



## Access and Widening Participation Statement

Oaklands College is committed to delivering high quality HE provision designed to meet local and regional needs and those of our College community. The College values the diversity of our student body and is committed to minimising barriers to entry for all our HE applicants and to widening access.

In order to encourage widening participation in HE the College carries out a variety of activities:

- Development of a curriculum portfolio that helps shape Higher Education by delivering highly flexible and affordable part time degree courses (UCSA), enabling people of all ages and backgrounds from the region to realise their potential
- Engagement with school careers and information and guidance events to encourage progression opportunities.
- Progression briefings delivered by the HE team to existing level 3 students on HE courses offered by the College.
- UCAS workshops and application support for existing students through curriculum one to ones.
- To recognise the need to create a vibrant society as set out by the Social Mobility Commission the College will ensure students are encouraged and supported in exploring their career aspirations regardless of their backgrounds or circumstances.
- Career and employment fairs to promote HE courses with representation from the University of Hertfordshire.
- Consideration may be given to the award of a Higher Education Bursary which is awarded on the basis of hardship.

The College provides impartial advice and guidance to ensure our HE applicants and students are well informed and are placed on appropriate courses. Criteria for entry is transparent, accessible and the College encourages applications from diverse backgrounds. The College values the importance of prior work experience, in addition to qualifications, that potential students may bring to their application. Where students may not meet the recommended or expected entry criteria, the HE

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team work hard to match prior learning and qualifications to courses and give impartial advice on how applicants may reasonably meet the criteria.

The College adheres to the University of Hertfordshire Admissions Procedures for entry to Foundation Degrees and Extended Degrees. In addition, we have our own internal procedure for students wishing to enrol on Pearson Higher National qualifications. In all cases the admissions process makes available a range of services, including information on courses, and support services available, both academic and non-academic.

Ongoing support both inside and outside the classroom is extensive and includes personal and welfare support, academic and study skills support and support for those students with additional learning needs. The provision of a dedicated ILS HE Tutor facilitates a holistic approach to study support.

The College has a strong commitment to provide HE students with a high-quality learning experience. To this end, the College regularly engages with students to gain feedback on their experience. One of the key means to widen participation in student engagement is via the newly instigated HE Student Chair role, which is a significant development in linking student views to senior management. In response to student surveys, curriculum areas are required to submit action plans to the senior management team outlining how they plan to make improvements in all aspects of the provision.

Performance data is collated and reported to ensure equality and diversity indicators are considered and these are reported to the College Senior Management Team and College Corporation.

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