

Admissions Procedure

Guiding principles

- 1.0 The college is committed to transparency and fairness in how it seeks to admit students.
- 2.0 The college is an inclusive environment and seeks applications from a wide and diverse range of students regardless of their age, sex, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, disability or pregnancy or maternity. In welcoming applications from such a diverse range of individuals, the college will seek to make reasonable adjustments so that groups are not disadvantaged from accessing the college's provision.
- 3.0 The college will wherever possible welcome applications from individuals who have a criminal record and sees education as a major contributor to the successful rehabilitation of offenders. The college has a procedure for admitting students with a criminal record which is published separately.
- 4.0 The college reserves the right to refuse entry to an individual based on a range of factors that might include: their fitness to study; the risk that a conviction and subsequent license conditions may pose to other students; the college's ability to adequately support disabilities; their academic and behavioral record from previous institutions or for continuing students the college itself. Decisions regarding the refusal of entry will be made transparently and following proper assessment of support that could be put in place and any other mitigating factors. The reason for the refusal will be communicated clearly to the applicant.
- 5.0 The college recognises that potential is not always demonstrated merely by formal qualifications and will, where it is practical to do so, consider relevant life and work experiences in lieu of formal qualifications, but recognising that at some levels and for some qualifications, evidence of appropriate prior qualifications is essential.
- 6.0 The college will publish comprehensive information about its course offering, entry requirements admissions processes and terms and conditions within its printed literature and online via the college's website. The college's call centre, information and careers teams are available to provide face-to-face advice for potential applicants about courses matching career aspirations.

Aims

- 7.0 This policy aims to ensure that:
 - a) applicants are treated fairly and impartially.
 - b) applicants are appropriately guided and supported through the admissions process.

- c) informed and sound decision making by the applicant and the college is embedded within our processes.
- d) information related to entry criteria is fair, in line with the level and expectations of the course and are up to date and publicised widely.

Related policies and procedures

8.0 The following policies and procedures should be read in conjunction with this procedure:

- SEND Policy Statement
- Admitting Students with a Criminal Record Procedure
- Fitness to Study Policy
- Equality Policy and Scheme
- Complaints procedure
- Closure, suspension or substantial change to courses
- policy Terms and conditions
- College Tuition Fee Policy

Admissions Criteria

- 9.0 As well as the published qualifications needed for entry, applicants will be assessed on the grounds of their suitability for the course and their professional aspirations. Certain courses such as childcare, health and social care and sport will require an applicant to undertake a DBS check to enable them to complete a work placement. Issues with a DBS return may mean that the individual is not suitable for the programme of study as it will prevent them from completing a work placement.
- 10.0 In all cases where the suitability of a candidate for a course is in doubt the individual will be provided with alternative levels or programmes of study and will be, where available, offered alternatives at the college.
- 11.0 The college will check every application received to verify that an applicant or their family's (if the applicant is under 18) length and location of residence to determine eligibility for 'Home' fee status.

FE Full-time course admissions

- 12.0 Course entry requirements will be on the college's website. Individuals can apply for further education courses from the October of the year prior to entry, regardless of whether they have received confirmed exam results or grades. Offers will be made on the basis of predicted grades where needed.
- 13.0 Applications for full-time programmes of study and some part-time courses will be dealt with by the central admissions team. They will acknowledge receipt of application and process an offer based on entry requirements and predicted grades. They will invite applicants to meet the tutor process for their particular programme of study. Documents required for meet the tutor will be made clear in the invitation letter, plus any other requirements of the process, e.g. audition pieces, portfolio presentation or aptitude tests.

- 14.0 The offer of a place may be conditional upon the applicant achieving certain grades in formal examinations or qualifications and may be subject to satisfactory references and DBS checks (see point 9.0 above).
- 15.0 Offers for courses will be confirmed in writing with applicants asked to confirm their acceptance of this offer.
- 16.0 Applicants unable to attend their meet the tutor date should let the central admissions team know in advance and their meet the tutor will be rescheduled to an alternative, the offer provided by the admissions team is conditional on attendance at one of these events and an offer may be withdrawn as a result of non-attendance to three events. These are group events and should applicants need special arrangements to be made they can do so through the admissions team.
- 17.0 Applicants are asked to declare any additional needs, if they have an EHC Plan or criminal convictions at the application stage. This is to enable the college to assess support requirements and where necessary consider the impact of any criminal convictions on potential study. This process of assessment will be done in full consultation with the individual. The process of assessment may delay the processing of an offer.

Appeals

- 18.0 If an applicant is unsuccessful, the college will provide a reason why their application has been declined. There is no right of appeal in relation to the decision. However, if applicants feel that the process has not been followed or wish to challenge a decision to reject their application, they should refer to the College complaints procedures (please see below).
- 19.0 An Admissions Appeal could be invoked or referred to for a variety of reasons including:
- .1 If an applicant who has previously been withdrawn from a college course wishes to return.
 - .2 If a Tutor has reasonable grounds for believing that an application may require a risk assessment, for example, any behave.
 - .3 iour or previous record which could pose a threat to staff or other students.
 - .4 If an applicant presents an unacceptable Safeguarding risk.
- This list is not exhaustive or exclusive and additional situations may arise which necessitate an Admissions Appeal. Appeals will be responded to within 10 working days.
- 20.0 The College reserves the right not to admit a student who has any outstanding debts to the College.

After application

The College will hold regular advice events, open days and applicant events at which prospective students will:

- .1 have the chance to visit our campus.
- .2 learn about the services and facilities available on campus.
- .3 be able to speak to staff and students about programmes and services.

- 21.0 Successful applicants will be invited into a Welcome Event in July and an Enrolment Event in late August/early September at the College.
- 22.0 Information about these events and how to attend will be provided on our website and invitations will be sent to prospective students.
- 23.0 All college marketing materials will be accurate, kept up-to-date, be available at the correct point in the recruitment cycle and be available in formats accessible to all enquirers and applicants. The purpose of this material is to assist enquirers and applicants in their decision-making process.

Fees

- 24.0 Fees for FE will be advertised on the college website.

Complaints about college admissions

- 25.0 Complaints about admission to the college should be made via the college's complaints procedure available on the college's website. Informal concerns about admissions processes can be made via the central admissions team.

Enrolment

- 26.0 All applicants will be written to individually to confirm their enrolment date and time.
- 27.0 All students enrolling on places at the College must sign a copy of the learner agreement.
- 28.0 All students will be required to produce one form of identification, preferably photo ID, together with originals of their qualifications evidencing that they meet the entry conditions.