

# Association of Colleges

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# Association of Colleges

- Is a National Body for Further Education
- Was established in 1996 by colleges themselves – circa 98% of 363 FE and Sixth form colleges in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are in membership
- Works with *Fforwm* in Wales and *ANIC* in Northern Ireland and liaises closely with the *Association of Scotland's Colleges*.



# Association of Colleges

## **AoC International:**

- Undertakes lobbying and representation
- Works with the British Council, BIS, Home Office (UKBA) and others on policy dialogue
- Brokers and supports relationships between colleges and overseas institutions
- Supports quality assurance in the international context
- Manages specific projects and initiatives.
- Represents the UK Colleges to overseas governments, educational associations and consortiums

# The FE College Sector

- **95 sixth form colleges**
- **258 General FE colleges**
- **10 specialist designated colleges**
  - *Subject to independent, external inspection*
  - *offering a range of qualifications accredited by external awarding bodies*

# UK College Sector

England's FE Colleges, provide for:

Over 3,000,000 learners per year

More than 70% of the 16-18 year olds in education

80% of adult 'Skills for Life'- literacy, numeracy, language

Over 50% of vocational qualifications delivery

Preparation of 48% of entrants to university

59% of Higher National Diploma (HND ) delivery

**Also:**

181,000 of college students are studying for a degree

Over 400,000 learners within college are in work undertaking skills training

# What is special about UK FE colleges?

*'My experience makes me passionate about skills and about further education's vital role in reducing social inequalities, recognising and releasing potential, and ensuring individuals and the wider economy stand ready to face the challenges of globalisation.'* -

**Alan Johnson,**  
Secretary of State for Education &  
Skills, November 2006.

## Colleges:

- Are responsive to the needs of employers/industry sectors and local communities
- Are major players in local economies and skills/regeneration agendas
- Excel at partnership working with a wide range of organisations
- Are experienced in running special projects and piloting experimental approaches to redressing social exclusion, disadvantage and youth disaffection and promoting diversity
- Offer a mature environment and learner-centred approaches which recognise different learning styles.

# UK Colleges International Work

- International Student Recruitment
  - Exhibitions – British Council and others
  - Agents
  - Direct
- International Support – ‘The Student’s Journey’
- Articulation links
- Delivering overseas

# UK Colleges International Work

- FE colleges are involved in a wide range of international partnership activities focusing on (for example) shared development and delivery of courses, capacity building for overseas institutions linked to collaborative models and systems reform, exchange of staff (expertise) and students (mobility)
- Internationalising the College
- Government support through PMI1, PMI2
- UKTI, British Council

# UK Colleges International Work

- Qualifications focused on employers and employees needs
- World class education that doesn't cost the earth
- Government recognised programme ensuring quality of provision
- Qualifications and delivery underpinned by rigorous quality control
- Highly Trusted Sponsor UKBA
- Study at the heart of the creative world
- A true British learning experience

# AoC Charter for Excellence in International Education and Training

The 'commitments' of the *AoC Charter for Excellence in International Education and Training*:

- Establishment of a formal 'International Strategy' with ownership at all levels of the institution
- A supporting infrastructure and adequate resourcing
- Related staff development
- Quality assurance of all services delivered in the UK and abroad
- Synergy between international activities and the social and economic development of the communities served by the college
- Celebration of cultural diversity and cultural exchange
- An ethical approach to all areas of activity.

Thank You

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