

Access and Participation Statement

HSDC is committed to widening participation in Higher Education (HE) and to providing high quality courses for those students who choose to study HE at the College.

The College's Vision is to be the 'first choice FE college for students, staff and employers in Hampshire - fully equipping our communities for work and life' and believes its HE provision to be central to achieving that objective. Its purpose is to 'realise the ambitions of our community - raising aspirations, enabling achievement, fulfilling dreams'.

Meeting Skills Needs of the Solent region

Hampshire is an affluent region of the country and its population is educated to a higher level than the national average. However, there are areas of deprivation in the county, particularly in the cities of Southampton and Portsmouth. There are employment opportunities for young people in lower-skilled jobs in service industries, and participation in HE is lower than the national average for the local population from the urban areas south of the M27.

The College reviews its curriculum offer annually, and prioritises expansion of the curriculum offer, and development of new courses based on skills requirement of the region as determined by the Local Enterprise Partnership. In these priority areas, development of HE courses run by the College, or of facilitating courses to allow progression to HE.

Widening Participation to HE

The College undertakes a number of activities to encourage students from underrepresented groups to participate in HE. All students have access to advice and guidance regarding progression opportunities, including to HE, and are supported through the application process. There are a range of Higher Education courses available at the college to provide a natural progression for vocational students who want or need to remain in the local area.

The college participates in a number of regional initiatives to encourage participation in HE. The college has worked closely with The Southern Universities Network to support widening participation in HE.

The College also works with employers to support development of their employees to achieve higher level and professional qualifications, either through an apprenticeship programme, or through specific part-time courses (Accounting, Procurement).

The College runs a range of Access to HE programmes for adult learners seeking to progress to HE, in vocational specific areas (Nursing, Social Care, Teaching) and broader academic areas (Science, Business, Humanities).



Support for Students

The College's Student Services and Academic Support departments offer a range of services to support HE learners and learners seeking to progress to HE, including:

- Course information
- Health and wellbeing support
- Support for childcare and travel
- Financial support
- Careers advice
- Learning support and other support for students with specific needs

