



Access and participation statement for South Shields Marine School

1. Introduction

South Shields Marine School (SSMS) is a specialist provider supporting Maritime Education and Training and offering a range of provision in the Higher Education sector. SSMS is strategically committed to promoting its higher education programmes to students coming from all widening participation categories, and to achieve this aim it undertakes a range of activities directed towards raising aspirations, eliminating any artificial barriers to entry and enhancing the learner experience.

By focussing on teaching for learning SSMS expands its participation and success in the higher level skills agenda with an emphasis on employability and vocational learning within the Maritime Sector.

The programme offer includes a wide range of Foundation Degree, HNC/D, Honours Degree and professional level courses that employers require to meet their higher level skills solutions.

The SSMS HE Strategy is reviewed every three years by the external Board, and underlines the commitment to the growth of its HE provision as well as its aspirations in raising the participation rates of the residents of North and South Tyneside as well as at the national level. SSMS also provides qualification to support Access into HE.

SSMS has a committed team of staff teaching and supporting HE provision, whose priority is high quality Learning and Teaching, high quality learning environment, proving a range of programmes with differing access points, and exceeding student aspirations in their employment prospects.

2. Learner support

2.1 Academic support

Learners are provided with a range of academic support during their study at SSMS. These include programme evening support tutorials, on-line support through Teams and the Moodle VLE platform, and pre-assessment tutorial sessions.



2.2 Pastoral support

All learners enrolled onto full time courses are provided with access to a Personal Learning Coach (PLC) and/or academic mentors. These staff provide pastoral support to students to monitor and support them during their study programme. These staff can assist students with further support such as referral to an independent Councillor for mental health concerns.

2.3 Resources

SSMS is aware of the broad requirement of students and their study patterns, and provides access to learning aids (when a student does not have tablets to allow for self-study), extended hours of library opening including weekends and holiday periods, dedicated HE Gateway and HE research facilities where students can study in groups or independently.

2.4 Advice and guidance

In addition to the PLC's or academic pastoral tutors, SSMS provides impartial advice to all students on their existing programmes, and a range of progression opportunities. This service holds Matrix Quality Standard accreditation.

3 Widening participation activities

The following outreach activities are undertaken by Student Services, Marketing and Academic staff

- a) Local Schools events
- b) Regional UCAS events
- c) Open Evenings each week to provide information and advice
- d) Open Days each year to promote employer links and provide advice
- e) Specialist employer recruitment event for intern and sponsored pathway opportunities

4 Monitoring

Student enrolments are reported through SSMS's Individual Learner Record. This data is defined within the Participation of Local Areas (POLAR) classifications; 1 to 5. This data is also provided each year within the funding allocation, and allows for comparison between academic years. Annual monitoring across differentiated groups of gender, ethnic, age and disability is reported to external Governors. The enrolment patterns with national UK recruitment does create variances in the POLAR3 data, and no strategic target is set, although the strategy is to "Continuing to listen to, and actively engage with, learners and employers to provide HE that is relevant to their needs."



5 Reporting

SSMS reports the performance of the students undertaking its Higher Education Courses during and at the end of the programme. Performance Monitoring meetings are held with programme managers to monitor in-course data such as recruitment, attendance and retention, student survey responses and minutes of student fora. At the end of each academic year, all programme data is reviewed and analysed for retention, achievement, and progression and the results reported to externally to the Governing Board as part of the self-evaluation process. Operational plans are created from this process. External reporting is undertaken through the e website, where policies and access statements are available.