development of course knowledge and skills in marketing courses to those students.

We will also develop existing and establish new links with industry groups, employers' forums and trade unions where level 3 progression is currently poor e.g. Modern Apprentices.

We will work with other lead colleges in the sector to develop a strategy for raising awareness of Foundation Degrees for the landbased services involving traditional and non-traditional feeder groups and employers.

We will build on our existing Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) services to target landbased SMEs with a development framework which offers opportunities for coherent training to those SMEs which lack a Training and Development function.

4. Provision of information on financial support available to students and prospective students

Students will be informed of financial support available both as an aggregate and annual tuition fee through the prospectus, our website, promotional literature, at interview and in offer of place letter. It will clearly explain fees structure and the financial support service available.

IAG services will be used to address course cost concerns in an open and clear way with quality advice on sources of financial support and financial planning. The service will focus on personal support functions and will adapt support functions to address other student concerns such as workload, academic content and time pressures.

5. Expenditure of additional fee income

The College will continue to direct additional revenue obtained from increased fees to support higher education teaching and learning. Based on current recruitment plans variable fees could generate an additional fee income £809,422 in 2011/12. The table below outlines how this additional fee income is projected over the period of this Access Agreement.

Year	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Fee	£3,375	£3,466	£3,560
Total student numbers FT	460	510	510
Year 1 student numbers FT	230	230	230
Continuing student numbers FT	230	280	280
Additional fee income	£809,422	£1,011,640	£1,072,427
Value of netbook/bursary	£80,149	£116,975	£134,372
Investment to widen participation	£35,000	£40,000	£45,000

Investment will continue as follows:

- Continuing to develop a range of Foundation Degrees that meet the needs of industry, particularly in the region.
- Through outreach activities as previously outlined.
- Through providing additional specialist resources dedicated to enhancing the higher education teaching and learning experience.
- Continue to develop the Centre of Higher Education with bespoke and e-resource facilities.
- Continue to develop applied research activities linking student projects to industry.
- Literacy and numeracy support for HE students.
- Continued development of a range of progression activities for level 3 learners to include, taster days, information days, accredited courses and study skills training.
- Encourage progression of NVQ learners to HE.
- Continue to develop flexible study modes on Foundation Degrees to enable access to a wider range of learners.

6. Institutional milestones and objectives

Access Agreements require colleges to set milestones and objectives in relation to its higher education provision. Bishop Burton College proposes the following:

- Recruitment targets: to meet published target intakes onto full time Higher Education programme delivered by the College
- Retention targets: to achieve an annual retention rate of 85% + in each year of the full time Higher Education programmes delivered by the College.
- Progression targets: to achieve an annual internal progression rate from full time FE vocational level 3 programmes of 25% of completers, rising to 30% over the following 3

years. To achieve an annual internal progression rate from foundation degree completers on to articulating honours degrees of 75%.

- Achievement targets: to achieve an annual level of 95% of completers at level 5 and level 6 obtaining their qualification.
- Widening participation: to increase current levels of students coming from widening participation categories.
- Curriculum development: to respond to the identified needs of employers and students by developing new foundation degree programmes in consultation with industry partners.
- Promotion of the significance of study skills, IT and learning support to enable students to cope more easily with the demands of HE.

Compliance Statement

The College will undertake annual monitoring of this access agreement to confirm compliance and progress towards the achievement of the milestones it has established. Responsibility for the monitoring report will rest with the Assistant Principal Higher Education.

The report will include:

- Financial data summarising the recruitment levels, payment of bursaries and other financial support made to students.
- Outreach activities that have been undertaken during the year.
- Progress made in meeting institutional milestones and objectives.

Access agreements cover sheet and checklist

The following cover sheet and checklist can be downloaded from our web-site, (www.offa.org.uk) **This information will not be published by OFFA.** All fields must be completed. The access agreement is free format and should be submitted as a Word document.

Contact information

Principal contact for OFFA

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Senior manager responsible for access agreement

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Sign-off (to be completed on paper copy only, by head of institution, or appropriate deputy)

I enclose the access agreement from the above institution.

Name:	Kevin Kendall
Position:	Assistant Principal Higher Education
Signed:	Kevin Kendall
Date:	12 November 2010

Note on publication of access agreements

Access agreements are public documents and will be published on the OFFA web-site (www.offa.org.uk), normally within three weeks of approval.