



HE ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

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Dept	Higher Education	Last Updated	June 2019
Responsible Manager	Head of HE, Access & Engineering	Next Review	June 2022

Telford College is committed to meeting local and regional needs to widen participation in Higher Education (HE) from under-represented groups, with only 18% of level 3 students progressing to HE from target wards in the area. The College acknowledges that increasing access to HE is particularly important given that the percentage of the population with higher level qualifications (Level 4 or above) in Telford and the surrounding area is below the national average, contributing to a skills gap within local and regional economies. In response to The Marches LEP strategic objectives, we aim to develop HE provision that respond to local needs and recognise a real growth in infrastructure and engineering.

Our gender profile for HE enrolments map to local and national statistics and industry demographics, particularly in Engineering and Child Care & Early Years studies.

The College's strategies and policies set out clearly our commitment to fair access, including the minimising of barriers for applicants. In addition to setting transparent criteria for entry to programmes, the College welcomes applications from students from non-traditional backgrounds and values work related experience to encourage mature students into higher education where it is considered that the student has the potential to contribute and benefit from the HE programme.

As part of the admissions process, the College provides comprehensive information, advice and guidance (IAG). The College's IAG is quality assured through Matrix. The admissions process is administered by the Student Services team, where all applications into HE are interviewed by the specialist curriculum team relating to the application. The IAG process ensures a cohesive approach to admissions through consideration of students' prior achievement and experience, career aspirations, individual learning and welfare needs. The Learning Manager for Higher Education oversees the HE admission process and liaises with the Programme tutors to ensure smooth implementation of the admission process.

At interview prospective HE students are assessed for their suitability for higher level studies in particular their and their chosen programme of study, and to identify students' support needs. The College actively encourages applications from disadvantaged groups which is closely monitored through recruitment, enrolment and success rates. Data on performance for equality and diversity indicators are reported and form an integral aspect of our self-assessment process.

The College may allow students to vary their study plans, as a result of illness, etc., in such a way that they take a break in learning and no longer plan to complete at the normal end date of their programme. In this way we endeavour to make every reasonable adjustment to support our students to achieve. The terms on which such breaks are approved specifically state that the College does not guarantee that programmes will remain open for students to return to and that such students accept this risk (HE Refund & Compensation Policy).

Telford College has developed various HE pathways through clear curriculum maps to encourage young people in particular, and their parents, carers or guardians, to consider HE as a progression route. The College focuses on developing our existing and prospective students' study skills to provide the firm grounding needed for success. Working with schools, community groups and employers we raise awareness of the benefits of HE to individuals, industry and the local economy.

Examples of activities undertaken by the College to widen access to HE includes:

- Promoting progression to HE for the College's Level 2 and Level 3 students through targeted careers sessions, an annual College based HE Road Show and Fair, visits to and talks by universities and support with UCAS applications
- Working with Aspire to HE as part of NCOP, to increase participation from ethnic minority groups and address the under-representation of young men from disadvantaged background. Activities to promote HE as part of this project include; Introduction of You Explore IAG careers software, NHS careers day, 'Not too late' to apply event, Positively Mad workshops, Mission Transmission Science event by university of Wolverhampton,

Mentoring programme, next steps parents event, HE convention and Telford at 50 Hall of Fame Alumni – to recognise the achievement of a diverse range of people living in T&W.

- Providing study skills support on Level 3 and HE programmes through online resources, tutorials, and specific sessions
- Established Access to HE programmes which provide opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds and levels of education to progress to university level study
- Professional development programmes which provide support to teachers on developing teaching and learning strategies that meet the needs of individual students
- Working closely with schools and colleges to raise aspirations and promote lifelong learning, targeting progression to HE courses and attending school careers events to promote advice and guidance on progression opportunities and offer careers advice
- Employers network events to promote HE for upskilling their existing workforce