

# COLLEGE OF INTEGRATED CHINESE MEDICINE

## ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

### 1. Policy

The College of Integrated Chinese Medicine offers a BSc honours degree in acupuncture, validated by University College of Osteopathy and accredited by the British Acupuncture Accreditation Board. We are committed to enabling the widest possible access to our courses. Participation is open to those wishing study traditional acupuncture and to those wanting to deepen their understanding of Chinese Medicine.

### 2. Access

We seek to operate a fair recruitment and admissions process, which is transparent, reliable, valid and inclusive, and take a thorough, holistic approach when considering individual student needs and circumstances.

Entry requirements are clearly stated. Where mature students, for whatever reason, have been unable to gain the requisite prior qualifications for undergraduate entry, we will enter into a dialogue with each individual. Ultimately, we are looking for people who have a desire to assess and attend to the health needs of others. All applicants are encouraged to attend an open day before deciding on whether they wish to apply.

Applicants have the opportunity to discuss all elements of study at the college, which, as well as the academic programme, includes discussion about finances, assessment and career opportunities as well as other areas that will help them to prepare fully and effectively for study. Our regular open days hosted by the President and Principal of the college provide an opportunity for prospective students to tour the college, meet the registrar and students, to have a flavour of the ethos of the college and what to expect if they chose to study with us and also to have their questions answered.

### 3. Participation

We welcome new students to a period of orientation to life and study at the college before the programmes begin (welcome week for full-time students, welcome weekend for part-time students). We run a study skills programme for all students who may not have studied for some time or who lack confidence in studying.

We have a qualified staff member, supported by a team of tutors, dedicated to the support of students and offering both study skills support and help with obtaining funds from DSA. We seek to build an effective partnership between staff and students at all levels in order to enhance the quality of learning opportunities.

We offer additional point location days on Fridays and Sundays throughout the year to encourage and support students in their learning. We also organise Regional Support groups for all our

students. These are small groups of typically 4 to 6 students who meet a tutor once a month in a venue close to their home. They can practice practical skills, discuss class lectures, assignments and coursework or any aspect of the course or learning they wish. These groups, which have been praised by the QAA, University College of Osteopathy and our students, are offered around the country to widen access to our students.

We engage students, individually and collectively, as partners in the assurance and enhancement of their educational experience. We seek to embed a culture of support for student learning which develops the academic and professional potential of students. This includes a well-developed and valued pastoral and student tutorial and support system.

The college welcomes students from a diverse age range, currently from age 18 to age 68.

#### **4. Progression**

Retention rates are very high. We consistently achieve a 100% pass rate among students who completed their studies.

Review Date: 2023