

Student Recruitment and Admissions Policy

Document Summary

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1: Introduction

The aims of the Student Recruitment and Admissions Policy are to ensure that:

- a wide range of flexible education and training opportunities are available; designed to meet the needs of the community, both local and elsewhere
- opportunities to access and progress to higher-level study are developed in line with market demand and higher education guidelines
- adult learners have equitable and equal access to higher education
- a suitable learning environment is provided for all students
- students are recruited with integrity onto the correct programme and level.
- Students recruited have a reasonable expectation of success on the programme.
- the five 'Schwartz principles' are observed to produce a fair admissions system. The 'Schwartz principles,' state that a fair admissions system should:
 1. be transparent
 2. enable institutions to select students who are able to complete the course, as judged by their achievements and their potential
 3. strive to use assessment methods that are reliable and valid
 4. seek to minimise barriers for applicants
 5. be professional in every aspect and underpinned by appropriate institutional structures and processes.

2: Widening participation

The College is committed to widening participation and encourages applications from groups of people who are disadvantaged by traditional selection mechanisms. It is proactive in engaging with community groups to encourage participation and raise aspirations. It is keen to identify alternative methods for demonstrating an ability to meet selection criteria.

The College's Student Recruitment Policy is compliant with all appropriate legislation. It also considers National guidelines governing the recruitment and admission of students (for example the Quality Assurance Agency Quality Code) and requirements laid down by awarding bodies (such as proof of English for all applicants enrolling on BTEC study programmes).

3: Aims of Selection:

The aim is to attract and retain students from a wide and diverse community who have the potential to complete their programme of study successfully and benefit from the experience.

The College is committed to transparency in its admissions procedures. All applicable selection criteria are published on the website of The City College.

Selection is based primarily on academic criteria, and therefore, no candidate should be excluded from entry to a programme by reason for religious belief, political opinion, racial group, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or responsibility for dependents.

4: Selection Criteria:

The admissions criteria will consider institutional policy, national guidelines and relevant legislation. Selection criteria are reviewed regularly in order to ensure their ongoing relevance to developing curricula and teaching and learning practice. Evidence is gathered through a variety of means, including entry tests and interviews, as well as an assessment of work/life experience.

All applicants are interviewed and are required to pass an online NCFE English assessment to demonstrate their capability in English is at a required standard.

This policy should be read alongside the Access and Participation Statement, Admissions Appeals and Complaints Procedure, Equality and Diversity Policy, Privacy Policy, and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy.

5: Communication during the application process

All applicants are asked to inform the College about disabilities, specific learning differences (SpLDs), long term medical conditions or mental health issues when they apply for their course in order to discuss the support which may be required. There are other opportunities to disclose conditions – during interview, induction and when completing student forms.

Applicants who disclose a need for further support are assured that the information provided will be treated with sensitivity and in accordance with the College's Data Protection Policy.

If an applicant sits the online English assessment test, and has a specific learning difference, such as dyslexia, then they are not disadvantaged as the test is dyslexia friendly. The College will consider any other requests for special needs or disability requirements at the initial testing or interview stage.

6: Administration of the admission process

All College staff involved in the admissions process are briefed carefully on the information to cover with prospective students during the interview process, as well as the areas of experience, qualifications, and aspiration to be explored as part of the interview.

All College staff are careful to note the potential need to make reasonable adjustments for disabled applicants. In order to facilitate applications, admissions staff may seek further information from the candidate and/or colleagues as appropriate.



In addition, the following information is collected in the applicant's enrolment record:

- Personal details
- Next of kin contact details
- Residency status
- Photographic ID
- Equal opportunities information (any disabilities and/or learning differences that may require additional support)
- Funding and finance information
- Criminal convictions declaration
- Qualifications and education history
- Work and relevant experience history
- English language ability
- Programme registration details
- Expected date of completion
- Mode of study (e.g. full-time, part-time)

7: Disabled students

The College strives to have an inclusive learning environment and welcomes and encourages applications from persons with a mental or physical illness or disability. Further details are provided in section 19 below.

8: Admissions to Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND) programmes

Applicants aged over 21 years at the start of their course and who have been out of education for at least three years are classed as 'mature students'. Mature students will be required to have at least a qualification at Level 1 and to provide the certificate.

For those under 21, who have recently been in education, the entry profile has to include a Level 2 and 3 qualification or the equivalent:

- A relevant BTEC Level 3 qualification

- A GCSE Advanced Level profile that demonstrates strong performance in a relevant subject or adequate performance in more than one GCE subject. This profile is likely to be supported by GCSE grades A* to C and/or 9 to 4 (or equivalent) in subjects such as Maths and English
- Other related Level 3 qualifications
- An Access to Higher Education Diploma awarded by an approved further education institution
- An international equivalent of the above.

Applications are made either directly to the College or through an educational consultant. All applications are treated the same regardless of their origin. All applicants with sufficient entry qualifications are then invited to the admissions process consisting of an interview and, if successful, an English entry test.

If an applicant fails the test, they may be able to re-sit, depending on the course they are applying for.

All applicants, and/or their educational consultant (where applicable), will be informed of the outcome normally within two working days.

9: Admissions for Acupuncture and Tui Na programmes

The entry profile of an applicant gaining admission to the Acupuncture or Tui Na programmes normally includes:

- Five GCSE qualifications including English Language at grade C (minimum)
- A/ AS level qualifications totalling 120 UCAS points
- Undergraduate degree

Applicants to the Tui Na programme would have typically completed an Acupuncture programme previously.

In addition, applicants are required to submit a 400-500-word personal statement detailing why the applicant would like to study at The City College of Acupuncture

Applicants meeting these requirements will be invited for an interview that assesses a variety of key features, including, for example, commitment, life experience, empathy, compassion and people skills. Career changers will have the opportunity to demonstrate appropriate life experience or interests that they have built on in place of academic qualifications.

The interview focuses on application details and highlights the requirements of the programme. There are four principal aspects:



- **Commitment:** The applicant must be clear that studying any form of Chinese Medicine takes commitment. In order to be accepted onto the programme, the applicant must fully understand and agree with the demands of the programme
- **Requirements:** To be accepted onto a British Accreditation Acupuncture Board (BAAB) accredited programme, we may only take people onto the programme who we believe have a reasonable chance of becoming a practitioner
- **Practical Skills:** Acupuncture and Tui na are practical skills and applicants wishing to acquire these skills must be willing to participate by also being a model and working with other students
- **Reflectivity and aptitude:** Students training to become therapists will need to be willing and able to engage in self-reflection.

All applicants that pass the interview process are then required to pass an online NCFE English assessment to demonstrate their capability in English is at a required standard.

10: Interviews and offers

Applicants who are asked to attend an interview are seen by a member of staff who has been briefed and trained in interviewing prospective students. All interviewers use an Interview checklist to ensure consistency across different interviewers. Interviewers will make notes during the interview (and immediately afterwards), and all applications will be discussed between at least two members of staff to reach one of the following decisions:

- To make an offer of a place on the applicant's chosen course
- To reject the application but offer a place on an alternative course. The reasons for rejection and offering another course will be detailed in a letter to the applicant
- To reject the application outright, communicating this decision to the applicant as appropriate.

During the Admissions procedure, the College aims to provide sufficient information about the College and course so that applicants may make an informed decision about the appropriateness of their chosen course as well as basic information on applying for a student loan where applicable. All admissions decisions are notified to the applicant or educational consultant (where applicable) normally within two working days.

11: Fraudulent Statements.

Admission to the College is subject to applicants disclosing all facts and information relevant to their application.

If during the course of consideration of an application, an applicant is discovered to have omitted any information requested in the instructions or the application form or made any misrepresentation(s) therein or given false information, the College reserves the right to withdraw an offer of a place and/or dismiss the application.

12: Appealing an Admissions Decision

An applicant has the right to appeal where they feel that the decision made was wrong. In such instances, the onus of proof is on the applicant, and they will need to present additional evidence in order to force a reconsideration of their application. Where a decision is overturned, an offer of a place will only be made subject to space on the course (otherwise, an alternative intake will be offered). Course places will not be held pending the resolution of an appeal.

If an applicant wishes to complain about the Admissions Procedure / Outcome on the basis of being treated unfairly, they must make the complaint in accordance with the Admissions Appeals and Complaints procedure which is available separately.

13: Applicants seeking deferred entry

The College will consider requests from applicants for deferred entry for a maximum of 12 months. The College reserves the right to defer an applicant if it deems in the interest of the College to do this.

14: Procedure for applicants disclosing a criminal record.

Applicants are asked to declare any criminal record so they can be advised on the advisability of their chosen course. In addition, the College has the duty to ensure the safety of its student and staff community. If the College considers that any applicant could cause harm to self or others, the College has the right not to accept the applicant or exclude a current student who poses this sort of threat.

15: Data Protection.

All staff will ensure that data use, retention, and storage comply fully with the GDPR 2018.

16: Student finance

Applicants should please note:

- The fee details are included on the website, which is the most up to date detail
- If students are self-financing, they are expected to pay 100% of fees before the start of each year of their course or to enter into an instalment agreement with the College at the College's discretion (this service attracts an additional fee)
- If students are financed through Student Finance England, they must be able to demonstrate that they have made an application before the start of their study programme. Proof might include any correspondence for Student Finance England showing the amount and schedule of their payment

- If students are unsure about how to go about the application process, then a member of staff will advise them.



17: Availability of Information

All the information given to prospective students at the interview stage is also available on The City College and The City College of Acupuncture websites, as is an overview of the selection process.

18: Admissions monitoring

The Academic Board of The City College has oversight of, and responsibility for, all matters regarding admissions and student recruitment.

19: Disabled Students

This section outlines our policy for supporting disabled students, which is in line with our legal obligations and general duty of care.

Objectives

As a college we have a commitment towards ensuring that a student's disability does not prove to be a barrier to accessing education.

Our general objectives are:

- As best as we are able to provide access to our physical and virtual environment.
- That our admission criteria does not discriminate or create a barrier to our programmes.
- To give all students who have a disability the option to give their consent in order to disclose their disability to lecturers and staff, whilst maintaining the highest level of confidentiality.
- To continuously support and provide assistance where necessary to disabled students.

20. Scope

We have to ensure that this policy complies with all aspects of the Equality Act 2010 in relation to disability and we have to ensure that we are able to recognise a student who may have a disability under the Act, such as

- Physical/mental impairment
- Substantial and long-term impairment which affects their ability to carry out normal activities
- Mental health conditions
- Learning difficulties

21. Monitoring and Evaluation:

As part of our legal obligation, we have to collect information concerning the recruitment, retention and development of students, and this includes any disabilities they disclose. We aim to ensure that any information which is collected is correctly stored in accordance with the GDPR 2018.

We also have to ensure that we offer a supportive environment that enables students with a disability to feel they can speak to us in confidence and inform us of any protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010.

This policy is regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure that we are fully compliant with any legislation, regulations and equality.

22. Implementation:

Students are kept informed about options for disabled students:

- All applicants are asked to inform the College about disabilities, long term medical conditions or mental health issues before they start their course in order to discuss the support which may be required. There are other opportunities to disclose conditions – during interview, induction and when completing student forms. If they have any statements, hospital letters, etc. they are asked to provide a copy of this for their student file.
- Applicants who disclose a disability are assured that the information provided will be treated with sensitivity and in accordance with the College's Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice.
- If an applicant sitting the entry test informs us that they have a learning disability, such as dyslexia, but does not provide evidence at this stage, we will, at our discretion, allow the applicant special consideration/reasonable adjustments. We will also consider any other requests for special needs or disability requirements at the initial testing or interview stage.

23. Student Finance and Disabled Students Allowance

When a student completes an application for Student Finance, they are asked whether they have any disabilities. If a student has any health, or educational issues, they are advised they may be able to apply for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) and/or receive reasonable adjustments. A handout with information is given to all students at their induction and, should they require any more information, they are advised to speak to the Student Welfare Officer for further advice.