



HIGHER EDUCATION

Chichester College Group Widening Participation and Outreach Policy 2017-2020



Quality Code Part B Assuring and Enhancing Academic Quality (B2, B3, B4, B5, B6), Part C Information about Higher Education Provision, ESG Standards (1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.8), Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) as at June 2017.

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Chichester College Group

Higher Education

Widening Participation and Outreach Policy

2017-2022

1 Aims

1.1 The College acknowledges the educational benefits of a diverse student body and recognises the need to increase and widen participation into higher Education; to enable students from any background to access and enjoy the best possible student experience and progress into graduate employment.

1.2 The College accepts its social responsibility to support the social mobility of community groups by raising aspiration, improving attainment among potential students and making a long-term commitment to national prosperity.

2 Context

2.1 Chichester College Group has a reputation for inclusivity and actively encourages widening participation throughout its diverse curriculum. This policy builds on the College's inclusive reputation and reflects its core values

2.2 In order to include the wider community, the College needs to: increase recruitment from lower participation areas. POLAR 3 quintiles 1 and 2 will remain a key focus along with increasing the percentage of female learners. The College will aim to attract more students from non-white ethnic groups; increase the proportion of students who are over 30; and work to support progression for care leavers and those in receipt of DSA. This will be achieved by delivering a range of activities in partnership with the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP) and broadening the College's level 4 curriculum offer to better reflect the local employment trends.

2.3 The policy recognises the need for a framework for widening participation and outreach activities given the focus from government, supporting the evolving agenda of increasing social mobility and ensuring fair access to higher education.

2.4 The policy has been revised taking in due regard for the National Collaborative Outreach Programme and will encompass the operating plan for delivery.

3 Priorities

3.1 To support the College Higher Education strategy and its key strategic aims:

- To optimise accessibility to Higher Education through Widening Participation, progression, career changers and returners
- To provide support for student transition from L3, Access and professional experience
- To maximise student retention and success in order to fulfil potential supporting social mobility
- To continue to build a work ready and future proofed curriculum offering through focus on employability skills and employer engagement and teaching excellence

3.2 To provide an effective means of ensuring that the College addresses its key institutional benchmarks with respect to the participation of under-represented groups whilst seeking to identify and recruit the best students.

3.3 Suggested activities to implement the key priorities for widening participation and outreach:

- School visits - extending and developing partnerships with local communities and schools to support student choice and alternative options for education are represented to all students with special focus made on the under-represented.
- Curriculum themed support for selective courses - running course guidance and interview training to help prospective students select and prepare for application and selection
- Addition of a Widening Participation mentor as part of National Collaborative Outreach Programme to support the currently identified Level 3 student population, working with Schools Liaison, Positive about Futures and complimenting the current community outreach programme run by the University of Chichester for the local communities including focussed GCSE and support activities for identified wards.
- Mentoring activity - current HE students supporting FE students and raising ambition through coaching and mentoring
- Research and development of the curriculum offer - working with communities with lower participation to identify barriers to participation and gaps in provision which if resolved would increase their engagement with Higher Education. This will include the development of pathway courses such as the expansion of Access to Higher Education Diploma courses to facilitate the transition to higher education study.
- To increase the flexibility of courses to encourage participation of more mature and working learners by optimising delivery modelling.

- Working with disadvantaged groups - providing support for disadvantaged groups such as students with social communication difficulties through our specialist provision
- Offering continuing support through our specialist provision for those students requiring additional support and in receipt of DSA (see Appendix A for admission process for DSA and Learning support)
- Progression events and specific talks for all Level 3 courses to inform students of Level 4 opportunities and raise aspiration.
- A lower than standard university entry requirement and guaranteeing progression interviews to all internal applicants.

3.4 To ensure a strategic approach to the disbursement of widening access funds in order to promote widening participation and outreach activity across all academic areas and central professional services of the College utilising current processes where possible.

3.5 To promote the principles of fair access and ensure that able students from any background are able to access this College without facing any institutional barriers to progression.

3.6 To promote the enhancement of the overall student experience so that all students from any background enjoy the best possible experience within our institution, are successfully retained, and ultimately take up graduate employment.

3.7 To develop robust measures of success to help determine current and future priorities for widening participation and outreach.

3.8 To create a common framework for recording and reporting on current widening participation and outreach activity across the key themes of

- Access and Progression support
 - Including internal and external access and progression
- Outreach Activities
 - Including learning festivals, showcases and bespoke schools courses
- Opportunity Building
 - Including creating and delivering accessible, flexible, multiplatform future, proofed courses ensuring employer engagement
- Information, Advice, Guidance and communication
 - Including targeted events aimed at all learners by highly skilled staff

4 Implementing the widening participation and outreach policy

4.1 The College will ensure that resources are optimised both financial and material in order support widening participation and outreach activities

4.2 The College will review annually its Access Agreement with OFFA to ensure the financial arrangements are prioritised.

4.3 The College a key partner in the National Collaborative Outreach Programme will implement the agreed projects.

4.4 In line with the National Collaborative Outreach Programme the College will adopt an evidence based approach providing such management information that is required to evaluate the outcomes and revise this and all relevant policies to optimise widening participation

5 Governance and management

5.1 This widening participation and outreach policy is assured by the College's Widening Participation Committee with oversight from the Higher Education Board.

5.2 The Widening Participation Committee will collate relevant evidence for overall tracking and progress towards widening participation targets to report to the Higher Education Board.

Appendix A

Additional Support and DSA procedure

DSA procedure: The College recognise that all students learn differently and that there are ways we can support students with any kind of learning difficulty or disability. We have a comprehensive additional support facility that can provide a wide range of assistance. Students who have not disclosed anything that may have an impact on learning while at College are recommended to do so in advance so that the College can make the necessary arrangements.

Below is the Higher Education process for requesting Additional Learning Support. Working in liaison Course Leader and the Higher Education team

