

## **Access and Widening Participation Statement**

Central Bedfordshire College seeks to provide a Higher Education programme that meets local and regional employment needs, the needs of communities and of individuals for learning opportunities of high quality. We particularly value the diversity of our College community; the College is proud to have acquired Leaders in Diversity status. Our programmes and the college environment are designed to offer equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination. We actively seek to widen participation in and access to our Higher Education programmes look to remove barriers to participation.

We conduct outreach work in communities, with schools, other training providers, community and faith groups as well as employers. Our Higher Education programmes are supported by progression routes from Entry Level to Level 3 for adults and young people and our outreach and in-college Tutorial programmes promote high aspirations in all of their activities. Support for transition into college Higher Education programmes and on course is provided by a well-regarded Additional Learning Support team and our welfare team. Support includes personal, welfare and financial support and support for additional needs. The development of academic skills is built in to the curriculum of every Higher Education programme. There are formally recognised progression routes to higher level learning with our partner Universities once programmes are completed in the college.

We offer full and part-time programmes, designed to enable the participation of people in employment or who have responsibilities as parents or carers. Our programmes are designed to enable students to use, progress and share the experiences of work, learning and life that they already have.

Our entry criteria are transparent and widely available and we value alternative qualifications and experience that students might bring. We provide impartial advice and guidance to ensure that all students are placed on courses that are appropriate to their levels of experience and aspirations for the future.

All students are designated a Personal Academic Supervisor who tracks individual progress against targets with them and ensures that any support required is given.

The College's Safeguarding and Equality Committee, which reports to the Board of Governors, monitors the participation and success of diverse groups of students and mandates enhancement of provision at senior level to ensure that all groups participate and succeed equally. Policy and Procedure supports this work.

The following Policies support this Statement:

- HE Admissions Policy and Code of Practice
- HE Assessment Policy
- HE Public Information Policy
- HE Student Engagement Policy
- HE Teaching and Learning Policy
- HE Work-based, Work-related and Placement Policy

- Safeguarding Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Statement