



OAKLANDS
COLLEGE



ACCESS AND WIDENING PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

Access and Widening Participation Statement

Oaklands College is committed to delivering high quality Higher Education (HE) provision that address local, regional, and community needs. We celebrate the diversity of our student body and are committed to breaking down barriers to entry for all HE applicants, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for learning.

Encouraging Widening Participation in Higher Education

To promote access to HE, the College undertakes a range of activities, including:

- **Engagement with schools:** Participating in careers events and providing information and guidance to inspire progression into HE
- **Progression briefings:** Delivering sessions led by the HE team to inform current Level 3 students about the HE courses offered at the College
- **UCAS workshops and application support:** Offering tailored assistance for existing students through one-to-one curriculum support
- **Career aspiration support:** Recognising the importance of fostering a vibrant and inclusive society, we encourage and support all students in exploring their career goals, regardless of their backgrounds or circumstances
- **Career and employment fairs:** Promoting HE opportunities through events featuring key partners, such as the University of Hertfordshire
- **Higher Education Bursary:** Providing financial support to eligible students based on demonstrated hardship.

Impartial Advice and Transparent Entry Criteria

The College is committed to offering impartial advice and guidance to ensure that HE applicants and students are well-informed and placed on suitable courses. We:

- Ensure entry criteria are clear, transparent, and accessible
- Welcome applications from individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences
- Value prior work experience alongside formal qualifications in our admissions process
- Offer tailored support for applicants who may not meet traditional entry criteria, including advice on bridging any gaps in qualifications or learning

Admissions Procedures

Oaklands College adheres to the University of Hertfordshire's admissions processes for Foundation and Extended Degrees while maintaining internal procedures for Pearson Higher National qualifications. Throughout the admissions process, applicants have access to:

- Comprehensive information about courses and available support services
- Academic and non-academic guidance to facilitate informed decision-making

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Ongoing Support for Students

We provide extensive support to ensure students thrive both academically and personally. Our services include:

- Personal and welfare support
- Academic and study skills development
- Additional learning needs support delivered by a dedicated Inclusive Learning Support (ILS) HE Tutor, ensuring a holistic approach to study assistance.

Commitment to Quality and Continuous Improvement

The College is firmly committed to delivering a high-quality learning experience. We actively seek feedback from students to inform and improve our provision. Key initiatives include:

- **Student surveys:** Regularly gathering insights from students about their experiences
- **Curriculum action plans:** Requiring curriculum areas to submit improvement plans based on student feedback, reviewed by senior management
- **Performance monitoring:** Collecting and analysing data to ensure equality and diversity indicators are considered. These insights are reported to the College Senior Management Team and Corporation.

By embedding these principles in our policies and practices, Oaklands College continues to support and empower all students to achieve their full potential.

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