



LAKES COLLEGE WEST CUMBRIA

ACCESS AGREEMENT MAY 2005

1. INTRODUCTION

Lakes College West Cumbria has a proven track record in the delivery of high quality vocational Higher Education and in widening participation in HE. The college strives to ensure fair and equal access to HE courses for all those who wish to, and are able to, benefit from this level of study.

If Lakes College decides to introduce variable tuition fees in September 2006, this Access Agreement details the terms of the variable tuition fees charged by the College to HE students from 2006-7 and how the College plans to enable individuals to achieve their potential in HE.

2. FEE LIMITS

2.1. Courses covered by the agreement

This agreement applies to all courses for which Lakes College receives funding directly from the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The fees charged for indirectly funded courses will be determined by the university providing the funding.

2.2. Students included within the agreement

All students who are eligible to pay EU tuition fees are included in this agreement.

If Lakes College recruits any students who are classified as overseas students, they will pay a separate tuition fee, which is to be determined.

2.3. Agreement renewal

This agreement will be reviewed annually from 2006.

2.4. Tuition fees

From September 1st 2006, Lakes College will charge tuition fees of £3000 to students on full time undergraduate programmes. The higher level tuition fees will not apply to students who started their HE programme of study prior to September 1st 2006.

2.5. Part time students

Part time students will pay a pro-rata tuition fee calculated on a modular basis in line with the current full time students' fees policy. Therefore the fees paid will depend on the number of modules to be studied in each academic year.

3. BURSARY SCHEME

Lakes College is fully committed to widening participation and is engaged in numerous activities in this area. In order to further encourage HE participation, the College will offer a generous bursary scheme. We aim to ensure that the impact of top up fees is minimised and that all students in need of financial support benefit from the scheme. It is intended that any student in need of financial assistance will have access to bursaries.

It is the intention of Lakes College to ensure that students undertaking undergraduate programmes may be eligible for financial assistance in the form of a minimum of £1000 per annum bursary payment. Such bursaries will be assessed to reflect student need and be payable to those students from homes where the principal earner's gross salary is less than £60,000 per year. This approach will allocate support for those students most in need of assistance and will reduce the need for complex means testing. It is an approach that will be easily understood, simple to promote, and deliver equality of opportunity.

This bursary scheme is additional to any financial support may be currently available to the College's HE students.

4. PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO STUDENTS

Clear information about the tuition fees that apply to HE courses at Lakes College and the financial support available to students will be readily accessible in the HE prospectus, website, college literature, leaflets and advice from the Student Support Service department, and at interview. Prior to accepting a course at Lakes College, all prospective HE students will be advised in writing of the aggregate amount of fees that will be charged for the completion of their chosen course.

5. OUTREACH WORK

The College will continue to maintain the following activities as a way of promoting higher educational to non traditional students. We aim to increase the numbers of full time HE students from 86 to 136 within five years.

- **Aim Higher**

Lakes College is fully engaged in the Cumbria Aim Higher programme. We are part of an excellence cluster and have worked with partner schools to provide a range of HE experiences and tasters to both school and college students.

- **Increased flexibility programme**

Over 400 year 10 and 11 pupils from local schools attend Lakes College to engage in vocational courses to provide additional breadth to their studies, and/or to allow successful participation in vocational programmes that provide aspiration and real opportunities to pursue further study post 16. Pupils experience a range of delivery modes, including attendance for half a day per week at college, two full days per week in college, college tutors delivering specialist input to vocational GCSEs in schools; short courses and taster courses. We also have a number of schools participating in the Young Apprenticeship programme.

- **Access to HE**

The College's Access to HE programme provides opportunities to over 50 mature students per year to develop skills and knowledge to enable them to progress into HE.

- **Community education**

Lakes College delivers a number of vocational, skills for life and leisure courses in community venues Through these courses, we aim to engage learners into the learning process and encourage progression into mainstream college provision, and where appropriate , into HE.

6. MILESTONES

Lakes College will seek to maintain its current proportion of students in receipt of state support for the duration of this agreement.

70% of new full time undergraduates will be in receipt of full state support

12% of full time undergraduates will be in receipt of partial state support.

Lakes College will seek to maintain and enhance the in course retention and achievement rates of undergraduate students year on year. In 2006 we will increase retention from 63% (2003-4) to 70%, and achievement from 85%(2003-4) to 87 %

The College will seek to maintain the current broad mix of undergraduates in terms of age, gender and levels of disadvantage.

7. INSTITUTIONAL MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

Lakes College undertakes to monitor compliance with the commitments made under this agreement. The following indicators will be monitored annually

- The number of students taking up the bursaries and patterns of awards
- The retention and achievement rates for HE students
- The age, gender and socio-economic characteristics of the students

These indicators will be monitored through the College's quality procedures and reports will be presented to the Strategic team, Quality and Standards Committee and Academic Board.

An annual monitoring report will be submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Office of fair Access