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1. Introduction

Fife College are fully committed to ensure the learner journey experience of those studying on our Higher Education¹ (HE) programmes is positive and fully supported. We strive to ensure that our HE qualifications are recognised and relevant to learners pursuing exit to a career following attainment of their Higher National Certificate (HNC), Higher National Diploma (HND) or Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ). We aspire to have input on all frameworks offered so that they take cognisance of employer and industry needs with direct input from these external stakeholders into the design, planning and delivery of our HE and degree provision.

Recognition of those learners wishing to progress to degree study will also be accommodated. We will create positive and mutually beneficial relationships with universities to ensure partnership delivery models and curriculum offering form formal articulation routes that give full advanced standing towards ordinary or honours degree paths.

2. Strategic Aims

The strategic aims of the Fife College University Partnership Strategy are:

- To provide choice and support for Fife College students to progress to Higher Education Institutions with full credit for their Higher National and Scottish Vocational Qualifications.
- To promote widening access through the recognition and understanding of college sector vocational qualifications as a valid pathway to degree level study and, where appropriate facilitate joint delivery.
- To utilise data analytics to inform, enhance and develop strategic University partnerships that address and exceed the needs of learners, government policy and stakeholder requirements.

3. Strategic Objectives

The strategic objectives of the Fife College University Partnership Strategy to address the strategic aims are;

To meet Aim 1:

- a. Have a formal articulation route with advanced standing to degree study for all HN provision as appropriate;
- b. Review and enhance the UCAS progression figures by:
 - Supporting all learners in their UCAS application process;
 - Improving understanding of course provision and entry requirements;
- c. Work with University partners to ensure learners are adequately equipped for their transition to university;
- d. Work with University partners to increase the degree provision offered within the Fife region.

¹ Higher Education programmes are those at Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) level 7 and above. The SCQF framework is included for reference in Appendix A.

To meet Aim 2:

- e. Promote the awareness, understanding and benefits of the HN/SVQ and degree study route;
- f. Increase engagement with universities by planning and hosting promotional events;
- g. Seek and review opportunities for collaborative ventures and joint delivery to meet learner need whilst delivering partner strategic objectives
- h. Work closely with the School College Partnership programme to promote the shorter learner journey;
- i. Implement innovative and integrated engagement and delivery models to meet learner needs and ensure equality of opportunities.

To meet Aim 3:

- j. Have a named link with almost all Scottish universities;
- k. Where beneficial to the learner's progression pathway, seek partnership opportunities with universities out with Scotland;
- l. Collaborate with university partners to support and maximise the Additional Articulation Places Scheme based on the '2+2' or '1+3' model;
- m. Work with universities to identify under-performing transition rates, their reasons and seek actions for improvement;
- n. Ensure all franchised degree provision is high performing and meets the partner university quality arrangements;
- o. Support the College's Regional Outcome Agreement and Annual Enhancement Plan;
- p. Ensure a quality provision with joint evaluation for continuous improvement of the university partnerships;
- q. Continually review articulation agreements to ensure their effectiveness for positive student destinations and outcomes.

4. Current Position

Fife College currently offer 93 HN courses across our five campuses, with 56% having a formal recognised degree exit route to 225 different degree courses. The current formal agreements are with eight Scottish universities and one university out with Scotland. Only 14 (15%) of our HN courses currently have no recognised formal route to degree.

5. Action Plan

Strategic Aim Alignment	Action	Lead responsibility	Target Date
a	Agree with partner universities formal articulation routes which give full credit to HN study for all HN provision as appropriate	UPC	August (annually)
b	Provide UCAS support workshops and guidance appointments for individual application and personal statement reviews	Guidance Team	December (annually)
b c e	Create Degree Brochure to promote understanding of HN to Degree and detail articulation routes	UPC	August (annually)
b e	Review and develop content to maintain HE Portal on Staff Gateway to provide resources and information to help staff more effectively support students in their university applications	UPC	August 2018
b c f	Work with partner universities to plan face to face sessions to assist students in making effective course choices	UPC	September (annually)
b c g i p	Plan joint curriculum review sessions, visits and CPD opportunities for College and university staff to strengthen partnership collaboration and build understanding of requirements and constraints of both sectors	AP Q&AP	August 2018
c g	Facilitate awareness and experiential sessions for students with university partners that include study skills sessions, promotion of open/college articulation days, university campus visits, guest lectures, etc.	UPC	May (annually)
d	Work with faculties and partner universities to identify student and regional industry demand for increased offering of degree level study options within the Fife region.	AP Q&AP	August 2018
e h	Develop the Career Planner and Pathway diagrams whilst incorporating promotion of the vocational route to a degree via the Schools College Partnership (SCP)	UPC and SCP Team	March (annually)
f c	Plan and host multi-campus University Information Days that include representatives from our university partners and linked organisations.	UPC	October (annually)

Strategic Aim Alignment	Action	Lead responsibility	Target Date
g i	Explore opportunities for new delivery models to widen access and increase participation rates that more effectively utilise resources across partners	AP Q&AP	June (annually)
h i	Explore opportunities to increase delivery of HNC provision within SCP	Director: Widening Access and Transitions	August 2019
j	Continue established and create new links with universities, liaising with appropriate staff to develop strategic and operational partnerships	AP Q&AP	March 2018
k	Establish strategic and operational partnerships with universities with whom faculties have identified potential articulation routes	AP Q&AP	August 2018
l	Negotiate with partner universities to agree additionally funded places each academic year	UPC	June (annually)
c m p q	Liaise with universities to explain UCAS figures and inform future student choice to improve successful transition rates	UPC	February (annually)
n p	Participate in annual evaluation of franchised degree provision in line with university requirements	AP Q&AP and Faculty Director	June (annually)
o p	Participate in College evaluation process and provide statistical data to evidence provision, progression and widening participation	UPC	August (annually)
q	Annually review HN frameworks, degree pathways and articulation agreements with university partners to ensure currency and validity	UPC	June (annually)

6. Appendix A – The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework

The framework diagram has been produced to show the number of mainstream Scottish qualifications already credit rated by SQA and HEIs. However, there are a diverse number of learning programs on the Framework, which, due to the limitations of this format, cannot be represented here. For more informations, please visit the SCQF website, at www.scqf.org.uk to view the interactive version of the Framework or search the Database

SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications		Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	SVQs/MAs	
12			Doctoral Degree	Professional Apprenticeship	
11			Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Professional Apprenticeship SVQ 5	
10			Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Professional Apprenticeship	
9			Higher National Diploma	Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Technical Apprenticeship SVQ 4
8				Diploma Of Higher Education	Technical Apprenticeship SVQ 4
7			Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate	Certificate Of Higher Education
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher	National Certificate		Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ 3	
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5			Modern Apprenticeship SVQ 2	
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4			SVQ 1	
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3				
2	National 2, Awards	National Progression Award			
1	National 1, Awards				

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Published January 2019