

## East Kent College Access and Widening Participation Statement 2017-18

East Kent College, in conjunction with its collaborative partner Canterbury College, is committed to providing an environment for students that actively provides equality of opportunity, freedom from discrimination and values the diversity of all students and prospective students. The Colleges seek to broaden the pool of potential applicants by raising awareness and expectations in line with its commitment to widening participation.

The Colleges value highly the diversity and range of experience that prospective students contribute to college life. Applications are welcomed from all students irrespective of background. Recruitment and admissions processes aim to match the abilities, aptitude and aspirations of the student to the programme of study. The Colleges are committed to recruitment and admissions processes which are fair, explicit and implemented consistently across its range of provision.

The colleges aim to place their applicants on appropriate courses with the support necessary for them to succeed. The admissions process will encompass a range of services, from the provision of information about programmes and services, through to the point of enrolment and beyond. Statements regarding Information, Access and Guidance are in accordance with the College Charter commitments.

This policy applies to applicants and potential applicants to Canterbury College's accredited higher education programmes of study and is complementary to the Admissions Policies of the College's validating bodies and university partners. It is intended that the policy should uphold the principles outlined in the Schwartz Report on Fair Admissions (2004) and the Quality Assurance Agency's UK Quality Code Chapter B2.

East Kent College is committed to bringing higher education to the communities it serves. The College actively adopted a more accessible UCAS entry point tariff so as to bring the opportunity of higher level learning to students who previously thought higher study was not open to them.

Since implementing higher level courses (2012) East Kent College has offered a range of courses at level 4 and level 5.

Within these courses students have been very successful, the information here demonstrates those obtaining higher grades (i.e. merit or distinction).

2015-16 cohort	2014-15 cohort	2013-14 cohort	2012-13 cohort
69% higher grades	59% higher grades	58% higher grades	49% higher grades

The College shows no bias to internal or external applications. The figures below demonstrate numbers of completers and whether they are internal progression from level 3.

2015-16 cohort	2014-15 cohort
47% internal progression from level 3 to 4	39% internal progression from level 3 to 4

Equally, there is no bias in terms of recruitment in terms of age, gender, ethnicity or disability. Using students' self-declarations on induction surveys, students declared the following:

Factor	2016-17 cohort		2015-16 cohort		2014-15 cohort		2013-14 cohort	
Gender	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	71%	29%	70%	30%	74%	26%	71%	29%

Factor	2016-17 cohort		2015-16 cohort		2014-15 cohort		2013-14 cohort	
Age	18-25	26+	18-25	26+	18-25	26+	18-25	26+
	78%	22%	80%	20%	79%	21%	76%	24%

Factor	2016-17 cohort		2015-16 cohort		2014-15 cohort		2013-14 cohort	
Ethnicity								
Black African	-	-	-	-	1.39%	-	2.6%	-
Black other	-	-	-	-	1.39%	-	-	-
Indian	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.3%	-
Bangladeshi	2.04%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chinese	2.04%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pakistani	-	-	-	-	2.78%	-	-	-
White British/White other	87.76%	-	90.62%	-	86.11%	-	88.2%	-
Other	6.12%	-	3.13%	-	6.94%	-	6.6%	-
Prefer not to say	2.04%	-	6.25%	-	1.39%	-	1.3%	-
Total	100%	-	100%	-	100%	-	100%	-

Factor	2016-17 cohort		2015-16 cohort		2014-15 cohort		2013-14 cohort	
Disability or learning difficulty declared	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	26%	74%	15%	85%	15%	85%	22%	73%

Equally, the College is happy to report access to its higher level courses is predominantly via first generation higher level learners (data is only recorded for 2015-16 cohort and 2014-15 cohort):

2015-16 cohort	2014-15
77% of students self-reported as first generation in their immediate family to study at a higher level)	76% of students self-reported as first generation in their immediate family to study at a higher level)

The Destination of Leavers of Higher Education (a report that contacts students 6 months after they have completed to see what they are doing so that the impact of the qualification can be established) shows a growth in numbers of students from East Kent that go on to further, higher study at university suggesting that the experience with East Kent supports students prepare for the next stage in their academic life. In this scenario, East Kent College is proud to act as a bridge to further higher study and demonstrates the excellent quality of teaching that enables students to progress on to obtain full degrees.

Of the 37 leavers questioned from 2014-15 cohort:	2014-15	2013-14 <sup>1</sup>	2012-13 <sup>2</sup>
Entered full-time study	21 (57%)	23 (42%)	19 (36.5%)
Entered full-time employment	6 (16%)	7 (13%)	6 (11.5%)
Entered part-time employment	2 (5%)	4 (7%)	6 (11.5%)
Seeking further study/employment	3 (8%)	5 (9%)	9 (17%)
Declined to participate in the survey	2 (5%)	3 (5%)	4 (8%)
Entered part-time employment with full-time study	1 (3%)	1 (2%)	6 (11.5%)
Entered part-time employment with part-time study	0 (0%)	12 (22%)	1 (2%)
Entered full-time employment with part-time study	1 (3%)	n/a	n/a
Went travelling/other	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)

The 2015-16 cohort data will be available in Autumn 2017, however, at an exit interview with students completing conducted in the Summer of 2016, 84% intended to go on to further, higher study and 16% intended to work/find work.

All applicants are interviewed, with those that are returning to education offered places based on course-related career activities/employment-related history should the entry requirements not be met. Offers of a place are on merit/experience alone.

Course fees are set at £6,000 per year which is lower than the standard higher education institution rate. All HE courses can be paid for via Student Finance England loan arrangements.

To help promote the College's provision to all it:

- Is a member of the [Kent and Medway Progression Federation](#) which promotes access to higher education amongst disadvantaged groups
- Promotes higher study to all via its Programme Director at level 3 (this is without prejudice, with the Programme Director promoting any HEI provision)
- Provides Careers talks and help with UCAS applications/personal statement writing
- Marketing and school links

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<sup>1</sup> 55 leavers were questioned from the 2013-14 cohort

<sup>2</sup> 52 leavers were questioned from the 2012-13 cohort.