



Boston College Widening Access and Participation Statement

1. Introduction

Boston College has the following vision, mission and values;

Vision: *To be a brilliant college*

Mission: *To transform people's lives through delivering excellence in everything that we do, inspiring our learners, the community and region we serve to achieve together*

Values:

Build Character

One Team

Strive for excellence

Thrive on learning

Ownership and integrity

Never stop improving

The College prioritises equality, diversity and inclusion and makes the following commitments;

- We will welcome and celebrate diversity, make sure everyone is treated fairly, and has the same opportunities to aspire and achieve.
- We will go beyond our statutory duties and will also consider issues such as rurality, economic and social deprivation.
- We will do all we can to understand and meet the needs of our learners and staff and will make reasonable adjustments and proportional changes to our processes and procedures where required.
- We will treat all individuals with dignity and respect and promote an environment that is free from prejudice, bullying, harassment and unlawful discrimination.
- We will be open and transparent in how we report and publish the work we do to advance equality and will promote an inclusive culture.
- We will challenge direct and indirect discriminatory behaviour and practice, at every opportunity.
- We will provide a range of learning opportunities to influence and develop ourselves, our learners, and the communities we serve.
- We will promote and share best practice and provide our staff and associates with the knowledge, skills and confidence they require to meet their equality and diversity responsibilities.

The College's key priorities for its HE provision are focused upon the development and delivery of high quality, vocationally relevant programmes to support internal progression, widen participation and to meet external demand. As one of the major providers of education and training in Lincolnshire, delivering from entry through to level 6 top-up degree courses, we have a fully inclusive approach to the support of both our further and higher education students.

2. Recruitment

Recruitment to HE programmes at the college is supported by a number of strands of activity which are designed to widen participation.

- Fees are approximately 30-40% lower than those charged by many universities to reduce barriers to participation, particularly amongst prospective students from non-traditional backgrounds who are likely to be debt averse.
- Programmes are designed to enable students to work alongside their studies if they need to do so. This is achieved on some programmes through flexible delivery focused on one main day with supporting blended learning, while on others by clustering learning sessions across just two days. Both approaches mean students are not required to attend across a number of days, are able to work and therefore can maintain an income.
- The College offers a range of Access to Higher Education Qualifications to support those who are returning to education and need knowledge and skills to facilitate study at a higher level.
- The College's careers team introduces the concept of Higher Education during school presentations and taster activities for all ages.
- The College's annual Festival of Learning event attract many adults from the local community who can then access advice about how to gain further qualifications and access Higher Education.
- The College is a member of the NCOP Lincolnshire consortium, hosting two area engagement officers and supporting events aimed at widening participation in Higher Education across the county.
- Progression routes are mapped from many internal vocational programmes including ones which have not previously attracted UCAS points such as NVQs and Apprenticeships.
- The entry criteria for all higher education programmes at the College include 'non-standard' options to encourage applications from those who have not followed a standard route and may not have UCAS tariff points.

3. IAG and Student Support

The College has a comprehensive central Learner Services department. From the moment any prospective student considers joining the college they will be able to access support with:

- Course Information and Enrolment
- Travel and Transport
- Health
- Welfare and Funding
- Careers
- Counselling
- Learning support
- Accessibility
- Accommodation

If any prospective student is looking for assistance or support to help them make that journey into education, then the College support services can offer impartial Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) on a full range of services. The College successfully gained Matrix re-accreditation in 2019 for the quality of IAG and careers advice and guidance provided to learners. The Learner Services Team support both FE and HE students while on programme and also in transition to other courses or into employment.

Support for students comprises of pastoral provision through tutorial programmes and additional learning support for students with LDD, ESOL and/or basic skills needs. In addition to the cross-college support services, there is a Higher Education manager at the College to oversee their pastoral and study skills support.

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|  | VICKI LOCKE, VICE PRINCIPAL: CURRICULUM & QUALITY |
| DATE | 11 September 2019 |