

The logo for the Higher Education Institute (HEI) consists of the letters 'HEI' in a bold, gold, sans-serif font. A thin gold horizontal line is positioned below the letters.

WORCESTERSHIRE
Higher Education Institute

A photograph of a graduation ceremony taking place in front of Worcester Cathedral. Several individuals are wearing black academic gowns with various colored stoles (blue, red, purple, yellow). They are gathered in a courtyard, some talking and others walking. The cathedral's Gothic architecture, including a large arched entrance and a tall spire, is visible in the background.

HIGHER EDUCATION STRATEGY 2016-2019

HOWCOLLEGE.AC.UK
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HEART OF
WORCESTERSHIRE
COLLEGE

OUR VISION

To provide Worcestershire with high quality further and higher education and training.

OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY

We believe in demonstrating openness and transparency at all times. We believe in placing the interest of our learners at the heart of all college activities

TRUST

We believe in inspiring learners to achieve success. We believe in challenging and supporting staff to be successful

INCLUSIVITY

We believe in promoting equality and diversity

COLLABORATION

We believe in building strong partnerships with local communities. We believe in listening to our stakeholders

PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION

STRATEGIC THEMES, AIMS & OBJECTIVES

RESOURCE - To continue to provide and enhance high quality, flexible HE learning opportunities and support environments to facilitate student success.

To work in partnership with our HE students and staff, empowering them to further develop our dynamic and engaged academic community.

INNOVATE - To develop a highly responsive, employment and future-focused curriculum developing the knowledge and skills to prepare them for future success in work and life

STIMULATE - To provide an outstanding learner experience and environment that is challenging, engaging and supportive.

To work in partnership with our HE students and staff, empowering them to further develop our dynamic and engaged academic community.

EXCEL - To develop our strategic relationships with industry, employers, awarding bodies and the wider sector, enhancing our external visibility and reputation.

To build on our success in widening participation, raising aspiration and increasing access for learner's currently in employment, and from a range of different backgrounds.

As we complete our second year as Heart of Worcestershire College, incorporating the Worcestershire Higher Education Institute (HEI), we can now readily acknowledge the strides we have made in harmonising our Higher Education offer across the County. We have expanded the availability of Law, Engineering and Social Work pathways for students across the region, whilst at the same time maintaining quality across all programmes. This year's graduation, our largest ever, saw our graduates; already in jobs and those starting their careers across the County and beyond as Engineers, IT professionals, Payroll Professionals, Accountants, Solicitors, Social Workers, and teachers, celebrate their achievements together.

The results of the National Student Satisfaction Survey for Higher Education students show that the Worcestershire HEI continues to remain in the top echelons of further education colleges who offer higher education and professional courses. We know that we provide a unique learning environment that both challenges and supports students, towards and beyond their ambitions.

These features flow through to our new 2016/17- 2018/19 three year strategy. We will continue to improve our resources; both physical and that of our teaching teams, to ensure our graduates leave with the skills and knowledge that employers, both locally and those we work with nationally, place greatest emphasis on. We already have a national reputation for innovative teaching practice and our ethos towards independent learning. We know that this equips students with a thirst for knowledge and the ability to drive their own professional development - we will build further on these approaches to integrate across our higher education portfolio. This work will go hand in hand with a refreshed look at the core elements of our HND programmes, to underpin a programme that creates key transferable skills for a mobile labour market.

Finally, all of these factors together will mean that we, along with our students, will raise standards further and thus the propensity for graduates, employers and our partners to excel through our collaborations.

OUR STRATEGIC THEME = 'RISE'

EXCEL

To develop our strategic relationships with industry, employers, awarding bodies and the wider sector, enhancing our external visibility and reputation.

To build on our success in widening participation, raising aspiration and increasing access.

STIMULATING

To provide an outstanding learner experience and environment that is challenging, engaging and supportive.

INNOVATIVE

To develop a highly responsive, employment and future-focused curriculum that develops the knowledge and skills required for advancement in industry, work and life.

RESOURCEFUL

To be renowned for high quality, flexible HE learning and support environments that facilitate student success.

To work in partnership with our HE students and staff, empowering them to further develop our dynamic and engaged academic community.

STRATEGIC THEMES

1. RESOURCEFUL

AIM 1.1

TO BE RENOWNED FOR HIGH QUALITY, FLEXIBLE HE LEARNING AND SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTS THAT FACILITATE STUDENT SUCCESS.

OBJECTIVES

1.1a To provide appropriate resources and facilities for higher education curriculum ensuring that all equipment and resource at HOW College is up to date and current for HE study.

AIM 1.2

TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR HE STUDENTS AND STAFF, EMPOWERING THEM TO FURTHER DEVELOP OUR DYNAMIC AND ENGAGED ACADEMIC COMMUNITY.

OBJECTIVES

1.2a To establish an ethos and culture of research and scholarly activity that underpins the higher education curriculum and promotes research-led teaching and learning.

1.2b To attract, retain and develop higher education tutors who make an outstanding contribution to the quality of teaching, learning and assessment.

1.2c To develop a culture that inspires and encourages students to progress to further under-graduate and graduate level study.

STRATEGIC THEMES

2. INNOVATIVE

AIM 2.1

TO DEVELOP A HIGHLY RESPONSIVE, EMPLOYMENT AND FUTURE-FOCUSED CURRICULUM THAT DEVELOPS THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS REQUIRED FOR ADVANCEMENT IN INDUSTRY, WORK AND LIFE.

OBJECTIVES

- 2.1a To embed ILT initiatives that meet student expectations in the use of digital technologies within the delivery of HE programmes.
- 2.1b To extend the delivery of on-line higher education, pioneering new techniques.
- 2.1c To work closely with relevant academic bodies, industry professional bodies, Local Enterprise Partnerships and education communities in the development and delivery of the curriculum.

To maximise opportunities to link HE education with commercial enterprise.
- 2.1d To develop and offer a curriculum that serves the needs of industry and meets student aspirations.
- 2.1e To provide CPD opportunities for employers by creating a framework of part time flexible and on-line delivery higher education opportunities.

STRATEGIC THEMES

3. STIMULATING

AIM 3.1

TO PROVIDE AN OUTSTANDING LEARNER EXPERIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT THAT IS CHALLENGING, ENGAGING AND SUPPORTIVE

OBJECTIVES

- 3.1a Establishing robust tutorial support systems
- 3.1b To provide graduate activities and vocational experiences that equip students for relevant graduate level study and employment.

To develop initiatives that offer additionality to the curriculum and enhance the student experience.
- 3.1c To develop student enterprise and entrepreneurship attributes that enhance their confidence and employability.

To consult with employers to ensure the curriculum meets their needs and provides graduates with key employability and entrepreneurship attributes.
- 3.1d To deliver a HE 'Student Charter' that puts the HE student experience first.
- 3.1e To deliver high quality personalised academic and pastoral support for students.

STRATEGIC THEMES

4. EXCEL

AIM 4.1

TO DEVELOP OUR STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDUSTRY, EMPLOYERS, AWARDING BODIES AND THE WIDER SECTOR, ENHANCING OUR EXTERNAL VISIBILITY AND REPUTATION

OBJECTIVES

- 4.1a To have recognised areas of excellence and expertise awarded by external partners for our Higher Education and Professional provision.
- 4.1b To ensure that the curriculum meets the expectations of the QAA Quality Code for Higher Education.

AIM 4.2

TO BUILD ON OUR SUCCESS IN WIDENING PARTICIPATION, RAISING ASPIRATION AND INCREASING ACCESS.

OBJECTIVES

- 4.2a To develop initiatives that promote widen participation and target groups under-represented in higher education.
- 4.2b To have high success rates across students groups in their chosen course of study.