

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 City College Plymouth is a large general further education (FE) college and is the largest provider of FE education and skills training in the Plymouth travel to work area. The College was first established in 1887 when it was a school of science and art. It became Plymouth College of Further Education in 1969 and rebranded in 2007 to become City College Plymouth.
- 1.2 Higher Education (HE) is of strategic importance to the College. The College makes a distinctive and crucial contribution to the development and delivery of HE across Plymouth and surrounding areas, and plays a significant role in the development of higher level skills, widening participation and progression in HE locally and in supporting regional economic, community and cultural development.
- 1.3 Widening participation is at the heart of the College's FE and HE ethos and operations. As a major FE provider, the College is particularly effective in providing HE for learners from a diverse range of backgrounds, groups and communities. Our range of provision engages those who can only study locally and/or who need a particularly supportive environment, facilitating opportunities for students from under-represented groups.
- 1.4 A key strategic aim within our HE in FE Strategy is "to widen participation and increase progression in to and through HE, providing the opportunity for successful participation in HE to all who can benefit from it".
- 1.5 The College's mission is "building a better Plymouth through the delivery of high quality education and training which will enhance students' employability prospects and which is responsive to the needs of our communities".

### 2. Length of agreement

- 2.1 This agreement is for 5 years from the academic year 2009/10.

### 3. Fee limits

- 3.1 We will charge a fee of up to £2,490 for all directly funded full-time undergraduate courses from the 2011-12 academic year. This fee limit may rise with inflation each year (in line with annually published Government regulations).

#### 4. Bursary support

- 4.1 City College Plymouth has an established record for widening participation in HE. The College has closely examined its student profile and has based its bursary offer upon directly benefiting students from under-represented groups. The bursary allocations have a number of aims: minimising the perceived financial barriers to HE; raising the aspirations and widening access from under-represented groups; and, as part of our commitment to encouraging and supporting full-time HE students in their studies.
- 4.2 For new entrants in 2011-12 we will offer a cash bursary of £500 per annum to any full time student in receipt of a full maintenance grant. Students will be required to sign a declaration confirming their address details, that they consider themselves eligible and that their attendance is both current and active.
- 4.3 Bursary payments will be made in one instalment.
- 4.4 Given the profile of our HE students this bursary scheme meets our specific intention to encourage and support students who are under-represented in HE.

#### 5. Publicising fees and financial support

- 5.1 A number of methods will be used to ensure that prospective students are as clear as possible about the fee charged, and the amount of student support they may be entitled to. These are outlined below:
- 5.2 The website will contain a section on finance, including fee and support information. Information will include institutional support and support available through the government through the maintenance grant, teaching bursaries and maintenance loans.
- 5.3 This information will also be published in our prospectus and in a leaflet which we will be used in the course of any marketing and outreach activity.
- 5.4 This information will be clearly articulated to applicants at offer stage.
- 5.5 This information will be contained within students' initial joining instructions and during presentations at open days/evenings. Information about the bursary scheme will also be contained within Aimhigher's South West Peninsula publications.

## 6. Outreach

- 6.1 As the College is charging a fee well below the fee cap, is offering a bursary and already has a diverse student body, we have not committed any additional fee income to additional outreach work

## 7. Institutional targets and milestones

- 7.1 The number of HE students directly funded by HEFCE is very small and therefore the setting of detailed targets and milestones is not deemed appropriate. The College, however, will be monitoring the numbers of students participating in our institution who are in receipt of a bursary and full or partial state support. We will be noting the impact of these measures on widening participation as part of our monitoring of our overall HE provision by analysing a range of data including gender, ethnicity, age and disability. We will also be monitoring internal progression and progression from advanced apprenticeships.
- 7.2 We will continue to monitor the diversity of our HE student population.

## 8. Monitoring Arrangements

- 8.1 We will formally monitor the progress of the access agreement at least once a year through the senior management group who will report annually to the Board of Governors.
- 8.2 Our annual report to the Board of Governors will form the basis of our annual monitoring report to OFFA.