

# ENHANCING STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT POLICY

The Student Development and Achievement Policy has been informed by the Quality Assurance Agency's Quality Code for Higher Education (Chapter B4). The QAA's Quality Code is the definitive reference point for all UK higher education institutions and sets out how academic standards are established and maintained and how the quality of learning opportunities are assured and enhanced.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Education policy and Enrolment agreement.

## Introduction

The College recognises that central to this policy is the College's responsibility for the academic standards of the course and the quality of learning opportunities for students. This policy sets the framework of expectations within which the College seeks to enable student development and achievement before, during and after their period of study with the College by:

- putting in place appropriate strategies, policies, resources, practices and systems to ensure that students make a successful transition to study
- supporting and monitoring student progress and development while on the course programme to enable them to maximise their academic, personal and professional potential;
- ensuring that students who have completed their period of study and who have assessments to re-take are informed on all aspects of the reassessment process and appropriately supported.

## Responsibility for this policy

Ultimate responsibility for the development of clear and effective processes and procedures associated with the quality assurance and maintenance of standards of academic provision and overseeing their application lies with the Academic Director and Management Committee.

## Expectation

The College has in place, monitors and evaluates arrangements and resources which enable students to develop their academic, personal and professional potential.

## Key aims and principles

The College ensures that students:

- Are appropriately supported in their academic, personal and professional development to enable them to achieve their full potential
- Are appropriately supported in transitions (with a particular focus on the transition to higher education for returning learners)
- Are aware of the support and learning opportunities available to them through Regional Support groups, Point location classes and personal tutorials
- Are enabled to understand the expectations placed on them by the College and the need to take responsibility for their own learning and development
- have an opportunity to input into the nature of the College's support provision through the student consultative committee, personal tutorials and informal dialogue with members of the teaching staff.

In enabling student development and achievement the College applies the principles of fairness, inclusion and accessibility, taking into account the differing individual requirements of students, and the diversity of the student body.

## **Procedural Approach**

### **Structure of the provision**

The framework of procedures which follows has been organised to reflect the chronological student experience from pre-programme enrolment and study, through induction and in-course learning, to post-programme transition and/or re-sit support as relevant.

The College ensures that students receive accurate and timely information about their chosen programme of study and support and services available to them, including:

- clear indications of the levels of commitment required through estimated study hours (including class contact hours)
- information about projected timetabling patterns
- information about the requirements of pre-course study
- information about designated contacts for pre-course queries
- information about support and services available pre-course
- information on the procedure for entering into a learning contract for students with learning and disability support requirements

This information is designed to ensure that students have clear understanding of what to expect when they start and to ensure clear communication between students and the College.

The College ensures that its programme has a comprehensive and supportive induction week to enable students to feel welcomed as individuals by the College and to make a confident transition to their studies through:

- inclusion in all its induction processes of appropriate registration and information distribution procedures
- appropriate support through inclusion in peer networks, observation of final year students and in-class presentation from senior students
- inclusion of sessions in the induction week which explain the nature of the programme, the College's expectations of student study, the resources accessible by students (especially the VLE) and the nature of academic and pastoral support available
- opportunities for students to meet and/or communicate with their personal tutors and to discuss any questions or concerns they may have
- provision for late starters which ensures that they are supported and informed and enabled to find their place on the programme with confidence
- opportunities for students to meet and /or communicate with each other

New students are introduced to their personal tutor early in the course and have six personal tutorials (3 face to face and 3 by email) in the first year. Students who require additional learning support are identified at interview and in induction week and directed to the learning support co-ordinator. The aim of this is to identify potential problems early on and to ensure that support is given.

The College ensures that on all its programmes students are supported and enabled to achieve their full academic, personal and professional potential through:

- high quality academic teaching, supervision and support provided by staff who are appropriately qualified, trained, supported and performance-evaluated
- appropriate academic and pastoral support
- clear information and guidance on assessment processes both summative and formative including guidance in class at the start of each year
- appropriate support and guidance on the development of learning and professional skills. This includes "feedforward" guidance on tackling assignments, individual feedback as well as general class feedback on assignments. The individual feedback highlights improvements that could be made which then inform future assignments and the general class feedback ensures that all students benefit from the guidance given. In the clinical phase this includes personal tutorials to discuss progress and identify areas of weakness.
- embracing and encouraging diversity
- appropriate learning support provision
- Library and Information Services and other learning resources, and guidance on the effective use of learning systems
- high quality advice, information, guidance and opportunities to develop employability skills
- good communication between the College and students

The College ensures enhancement of the learning experience with the provision of regional support groups and extra College-based point location practice classes which provide extra support and provide students with more opportunities to get more feedback on practical skills and allow students to meet students from other cohorts. In addition, clear two-way communication is encouraged through the staff-student Consultative Committee and personal tutorials as well as ad hoc discussions with tutors and personal tutors.

The College ensures that students are appropriately supported in all transitions subsequent to initial registration as a student, including provision of information and impartial advice on the implications of:

- leaving the programme
- deferment
- progression to the next level

The College ensures that students who have completed their period of taught study with the College but have not yet passed the required modules because they have outstanding or failed assessments, are enabled to continue to study effectively and to understand what is required of them through:

- clear information on the implications of the relevant assessment regulations for their programme
- clear information on the reassessment procedures relevant to their programme
- appropriate access to online and hard copy study resources, including library access
- appropriate access to tutor support before re-sit examinations

With regard to alumni, the College ensures that students who have completed their period of taught study with the College are informed of and encouraged to take advantage of the Continuing Professional Development courses and graduate days available to them at the College

## **Responsibility, Monitoring and evaluation of the provision**

Formal responsibility for monitoring and evaluation of this provision lies with the Academic Director and the Management Committee.

## **Enhancing Student Development**

Monitoring of student enhancement draws its sources from:

Quality Assurance Committee  
 Student consultation and enhancement committee  
 Personal tutorial system

Learning support  
Regional support groups  
Point location  
Board of Studies  
Evaluation surveys

In addition our open door policy encourages students to give feedback to staff. All staff emails are given to students at the start of the course.

Review date: 2021

