

## West Herts College – Access and Participation Statement

West Herts College is committed to providing a high quality service designed to meet local and regional needs and those of our College community. The College provides a Higher Education (HE) environment that is dedicated to equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination. The College highly values the diversity of its student body and is committed to minimising barriers and widening access to entry for all HE applicants.

In addition to setting transparent criteria for entry to HE courses, the College welcomes and values applications irrespective of background and previous work related experience that students might bring.

The College is committed to providing impartial advice and guidance to ensure applicants and students are placed and supported on appropriate courses from application through to course completion and onto their future destinations. This is outlined in full in the College's Admissions, Information, Advice and Guidance Policy and in accordance with the Expectation found in Chapter B2 of the UK Quality Code for HE.

The College adheres to the University of Hertfordshire Admissions Procedures for entry to Foundation Degrees and Extended Degree programmes. In addition, the College has its own internal policy and procedure for students wishing to access Higher National qualifications, which is implemented by the College's Head of Marketing and Communications and Admissions.

The College actively conducts outreach work in the community engaging with local schools, other colleges, employers, community groups and the University of Hertfordshire to promote its full HE course offering. In addition, the College is committed to providing progression opportunities to best meet the needs of students, enhancing their career opportunities and long-term earning potential.

Transitional and ongoing support for students are extensive both inside and outside of the classroom and include personal and welfare support, academic and study skills support and support for those students with additional learning needs.

The College is committed to providing HE students with the best learning experience possible and routinely engages with students to enhance their learning experience, as recognised by QAA who commended the College during their most recent HE Review visit in 2014. Teaching and learning is of a high standard and the College was awarded Gold in the Teaching and Excellence Framework (TEF) in May 2017. To facilitate students in reaching their full potential, the College monitors all aspects of student performance throughout the academic journey. Regular Target, Progress and Attainment (TPA) sessions raise aspirations, provide students with feedback of progress and facilitate continued personal development. Performance data is collated and reported to ensure equality and diversity indicators are considered and these are reported to the College Leadership Group and the College Corporation. Data collated for the past three years indicates very high levels of student satisfaction and success with 98% of College HE students accessing employment or further study and 81% achieving highly skilled employment or further study on completion of their course.