



Universities UK

New Opportunities for All

a Concordat
between schools,
colleges and
universities

The Concordat has been agreed by representatives of Universities UK (formerly CVCP), the Standing Conference of Principals of colleges of higher education (SCoP), the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and the Joint Associations Curriculum Group (JACG), comprising representatives of the

Association of Colleges (AoC), Girls School Association (GSA), Headmasters and Headmistresses Conference (HMC), National Association of Headteachers (NAHT), Secondary Heads Association (SHA), and Society of Headmasters and Headmistresses of Independent Schools (SHMIS).

Purpose of the concordat

The representative bodies of schools, colleges and universities will, together with UCAS, work to explore new ways to encourage people, particularly the young and those who are under-represented, to participate in higher education.

Aims

- 1 To provide all young people, particularly those who are under-represented in HE, with information about higher education and build their confidence to consider HE study as a serious option.
- 2 To raise teachers' awareness of the opportunities now available within higher education, and provide teachers and university staff with information about schemes and activities that encourage young people to enter HE.
- 3 To encourage HE admissions staff to consider all relevant evidence of an applicant's potential, in addition to evidence of academic attainment, when selecting entrants for HE courses.



Objectives

- 1 To promote and disseminate current examples of successful collaborative activities between schools, colleges and universities aimed at widening participation in HE. For example: summer schools; Saturday schools; HEIs/schools liaison; local partnerships; compacts; HE students acting as tutors and mentors in schools and colleges; HE courses for school and college teachers; and community outreach.
- 2 To work together to extend such activities to ensure they are accessible to all those who could benefit from HE.
- 3 To investigate new ways to encourage those not currently applying to HE to consider doing so. For example: a post qualification applications system, and methods of identifying those with the potential to benefit from HE.
- 4 To initiate, and disseminate the results of, specific research projects that will provide longer term guidance for successfully widening participation and maximising the educational achievements of potential HE applicants.

Action Plan

- 1 Formalising the partnership between the signatories to the Concordat with regular discussions taking place on matters concerning admissions to HE;
- 2 Engaging/discussing with relevant parties: Ministers, DfEE officials, funding bodies, LGA, etc;
- 3 Collating and disseminating information about successful collaborative activities between schools, colleges and universities aimed at widening participation to HE;
- 4 Extending and broadening these activities;
- 5 Research studies and pilot projects;
- 6 Joint conference and regional meetings.

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