



**REGENT
COLLEGE**

HIGHER EDUCATION

**RTC Education Ltd
t/a Regent College Higher Education**

Access and Participation Statement

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Regent College Higher Education

Access and Participation Statement 2018-19

Summary Statement

Regent College Higher Education is committed to the development of a study environment that includes and supports all students and staff, where all are able to participate equally and where every individual has the opportunity and is encouraged to fulfil their potential.

An Overview

The College is part of the private education provider, Regent Group. The Regent Group motto, 'The End of Education is Character'; epitomises a commitment to helping students' holistic development into rounded and valued members of society.

Regent College Higher Education was founded in 2010/11; its main area of provision is currently Level 4-5 Pearson Higher National Diploma in Business courses with a number of specialist pathways available. The College also has validation for the Pearson Level 7 Extended Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership (EDSML).

From February 2018 the College has run a one year BA (Hons) Degree Top-up degree franchised from Buckinghamshire New University and has plans to offer further Degree Top-up and full BA courses in conjunction with franchise partners in the near future. When selecting a partner to work with the college will always embrace their access and participation plan as part of developing that partnership

The College's mission, vision and values play a central role in shaping its approach to access and participation:

Mission

To provide academic and professional education for UK, EU and overseas students based on secure academic standards, high quality learning opportunities and meeting employer needs within a transformative private education sector in the United Kingdom

Vision

To be a top provider of private higher education in London through being renowned for high academic standards, provision of a high-quality learning experience and the life-changing opportunities it provides for its students.

Values

- Providing a student experience of the highest quality and with quality enhancement embedded in all it does
- Valuing opportunity, diversity and inclusiveness

- Enabling a culture of professionalism openness, empowerment, responsibility and excellence
- Rewarding success and learning to do better
- Proactive and innovative in responding to challenges in a rapidly changing world
- Performance through valuing staff and continuous staff development
- Sustainability, value for money and adding value in all it does **Student body**

Regent College Higher Education has long recognised the particular role that Alternative Providers can play in reaching out to sections of society hitherto disengaged from Higher Education. The College is supportive of the Government's aspirations for the transformation of higher education, encapsulated in the Higher Education and Research Act 2017. The Act, and in particular plans to strengthen the student voice, create a broader base of providers, and reward high quality; aligns with the colleges strategic aspirations.

Almost since the inception of the College in 2010/11 Regent has attracted 'non-traditional' students. This includes those who have been out of education, often for many years, mature students, students with dependents, students from overseas and students who are trying to balance work and study.

The College is proud of and embraces its diverse student body. As at 26/1/2017, 96% of its student body are aged over 21 years. 62% are EU students, and 6% are international students.

Fair access

Regent College aims to recruit with integrity, transparency and high professionalism. It aims to ensure that places are offered to prospective students whose qualifications, skills and experience match the entry requirements and academic demands of the programme. In recruiting, selecting and admitting students Regent College aims to:

- Widen participation and provide equality of opportunity to prospective and admitted students judged to be able to complete their programme of study successfully
- Recruit students to programmes which best meet their stated career needs and aspirations.
- Offer professional, fair and unbiased advice and guidance about the programme(s) the College offers to prospective students.

To ensure that all students have the highest chance of meeting the admissions criteria of the Pearson HND programmes run by the College or a partner programme, the College offers English language tuition to prospective students at a reduced cost via its English department which is accredited by the British Council and the Password English testing facility.

Once students are enrolled on a programme with the College, they are offered free weekly English language sessions to ensure that they acquire and maintain the appropriate level of language to help them to succeed in their studies.

The College recognises the value of a wide range of prior accredited learning as well as a student's work experience when assessing suitability for programmes of study.

The College has a policy of understanding student needs and appropriate financial fee arrangements are agreed to enhance access opportunities.

The College is also in the process of ensuring that equality and diversity are embedded within

College policies for staff and students.

The College analyses data on students who have made applications, but have been unsuccessful. In the majority of cases it is able to refer students who do not have appropriate qualifications or English language skills to alternative provision either within the college or externally. In the 2017/18 year 40 students have progressed onto the HND from level 3 provision delivered by Regent Skills Training.

Challenges during study

Once enrolled, students may face a variety of challenges including difficulty in re-adjusting to the academic environment, or for those who have been educated outside of the UK, adjusting to the processes and demands of the UK higher education system. Particular challenges can include those around family commitments and childcare arrangements and having to manage finances for an extended period of full time study, with more restricted opportunities for paid employment.

Student surveys and the student voice are critical aspects of quality assurance and the findings are an essential part of the Regent College Higher Education Quality Cycle. These processes assist the College in identifying aspects of the course which may present difficulties to some parts of the student body and ways to overcome such difficulties are discussed with students.

Supporting student success

College support to meet the needs of students and ensure more diverse access and participation includes:

- **Pastoral care and support** The College has a dedicated Student Welfare Officer to provide advice and guidance and signpost multiple agencies and resources available. To further develop the impact pastoral care and support, from September 2018 the College will also have a dedicated Student Experience officer and a Careers and Support Officer.
- **Extended learning** An extended (40 week) learning programme means tutors have more time to spend on each unit, allowing students more time to absorb and understand relevant concepts. Tutors are also able to use this time to identify students that may need extra assistance.
- **Flexibility of teaching schedules (day-time classes, evening classes, etc.)** A crucial aspect of provision at Regent College Higher Education is allowing students the flexibility to carry out part time work during the day coupled with HND

study in the late afternoon/evening. For some students, this timetable flexibility is what makes the programme accessible as most students cannot support themselves (and their families as relevant) without taking some form of part-time work, the majority of which is available during the working day. For other students this flexibility allows them to meet childcare obligations.

- **Personal tutor system** Students receive a wide range of support from the College; this includes both academic support and support on personal matters.
- **Study Skills programme** This programme, which runs in addition to timetabled HND classes, provides support in a wide variety of areas including helping students attain vital computer skills; sessions include introductions to Microsoft Office, how to carry out internet research, referencing, planning and writing workshops.
- **Forward Thinking Programme** This is delivered in the second year of students study, they undertake a programme that prepares them for graduation and progression into employment or other study. This programme also runs in addition to timetabled HND classes. This programme includes CV writing, Job searches, social media profiles and activity, UCAS preparation, writing personal statements and interview preparation.

The additional resources from the College, required to provide the supplementary sessions such as Study Skills and Forward Thinking is put at £29,256 for the current year.

Student achievement and progression

Data reported during the last Quality Assurance Agency Higher Education Review (Alternative Providers) 2016 showed that student achievement rates rose from 60% in 2013 to 2016 students being on target to reach 75% achievement (HND award). There has been similar progress with student retention and continuation over the same period. The target of the College is to achieve a pass rate in excess of 80%.

Analysis of student achievement data shows that there can be localized spikes in the achievement rates of different groups within specific cohorts. However, over time, no single group at Regent College has been seen to underperform others.

The outcomes of a recent student survey identified the motivations for students undertaking the HND programme

- To start or develop their own business - 64%
- To gain a promotion in an existing job - 12%
- To get a new/better job - 28%
- Other - 1%

Additionally 98% of respondents felt that their employability would be enhanced if they were able to study a BA top-up after their HND and of those, 79% indicated they wanted to continue their study for a BA top-up at Regent College.

To respond to this and to further enhance student employability after study, the College has developed a Student Employability Strategy, which will be introduced in September 2018. The focus of this strategy will be to:

- Ensure the College collects additional information from students at entry on their employment intentions, to be able to give them more targeted advice and guidance.
- To expose students to as many “real world” scenarios and live projects as possible as part of their taught programmes.
- To expand the Colleges’ employer network to be able to bring in experts and speakers, both as part of taught programmes and as additional opportunities. This will particularly focus on entrepreneurs and business start-up experts.
- Work with enterprise agencies to support students who have business start-up ideas to realise them.
- To offer greater opportunities for work experience and experience of work for students.
- To actively engage with recruitment opportunities in the area.
- To use Alumnae information to better track student outcomes.
- To increase the physical and human resources of the college to facilitate this strategy.

The College will use a data driven approach to evaluating the effectiveness of this strategy over the next three years.

Additionally the College aims to significantly develop its alumni network to create greater opportunity for existing Regent College students to engage with successful graduates and to deepen its understanding of graduate’s employment outcomes.

To respond to the demand from its students to be able to convert their HND into a full degree, the College acts as a UCAS center, through which students may apply to other colleges and universities via the UCAS application process or directly to universities. Some students prefer to apply as individual applicants, direct to UCAS.

To respond to the feedback that students would like the opportunity to study for a top-up offered by Regent College, from February 2018 the college began delivery of a BA (hons) Top-up in Business Management franchised through Bucks New University

External Stakeholder Perceptions

“The formalised and rigorous process of recruitment in place give credence to prior knowledge of issues and concerns to make every effort of not disadvantaging any learner and aid them to reach their potential. An ethos confirmed in discussions with the staff and Principal during the visit and confirmed by the learners interviewed during the visit.”

Pearson Academic Management Review Report 2015/16

