

HIGHER EDUCATION STRATEGY

Vision

The SMB College Group vision is to empower skilled graduates through delivering quality higher-level courses that combine students interests and passions with skills, knowledge and research to create future career opportunities.

Mission

Deliver sustainable and innovative higher education curriculum underpinned by excellence in teaching, learning and assessment.

It is expected that all our graduates will:

- Demonstrate courage, resilience, confidence and independence and be ready to contribute positively to the present and future society
- Develop a strong sense of value and self-worth in their own abilities through embedded reflective practices and engagement with wider peers
- Progress in their chosen field; employment, self-employment or engage in further study such as higher level, degree apprenticeships, top up qualifications and masters level study.
- Develop a valuable range of transferable skills and attributes that enable them to be well prepared citizens in both personal and professional settings
- Gain high quality qualifications that have relevance and currency in their chosen vocational sector
- Contribute positively to society by informing and challenging knowledge within their chosen industry

How higher education embodies the strategic values:

- Supporting the **sustainability** agenda through promotion of sustained learning development to enable future graduates to adapt to changing career demands.
- Acting **ethically** in all decisions that impact student experience, through honesty and transparency.
- Professional demonstrated by staff and students, with high standards of **excellence** expected in all learning, study and practical areas.
- Approaching teaching learning and assessment with **innovation** and creativity that adds value to students, combining research informed methods and industry driven updates.

Widening access: Principle 1: “Removing barriers in order to provide accessible and inclusive opportunities in higher education through innovative and excellent practice.”

- Develop and deliver courses that are specialist and targeted within our areas of expertise and skills development
- Robustly plan our curriculum offer, aiming to reduce unnecessary barriers throughout all stages of the student lifecycle
- Ensure teaching, learning and assessment is inclusive in its design and implementation
- Closely monitor for emerging gaps in access and continuation; acting when required to reduce these gaps
- Engage regularly with students and employers to use their feedback to drive improvements
- Work with employers to help design programmes that are innovative
- Ensuring all courses have a clear progression route, either with SMB Group, or to other providers for top ups or masters’ levels programmes

The supported student: Principle 2: “Providing higher education students with a network support of opportunities throughout their programme in order to develop as a sustainable student, achieving their best possible outcome.”

- Provide a cohesive range of student support services including welfare, careers guidance, finance, and mental health provision
- Support wider academic skills by providing additional coaching when and where students require it
- Closely monitor student outcomes and progression, taking steps to remove barriers
- Integrate cross college services throughout the student journey
- Embed opportunities for students to meet industry and employer representatives
- Engage with activities that support the industries we are training in

Teacher excellence: Principle 3: “Developing a high-performance culture to positively impact on student experience.”

- Provide a bespoke programme of professional development for higher education teachers
- Develop a community of practice that provides peer support for higher education teaching colleagues
- Support teachers to engage with wider teaching, industry and research opportunities
- Undertake regular reviews practice and provide constructive feedback
- Use feedback from students to guide areas for professional development



S Stephenson Campus
Part of the SMB College Group



M Melton Campus
Part of the SMB College Group



B Brooksby Campus
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