



**HIGHER EDUCATION
ACCESS AGREEMENT**

Revised 2013/14 to 2014/15

July 2014

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Appendix 1 Access Agreement Milestones

Introduction

In accordance with guidelines issued by the Department for Employment and Learning, the South West College has produced this Access Agreement which sets out how additional fees levied are used to safeguard and promote access to Higher Education. The South West College is committed to spending additional HE income to support and implement widening participation initiatives in the South West Region. In the academic year 2013-14 the college intends to spend in the region of £154,000 to support widening participation. This figure will cover college initiatives such as the bursary scheme for higher education students, outreach and marketing activities, additional student support, and administration activities.

Fee Proposals

The College offers a wide range of intermediate qualifications such as Foundation Degrees and HNDs, which are validated by the University of Ulster, Queen's University Belfast and Edexcel.

The College will maintain the current fee level for the term of this Access Agreement and no inflationary fees will be imposed on the student.

The College has set the following course fees :

2011/12 to 2012/13

Foundation Degree	University of Ulster	£1,600.00 per annum
Foundation Degree	Queen's University	£2,190.00 per annum
HND	Edexcel	£1,398.00 per annum

The College also offers the first 2 years of the BSc Hons in Social Work, validated by the University of Ulster, and the fees for 2011/12 are £3,375.00.

2013/14

BSc Hons in Social Work	University of Ulster	£3,575.00 per annum
Foundation Degree	University of Ulster	£1,600.00 per annum
Foundation Degree	Queen's University	£2,385.00 per annum
HND	Edexcel	£1,482.00 per annum

The following fee structure below are the Colleges new revised full time fees for 2014/15 in accordance with awarding body requirements.

2014/15

BSc Hons in Social Work	University of Ulster	£3,685.00 per annum
Foundation Degree	University of Ulster	£1,680.00 per annum
Foundation Degree	Queen's University	£2,460.00 per annum
HND	Edexcel	£1,530.00 per annum

College Information

South West College provides Higher Education in the region of Tyrone and Fermanagh in line with its mission and objectives to support the economic, social and community development of the area. The College is well placed to offer a vocationally focussed HE curriculum that articulates well with its further Education and training offer, enabling progression from Level 2 and 3 programmes through to Levels 4 to 6.

There is evidence that this region suffers above average levels of deprivation as measured by local government output measures. The College has taken steps to ensure that support is provided to attract under represented applicants and, hence, widen participation in Higher Education in the area.

In 2011/12, the College had 1405 students studying Higher Education programmes, 27.33% on a full-time basis with the remainder 72.67% studying part-time. In 2012/13, the College has received an increased MaSN allocation allowing it to extend full-time provision to 420 places

This Access Agreement has been prepared in accordance with guidance from the Department for Employment & Learning and the Office for Fair Access initiatives within the College.

Current Data Trends

1. Percentage of Full time HE students from wards of deprivation - Rank of Multiple Deprivation Measure Score (where 1 is most deprived):

Deprivation Ward	%
1	4.3%
2	9.5%
3	17.3%
4	22.7%
Total (most deprived groups 1-4)	53.8%
5	16.1%
6	15.9%
7	7.6%
8	1.9%
9	0.5%
ROI Addresses (not assigned to a Ward)	4.3%

2. Percentage of Full time HE students from Low social and economic backgrounds.

3. Percentage of Mature Full time HE students.

Age	Female %	Male %	Total %
Under 21	11.9%	15.1%	27.0%
21 and Over	24.5%	48.5%	73.0%

4. Percentage of Full time HE students with Disabilities.

Disability	%
Specific Learning Disability (e.g. dyslexia, dysgraphia)	4.3%
Blind or partially sighted	0.2%
Deaf or hard of hearing	0.2%
Autistic Spectrum disorder/Asperger's syndrome	1.6%
Unseen disability (e.g. diabetes, epilepsy)	0.7%
Two or more disabilities	0.4%
Disability, Special Need or Medical Condition	0.4%
Total (with disabilities)	7.9%
None	88.5%
Unknown	3.6%

5. Percentage of Full time students from Ethnic Minorities.

Ethnic Origin	%
White	98.2%
Not Known	1.8%

Access Proposals

1. Bursary Scheme

It is anticipated in years one and two of the BSc Hons in Social Work that the College will provide bursaries of £500 each. The bursaries will be available for all students in receipt of the full maintenance grant or the special support grant. The bursary will be paid in two £250 instalments, the first after successful completion of semester one and the remaining £250 on successful completion of semester two.

The College, as part of its Widening Access & Participation Strategy, will provide a bursary scheme for ALL full time students who complete a bursary application and have enrolled in the Foundation Degree and HND courses within this Access Agreement.

Students will attract the following bursaries:

2011/12 to 2012/13

HNDs validated through Edexcel	£140
Foundation Degrees validated through University of Ulster	£160
Foundation Degrees validated through Queens University	£438

2013/14 – Revised Bursaries

HNDs validated through Edexcel	£140
Foundation Degrees validated through University of Ulster	£160
Foundation Degrees validated through Queens University	£500

Bursaries may rise for year 2014/15 in line with inflation

The bursary will be paid in two instalments, the first after successful completion of semester one and the remaining on successful completion of semester two.

Bursary payments are available for the duration of a student's course.

2. Specific Outreach Activities

a. Higher Education Academic Support Arrangements

The College will establish enhanced academic support arrangements in order to assist Higher Education students. These will include a range of areas including enhanced study skills, interview skills, employer question and answer panels through workshops and mentoring approaches.

b. Higher Education Student Involvement Project

The College will establish enhanced student representation and engagement arrangements to support learners, communication skills and improve retention. This will include supporting SEC target Groups from 5-7.

c. Higher Education Student Support

The College will develop specific initiatives to support Higher Education students, particularly those from a lower socio-economic background. This will include provision of Specialist Finance advice and guidance

d The marketing department will host and facilitate a range of school visits in areas that are identified as the most deprived wards. These include Castleterg, NewtownStewart, SionMills, Irvinestown, Gilford and the Drumglass areas.

Provision of Information to Students

Clear information about Higher Education fees at South West College and the financial assistance available to students will be provided in the College prospectus, on the College Website and through advice from the College Admissions Section.

The College hosts numerous Higher Education Recruitment and Progression events during the year and College staff will provide all students and potential students with information on payment arrangements, student welfare and financial support services.

Monitoring and Review Arrangements

The operation of this Access Agreement will be monitored by the College's Higher Education Forum with annual review reports provided to the Education Committee of the Governing Body.

The Access Agreement will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis by the College Management Team to take account of any change in circumstance or change in relation to priorities accessing the College's Higher Education provision.

Chairman

Director

Date

Date

ACCESS AGREEMENT MILESTONES

Measure	Timescale	Target	Responsibility	Monitoring	Comment
Academic Support – 50 mature students availing of HE academic support	June 2014	Operational by Sept 13	Head of Corporate services	Review at HE forum Meeting	
Student Involvement Project – Appoint Student Development Officer & ensure 1% retention	June 2014	Operational by Dec 13	Head of Corporate services	Review at HE forum Meeting	
HE Student Support particularly to students with socio-economic background – Appoint Student Finance Officer & 2% increase in participation from students in that area	June 2014	Operational by Sept13	Head of Corporate services	HE student support manager	
To increase participation in Higher Education from students residing in wards of deprivation from categories 1 to 4. The college will continue to support and target groups from SEC 5-7	September 2014	Operational Marketing plan and outreach activities to promote HE at South West College.	Head of Marketing	Monthly meetings. Curriculum and Quality meetings	
Ensure participation in HE programmes for students from Ethnic Minority backgrounds. Increase in admissions	September 2014	Implementation of the revised HE Admissions Policy	Head of corporate services	Equality officer	
Where relevant, the provision of a Level 2 qualification in Numeracy & Literacy	September 2013	To support all HE applicants who require essential skills Support	Essential skills Team	Essential skills team and curriculum team	
Accredited prior learning.	August 2014	To increase the number of work based learners in HE through the APL process	Course teams, Admission teams and HE co-ordinator.	Curriculum and quality team meetings	
Widening access and participation Activities See Appendices 2	October 2013	The college intends to run STEM workshops and other WP outreach activities with	.Marketing Team Outreach activities. Innovation Centre Activities.	Marketing Team Curriculum Team HE Forum	

		Primary and secondary schools. This will include the use of the colleges new innovation centres.			
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Appendix 2

The College has identified the following areas from 1-5 as being important areas to target WP activities.

Dep. Group	Student Volume
1	18
COALISLAND SOUTH	10
LISANELLY	5
DEVENISH	2
CASTLEDERG	1
2	40
COALISLAND NORTH	11
FINTONA	6
BALLYSAGGART	5
GLENDERG	4
POMEROY	4
CLARE	3
FINN	3
SION MILLS	1
CALLAN BRIDGE	1
ARDBOE	1
NEWTOWNSTEWART	1
3	73
GORTRUSH	10
NEWTOWNBUTLER	10
TERMON	7
PLUMBRIDGE	7
DRUMNAKILLY	6
DROMORE	5
DRUMQUIN	5
LISNASKEA	4

COOLNAGARD	4
SIXMILECROSS	2
STEWARTSTOWN	2
SLIEVEKIRK	2
KILLYCOLPY	2
IRVINESTOWN	1
STRULE	1
GILFORD	1
DUNNAMORE	1
DRUMGLASS	1
KILLYMOON	1
SOUTH	1
4	96
CLOGHER	8
WASHING BAY	8
ROSSLEA	7
BELLEEK AND BOA	7
CAMOWEN	7
ERNE	7
OWENKILLEW	5
GORTALOWRY	5
PORTORA	4
AUGHNACLOY	4
MONEYMORE	4
KILLYCLOGHER	3
BERAGH	3
BALLYGAWLEY	3
COALISLAND WEST AND NEWMILLS	3
MULLAGHMORE	3
ALTMORE	3
NEWBUILDINGS	2
TULLAGH	2
THE LOOP	2
KESH EDERNEY AND LACK	2
LOWER GLENSHANE	1
DERGMONEY	1
THE BIRCHES	1
ABBAY PARK	1
Grand Total	227