

Quality and participation for students from all backgrounds: Conditions A1 and A2

Provider's name: Bradford International College Limited

Provider's UKPRN: 10088581

Legal address: New Kings Court, Tollgate, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, SO52 3LG

Introduction

1. The Joint Venture Agreement was established between University of Bradford (UoB) (University), Oxford International Education and Travel Limited (trading as OIEG), Bradford International College Limited (UBIC) and Sparrowhawk 3 Limited (Guarantor) on 7/5/2021.
2. The Agreement established University of Bradford International College (UBIC) as an Embedded College of the University to deliver Integrated and Pathways Programmes to International Students only, enabling continuation to UoB.
3. Responsibilities of, and interactions between, both parties are described in the Joint Venture Agreement.
4. The Steering Board was established following the signing of the Joint Venture Agreement. The Steering Board has responsibility for all issues and decisions relating to the establishment, operation and management of the Programmes and UBIC including the aims and methodology set out in the Joint Venture Agreement.
5. The Steering Board comprises six voting representatives (three members of the University and three members of OIEG) including the Chairperson (who is the UoB Vice Chancellor or such person nominated by him/her). The Chairperson has a second or casting vote.

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1. UBIC is not seeking Approved (fee cap) registration status, hence nothing is submitted for this condition A1 as per the guidance.
2. For condition A2, the following Access and Participation Statement has been drafted and would be released subject to sign off. UBIC commit to publishing this on its website, and to update and re-publish on an annual basis once appointed onto the OfS register.

Access and Participation Statement 2021-22

1. University of Bradford International College (UBIC) is an embedded college offering preparatory programmes, established by a joint venture agreement between University of Bradford (UoB) and Oxford International Education Group (OIEG).
2. UBIC 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 and which further encourages and enables staff to promote and support student achievement.

3. UBIC was founded in 2021; it offers validated UoB programmes, at RQF Level 3, 4, and 6. The Programmes are intended for international students.
4. As an embedded college on the campus of UoB offering UoB validated programmes, UBIC embraces the access and participation plan of the host higher education institution, UoB through discussions at the Joint Academic Board meetings to seek alignment where appropriate.
5. The Steering Board will consider the values of both the UoB and UBIC so that these are shared values.
6. It is anticipated that UBIC will attract a diverse range of international students, in regards to age, nationalities, gender and other protected characteristics.

Access

1. It is anticipated that UBIC will receive its first cohort of students in Academic Year 2021. From this point onwards, UBIC will have data to draw upon to review its access plans,
2. UBIC's portfolio of programmes encourages and supports access to higher education through the provision of undergraduate and postgraduate preparatory programmes, which provide continuation to the further stages of a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.
3. OIEG is responsible for recruiting UBIC students under defined guidance from UoB. Recruitment activities are conducted with integrity, transparency and professionalism. In recruiting, and admitting students, UBIC aims to widen participation and provide equality of learning opportunity to prospective students and admits students judged to be able to complete their programme of study successfully
4. Programmes are designed for students supplemented by English for Academic Purposes classes to ensure they acquire and maintain the appropriate level of language and develop the study skills to help them to succeed in their academic studies.
5. UoB recognises the value of a wide range of previous academic studies as well as a student's work and life experience when assessing suitability for programmes of study.
6. UBIC and OIEG have a policy of understanding student needs and appropriate financial fee arrangements are agreed to enhance access opportunities through provision of bursary schemes in certain scenarios.
7. UBIC, OIEG and UoB analyse data on applications to check fairness and transparency. This is reported to the Joint Academic Board which ultimately reports to the Steering Board.

Challenges during study

1. Once enrolled, students may face a variety of challenges including difficulty in adjusting to the processes and demands of the UK higher education system.
2. A comprehensive induction week is provided upon start of term, with support from members of the dedicated UBIC professional services team. The teaching staff has opportunities within the language and skills areas of the curriculum to reinforce messages around the need for good and acceptable academic practices in studies.
3. Student surveys (academic and pastoral support) and the student voice (in the form of a Student Staff Liaison Committee) are critical aspects of quality assurance and the findings are an essential part of the UBIC Quality Cycle. These processes assist UBIC 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.

4. Support for students in their studies is further enhanced by the personal tutor system. Personal tutors have weekly formal sessions in which they can speak to their tutees about matters of general interest and highlight any College news or information about forthcoming events. In addition, there is provision for one to one meetings with individual students to review their progress on their programme to date. Subject tutors are able to raise matters of concern about an individual student who may be struggling through an 'at risk' form which is passed to the senior management of the College. This will lead to a discussion between the student and either the personal tutor or College Director at which a plan for improvement is discussed and targets set for review at an agreed later date.
5. On broader student welfare issues, students can approach the College's administrative team who will either deal with the problem themselves or refer the student to the specialised support services of the University where this is more appropriate.

Supporting student success

1. UBIC offers support to meet the needs of students and ensure more diverse access and participation;
 - a. Pastoral care and support
 - i. UBIC has a dedicated professional services team to provide advice and guidance and signpost multiple UoB resources available.
 - ii. UBIC has an enhanced level of supervision and care for those students aged under 18.
 - b. Smaller classes
 - i. With class sizes no more than 18, tutors can provide the best possible support to international students acclimatising to UK academia.
 - c. Tutor system
 - i. Students receive a wide range of support from UBIC, this includes both academic support and support on personal matters.
 - d. University Support
 - i. UBIC students are UoB students and have access to the university's wide range of student services, including careers, counselling, chaplaincy, disability, academic skills, student life, visa support services.

Student achievement and continuation

1. The primary focus for UBIC is for students to achieve academic success enabling them to make progression requirements to continue onto the second stage of their studies at UoB. For students on the standalone International Foundation Programme, provision is made to give appropriate advice and support to those wishing to apply to universities other than UoB
2. Responsibility for student achievement sits with the UBIC College Director and the programme teams.
3. UBIC will monitor the continuation rates of UBIC students, and these will form part of the annual monitoring report which would be considered at the Steering Board.
4. UBIC will work with UoB to review the progress of continuing students as part of the monitoring process for student achievements, as they make progress throughout their higher educational

studies. Success in the degree outcomes are covered under UoB's Access and Participation Plan.

5. Students who are at risk of non-continuation are made aware of their situation in advance once identified and personal study plans/options are agreed to provide them with the best possible chance to make continuation or alternative study options.
6. UBIC is committed to inclusive learning and teaching and work with UoB's Teaching, Learning and Quality Enhancement team in reviewing the content, delivery and assessment of modules at all levels.
7. Students are requested to notify the Admissions team of any protected characteristics during the application process and they are encouraged to inform their academic and personal tutors of any specific needs which may arise during their programme of study. UBIC, in conjunction with UoB, has systems in place for a number of needs, including:
 - a. Individual reasonable adjustments
 - b. Diagnostic assessment for Specific Learning Differences
 - c. Advice on equipment and access
 - d. Liaison with academic and other university staff and external agencies
 - e. Referral to university counselling services
 - f. Financial hardship funding
8. Student data is recorded in college, and analysis of trends is carried out by college director to identify any gaps based on characteristics. These are shared at the Joint Academic Board for discussion and agreement for any follow up actions.