

New College Nottingham HE Access Agreement

Institution: **New College Nottingham**

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A. FEE LIMITS

The fee outlines below cover all full-time Higher Education courses at New College Nottingham. Fees for part-time courses are available from the College.

- The fee limits for the all **Higher National Diploma** courses undertaken by full time study, which are directly funded from the Higher Education Funding Council will be **£2000** for a full academic year.
- The fee limits for the all **Foundation Degree** courses undertaken by full time study, which are directly funded from the Higher Education Funding Council will be **£2000**
- The fee limits for all **Top-up Degree** courses undertaken by full time study, which are directly funded from the Higher Education Funding Council, will be **£2000** for a full academic year. For students who are continuing on to the top-up course

directly following an HND or Foundation Degree, which started in either 2004 or 2005, will not be charged the top-up fee, but the standard fee of £1200.

Deferred Entry.

- Students who apply for an HND or Foundation Degree, in 2005, but who defer and start their course in 2006, will not be eligible to pay the new fees, but will pay under the 2005 arrangements.
- If students who have deferred from 2005 / 06, then decide to undertake the further year's study to convert their Foundation Degree or HND to an honours degree, these students will also remain exempt from variable fees, providing there is no gap between finishing their Foundation Degree / HND and starting their top-up course.

The fees outlined above will be introduced in academic year 2006/07 (unless otherwise stated) and will apply equally to United Kingdom students and to students who are national of any other state of the European Union.

Fee levels will rise in line with inflation and rounded.

B. AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL INCOME TO BE SPENT ON ACCESS MEASURES

Please see completed table in cover sheet.

C. BURSARIES AND OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

In anticipation of the introduction of variable tuition fees in 2006, **ncn** introduced the Higher Education STAR Bursary Scheme in 2004 to assist full time UK HE students. This scheme will continue for 2006 / 07 as outlined below:

The two criteria for eligibility are outlined below:

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1) First in the Family to attend Higher Education | £250 |
| 2) Attended a Nottingham City School or other designated school | £250 |

Matching one criteria = £250, matching two criteria = £500

The bursary is administered in three equal instalments in November, February and May, and therefore provides general financial support, as well as an incentive to help with retention, achievement and progression through the course.

Targeting of Students

- **First in Family to HE**
In order to support students who come from a background with no tradition of HE, we offer £250 per year, to assist them. The financial implications of HE study for these students is a main decisive factor; offering additional support, therefore, acts as an incentive for them to apply.

- **Attended a Nottingham City School / other designated secondary school**
27% (03/04 figures) of our HE cohort comes from the Nottingham City area. The Nottingham City LEA area has a documented very low progression rate to Higher Education, 15% in 2000 (HEFCE POLAR data). In order to encourage more students from the local area to progress to HE, and, therefore, widen participation, we are targeting additional support at these students.

This provides the College with a useful marketing tool, whilst also offering widening participation students additional help; aiming to alleviate any concerns regarding financial expense of higher education for this cohort.

As a condition of the bursary all students must participate in at least one Widening Participation activity per year e.g. helping with Open Evenings or visiting level three classes with the HE Development Officer (more information in outreach section). A further condition of the bursary is an attendance rate of 90% or above, and satisfactory progress; this is verified through course teams and registers before payments are made.

The bursary scheme award levels will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Book & Materials Allowance

All UK and EU full-time students will be eligible for a book and materials allowance of £200 per year. This will be paid on the 1st December. It is estimated that 26% of students receiving this allowance will be from the widening participation cohort, reflecting the WP rate for HE within the College.

Additional Support

In addition to the bursary, HE students are able to apply for support through the Access to Learning Fund. **ncn** also has a dedicated HE Finance and Welfare Officer who is available to assist students with any difficulties they may encounter and to offer advice on alternative sources of funding and debt management.

D. PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO STUDENTS

New College Nottingham, has a dedicated Higher Education section on the College's website and produces separate Higher Education prospectuses on an annual basis. Through both of these methods, prospective students are able to find out more information about the College.

Information will be provided through the above methods on fees; bursaries; other forms of financial support; budgeting advice; accommodation. Information will also be available through the prospectus and website on whom to consult for further information on any of the above topics. In addition to this information, all applicants to **ncn** HE courses are sent the 'Information for HE Applicants' leaflet, which provides further information on matters relating to HE study at **ncn**.

ncn employs an HE Finance and Welfare Advisor who is available to support students. During their induction period, students receive a presentation from the HE Finance and Welfare Advisor that covers all aspects of student finance.

E. OUTREACH WORK

ncn currently engages in a substantial amount of outreach work and will continue to do so under this Access Agreement.

1. HE Development Officer

January 2004 saw the appointment of an HE Development Officer at **ncn**. This position was created in partnership with Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and the HE Development Officer works half of each week at each institution. Whilst at NTU he works as part of the Widening Participation Team, running activities with local schools and colleges aimed at raising aspirations towards HE. He is able to inform the NTU team on matters of HE in FE and is able to incorporate his knowledge in this field into his NTU work.

Whilst at **ncn**, he works to support the Student Development team and the tutorial structure, by providing information sessions to vocational level three FE students on their potential options in relation to HE; providing awareness raising sessions about HE; UCAS talks and students finance presentations. These activities target approximately 800 students per year within the College. The focus of this work is vocational level three students as a low proportion of this group progress to HE. This information is also provided to level three academic students through the tutorial system and **ncn** careers advisors. This role also includes the distribution of Aimhigher widening participation materials to individual students and offering advice relating to HE at Open Evenings and other College events.

2. Aimhigher

Further outreach work within the College is targeted towards our own level three students through the Aimhigher Scheme. These activities are wide ranging and include visits to Higher Education Institutions, revision master classes, visits from industrial speakers and team-building events.

3. Support for Outreach Activities

Support for outreach activities is provided through the marketing department and is supplemented by the use of Bursary students. As part of the conditions of receiving the bursary, students must participate in at least one widening participation activity. This ranges from helping with open evenings or writing articles in College Newsletters about studying HE; to going into classes with the HE Development Officer to give level three students first hand information about HE, with the hope of acting as a role model.

At College events, marketing and advice staff are on hand to provide further information to prospective students. College Open Evenings usually attract between 100-500 members of the public at each campus, approximately 65% of these people will have discussions with staff relating to level three studies, incorporating the potential to progress to HE.

The College participates in a wide range of external events throughout the city and county, including Adult Learners Week; Schools Week; School HE Evenings and Careers Fairs. At these events **ncn** representatives attend to provide information and advice relating to higher education and progressions routes.

4. Student Associates Scheme

The College also works in partnership with Nottingham Trent University on the 'Students Associates Scheme' run in association with the Teacher Training Agency (TTA). As part of this scheme a number of **ncn** HE students work in local secondary schools one day per week, gaining class room experience whilst acting as a visible, identifiable role model for the pupils. The scheme has received a great deal of positive feedback from the schools and students involved as well as the TTA, and has shown the benefits of HE students communicating with school pupils the reality of HE, and aiming to raise aspirations in the local area. This partnership will be continuing and expanding under the new arrangements.

F. MILESTONES

- Currently New College Nottingham has a widening participation rate of 26% within our HE provision. The introduction of variable fees will make this a more challenging target to maintain. It is our objective, however, to keep the proportion of our students who are from WP areas at this current level.
- The College is currently in the process of introducing a number of Foundation Degrees to our range of provision. As a second milestone, therefore, we aim to meet and maintain planned targets for recruitment on all of these courses, as detailed below.

Course	Recruitment Target	Year of Introduction
FD Law	15	2005
FD Heritage Management	15	2005
FD Digital Fine Art	15	2005

G. INSTITUTIONAL MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

The College will undertake an annual monitoring process of this Access Agreement to confirm compliance and progress towards the milestones it has set. This will take the form of an internal governance paper prepared by Tim Grant, Director of Access and Inclusion, which will be presented to the governing body for approval, before being submitted to OFFA.