

East Riding College

Access Agreement

Introduction

At East Riding College we place the delivery of a high quality learning experience to support the success of our students at the top of our agenda. We believe that this will best provide the foundations for learners to achieve their personal aspirations. The College has a well developed curriculum which offers progression routes from foundation to level 3 and in several cases level 4. The long term strategy is to offer progression through to level 4 in all curriculum areas unless offered locally and very successfully by another provider.

The College's HE Strategy 2009-12 sets out the aims of the College in developing and expanding its HE provision in order to provide increased opportunities for learners. Listed below are the key aims of the College's strategy:

- To provide a high quality higher education experience to meet the needs and aspirations of the local community and employers.
- To improve performance through rigorous review.
- To employ appropriately qualified staff to teach HE in an FE institution.
- To ensure the ethos of HE in FE is maintained and thus meet recruitment targets and widen participation.
- To have a dynamic suite of vocational and academic curriculum programmes that deliver the higher skills and their pre cursers relevant to national, regional and local strategic objectives.
- To raise aspirations and provide progression opportunities at the College for learners on all levels of study.
- To widen participation in HE through partnership working.
- To develop progression agreements to support students in reaching their aspirations and encourage lifelong learning.
- To improve access to HE opportunities through effective promotion, IAG, recruitment and by offering alternative modes of delivery.
- To work collaboratively as a member of the Hull University Federation of Colleges to promote opportunities and access to higher level skills in support of the socio-economic regeneration of the local and regional area.

Aims and Purpose of the Agreement

The original agreement was prepared following the dissolution of the Humber HE Consortium and East Riding College receiving direct HEFCE funding from the commencement of the 2007/08 academic year. The agreement was subsequently revised in preparation for academic year 2011/12.

The agreement is based on East Riding College's HE Strategy 2009-12 outlined in the introduction section and the aims of the agreement are:

- To enable the college to invest in marketing strategies which will increase participation in HE within the East Yorkshire region
- To provide financial support for learners entering Higher Education with the purpose of increasing participation, retention and achievement with an emphasis on attracting under represented groups into Higher Education.
- To enable the College to invest in resources, specifically to enhance the quality of the learning experience of HE Learners.

Fee Levels

For the academic year 2011/12 East Riding College will charge £2,500 per academic year for students enrolled on to full-time Foundation Degrees.

The fee will apply for the duration of the course and will be subject to an annual increase in line with inflation.

Additional fee income to be spent on access measures

The College will direct additional revenue obtained from increased fees to support higher education in the ways outlined in the various sections of this agreement. These include:

- Bursary provision
- Marketing strategies to promote higher education
- Investment in resources for H.E. learners
- Funding outreach activities
- Information events and materials
- In house events to encourage progression to H.E. from College F.E. learners

Bursaries

East Riding Colleges' strategy for awarding bursaries is aimed at ensuring that wherever possible potential learners are not prevented from entering Higher Education because of

financial constraints. It is intended to use the bursary strategy to maximise support for those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. It is also the intention of the College to support those progressing from our own level three courses particularly to encourage learners who, because of financial constraints and family circumstances may not otherwise be able to travel to more distant Higher Education Institutions.

Bursary support will be available for the following categories and at the following levels:

1. For those who receive the full Higher Education Maintenance Grant, a bursary of £750 per academic year
2. For all other students on full-time degree programmes, a bursary of £500 per academic year.

Students will be entitled to only one bursary per academic year and payments will be made in two installments the first in February and the second in May

Provision of information to students and prospective students

East Riding College will employ a variety of methods to ensure that information with regards to financial support for students reaches the widest possible audience. These include:

- A structured, comprehensive tutorial programme to all level three College learners with specialist inputs from Guidance staff
- The production of a variety of information booklets outlining all aspects of Financial support available to both full and part time HE students
- An event for parents/carers of all level three College students and delivered jointly by College Guidance staff and Local Authority Advisors
- Information contained in the College HE prospectus, our website and promotional literature
- Individual interviews for all applicants to HE programmes

Outreach Activities

East Riding College is leading two Aim Higher funded initiatives entitled Aim Higher Associates and Connect to Success.. The objective is to raise the aspirations of the target group to progress to Higher Education by offering a well structured, high quality mentoring entitlement, including e-mentoring, to learners enrolled on level 3 programmes within schools and sixth form/FE Colleges across the Humber sub region and to engage appropriate schools, colleges, higher education institutions and other mentoring agencies to encourage participation and to build a successful team of skilled mentors.

The College Aim Higher coordinator will arrange visits to Universities and other HE Institutions, UCAS events and exhibitions with aim of increasing participation in Higher Education particularly amongst under-represented groups.

The College will continue to work with other providers of HE within the area via the following:

- Regular curriculum meetings at senior management level with local Colleges
- Joint Development Board meetings with Hull University
- Cert Ed/PGCE Networking meetings with Huddersfield University
- YHELLN
- AoC Regional Senior Curriculum Managers Forum
- East Riding Learning Partnerships
- Training events at the Universities of Hull and Huddersfield

Milestones

East Riding College proposes the following milestones in relation to its Higher Education Provision.

- To develop new Foundation Degrees in consultation with Aim Higher and the University of Hull.
- To maintain the progression rate into HE of level three to four at 61% or above (December 2009).
- Recruitment targets: to meet targets published in the College HE strategy
- Retention targets: to achieve an annual retention rate of 85% in each year of the full time Higher Education programmes delivered by the College
- To set targets for progression from full time Foundation Degrees to articulating honours degrees

Monitoring

The College will undertake annual monitoring of this Access Agreement to confirm compliance and progress towards the milestones established. The monitoring responsibility resides with the College HE Committee with final approval from the College Directorate.

Following its approval by the College Directorate, the report will be submitted to the Director of OFFA prior to the July Deadline.