

## Highlands College Health, Wellbeing, and Study Support (HWSS)

### A Guide for Students and Applicants (2020)

Highlands College has a Health, Wellbeing, and Study Support (HWSS) policy. This policy is designed to cover the very exceptional circumstances under which applicants or students might be deemed not well enough to be in college. This is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all.

**Examples** of circumstances where the policy might apply:

- ✓ Chronic, uncontrolled medical or mental health conditions
- ✓ Serious medical conditions where students might require so much leave from college that they are unable to complete their studies in the expected timeframe
- ✓ Untreated addiction
- ✓ Diagnosed Emotional or Behavioural difficulties that suggest risk of harm to self or others.

However, this policy **does not usually** apply to:

- ✓ Common chronic conditions, such as asthma
- ✓ Low level behavioural issues
- ✓ Learning Difficulties relating to your ability only

### How we can help you

Before we apply the policy, we would consider a number of factors.

**If you are a student** in the college you should flag your needs with the college as early as possible, usually at the point of application, so that we can support you. We will always try to find the means to help you with your difficulties and keep you in college.

We can make reasonable adjustments to your study programme: in some cases, we may be able to reduce your qualification size, and/or extend your qualification end date, to support you with issues such as fatigue. However, any adjustments would require that you continue to engage with support, and will depend on us being confident that we can keep you, and others, safe on site.

In college, students have access to:

- Additional Learning Support
- Emotional and Wellbeing support
- Counselling support
- Support with contacting external agencies.

**If you are applying for college** and we are concerned about your health and wellbeing, we may invite you in to discuss this, or ask for feedback from professionals concerned with your case.

If you do not make the College aware of your condition, or have stated that you will not engage with us or with support, this will impact on your chances of success in college. In rare cases, you may be asked to leave.

### **If we have to apply the policy**

Students who are not well enough to be in college may need to pause their studies and leave college, to return at a later date. We would then work with you to see if we are able to defer your studies, with a place held for you if you become fit to study in the following academic year

Less than 0.5% of our students fall under this policy, annually. However, a very small number of students are sometimes found to be too unwell to be able to complete during the usual timeframe.

If we are concerned that you are not well enough to study, even after adaptations have been put in place, we will meet with you to discuss this. At this stage, you may agree that you need some time to recover and pause your studies, alter your qualification type and timetable, or you may feel that you would like to continue.

If the college's concerns remain, they will take your feedback and other evidence (such as medical evidence, feedback on your engagement with work, reports and your attendance so far) and this will be discussed by a safeguarding panel, made up of at least three members of college management. They will decide whether further adjustments should be put in place, or whether the college will defer your place until your health is better. You have seven days to appeal this if you disagree.

If you do leave college (permanently or temporarily) we can support you on your transition from college. We will also offer you careers advice and guidance via our Careers and Employability team. In addition, we can support you with referrals to other agencies if you wish.

We will always consider future applications to return to study with us and advise you to contact us as early as possible to arrange appropriate guidance and support if you do ever wish to resume your studies.

### **Useful contacts:**

- Student Life Team (Emotional Health and Well Being Support): [studentlife@highlands.ac.uk](mailto:studentlife@highlands.ac.uk)
- Careers and Employability Team: [employability@highlands.ac.uk](mailto:employability@highlands.ac.uk)
- Jersey Employment Trust: [admin@jet.co.je](mailto:admin@jet.co.je)
- CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services): [hsscamhs@health.gov.je](mailto:hsscamhs@health.gov.je)
- Alcohol and Drugs Services: [A&dservice@health.gov.je](mailto:A&dservice@health.gov.je)