



## **Hertford Regional College:**

### **Higher Education: Statement of Widening Participation and Access**

Hertford Regional College is committed to achieving equality of opportunity, social inclusion and parity of esteem for all who study, work, visit and engage with the College. The College aims to ensure that in celebrating diversity it operates fairly, irrespective of a person's disability, gender, race, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, marital status or due to pregnancy and maternity.

The College also recognises economic circumstances have a significant impact on personal achievement and progress. The College's catchment area covers a number of disadvantaged wards and our higher education programmes have been developed to enhance the opportunities of learners gaining employment. Over the last 3 years, 94.8% of the college's higher education students have progressed to employment or further study on completion of their courses. 75% of these graduates have progressed to highly skilled employment or further study. Hertford Regional College recognises the barriers faced by many applicants to higher education and is committed to widening access and participation. The College will work to narrow achievement gaps between different groups of learners and use publically available data in order to maximise potential.

- Higher Education programmes are actively promoted with schools and employers within local communities, including those with low rates of participation in Higher Education;
- Our initial advice and guidance is impartial and dedicated to finding the right programme for individual students;
- Admissions processes for Higher Education are fair and transparent both for recruits to our directly funded provision HNC/Ds and the programmes run in partnership with partner universities. Where applicants do not meet the usual entry requirements, they may be considered on their individual experience of work, learning or specialist practice. They may be invited to interview where appropriate;
- No applicant will be discriminated against because of age, gender, race, ethnicity, disability, learning difficulty or sexuality;
- The college offers on-programme support to all students who require it and statements presented under DSA will form the part of an individualised learner support plan;
- On-programme assessments are fair and free from discrimination and individualised support plans will confirm relevant reasonable adjustments;
- All of the college's practices are compliant with the QAA Quality Code and are reviewed regularly;
- All information relating to widening participation and access, equality, diversity and freedom from discrimination is issued to students in their programme handbooks.