MORTHA
HALLS OF IVY

EDUCATION | TRAINING | RESEARCH

Access and Participation Statement

Overview
MHI Mission
1. Mortha Halls of Ivy offers students a supportive and personal environment to achieve our mission of inspiring, preparing, and empowering students to succeed in a changing world, meaning
- We inspire students to learn and to develop as whole people intellectually, physically, and emotionally
- We inspire students to continue learning throughout life
- We prepare and empower students to be successful by helping them develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to enter or progress within the workforce, transfer to a bachelor or postgraduate level, and adapt and thrive in our increasingly diverse and ever-changing world.

MHI Vision
2. Our vision is to be a global leader in transforming lives through an innovative, rigorous, and compassionate approach to education, implying that
- We continually strive to strengthen and improve the positive impact we have on our students and community, transforming their lives, as well as our own, through our work
- We will become known Internationally as an institution that "makes a difference"
- We continually strive to innovate – finding new and more effective ways to educate and serve students
- We sustain rigour in our work – holding high standards and expectations for both our students and for ourselves
- We approach our work with compassion, acknowledging the whole person, working with integrity and caring, accepting people where they are and moving them forward without sacrificing standards or expectations, and bringing joy, honesty, and understanding to our work.

MHI Values
3. Our values as a community lay in:
- Inspiring learning
- Broadening perspectives
- Pursuing excellence
- Responding to community needs
- Achieving goals
- Transforming lives
- Celebrating achievement

4. To deliver high-quality education and training services appropriate to its clients' lifelong learning needs and aspirations in partnership with other providers in diverse settings.

MHI Ethos
5. Our ethos seeks to help establish a context for enlightened and effective management and to help build an appropriate working and learning environment for the College community. It seeks to ensure that students are treated as mature individuals and are allocated as much responsibility as is possible and practicable, including an active role in decisions that affect them.

6. Besides providing students with the best possible learning experiences, students are to be given every opportunity to develop personal and social skills and, generally, to derive the maximum benefits from their College experience.

Strategic Goals

7.   Our Business Plan presents our long-term strategic goals as follows:

- **Become a Leading Provider of Comprehensive Education:** Establish MHI as a premier institution offering both Further and Higher Education programs, renowned for its quality and relevance to the needs of the community and industry.
- **Enhance Student Outcomes:** Ensure students gain academic knowledge, practical skills, and employability, leading to high graduation rates and successful career placements.
- **Strengthen Community and Industry Partnerships:** Build strong relationships with local businesses, community organisations, and other educational institutions to enhance program offerings and provide students real-world learning opportunities.
- **Promote Lifelong Learning:** Encourage and support continuous education and professional development among community members, fostering a culture of lifelong learning.
- **Achieve Financial Sustainability and Growth:** Maintain a financially robust institution through strategic planning, effective resource management, and diversified revenue streams.

Expansion into Higher Education

8.   As Mortha Halls of Ivy (MHI) embarks on its ambitious expansion into higher education, we have set specific goals to ensure our new programs' successful introduction and growth. By 2025, we aim to develop and launch a diverse range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs tailored to meet the needs of mature learners and young adults in the Black Country region.

9.   Our goal is to reach out to Further Education graduates who have not yet secured progression routes to higher education. These will allow us to achieve a target enrollment of 300 students within the first two years of launch, expanding to 1,174 students within the first four years, reflecting our commitment to accessible and inclusive education. To maintain our reputation for excellence, we will deliver programmes available on accreditation from relevant awarding organisations. We also wish to provide university programmes upon successfully establishing the appropriate partnerships.

10.   We want to uphold high academic standards through rigorous quality assurance processes. Additionally, we plan to invest in state-of-the-art facilities and technology to create innovative teaching and learning environments. To support our student's academic and personal growth, we will develop comprehensive student support services, including academic advising, career counselling, mental health resources, and financial aid programs. These objectives are integral to our vision of becoming the region's leading higher education provider. The following is a summary of our objectives for the expansion into higher education programmes:

- **Develop and Launch Higher Education Programs:** By 2025, introduce a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs tailored to meet the needs of mature learners and young adults in the Black Country region.
- **Increase Enrollment:** Achieve a target enrollment of 300 students in Higher Education programs within the first two years of launch, expanding to 1,174 students within the next four years.
- **Ensure High Academic Standards:** Ensure that all higher education programmes are accredited by relevant awarding organisations or are delivered through university partnerships and maintain high academic standards through rigorous quality assurance processes.
- **Build State-of-the-Art Facilities:** Invest in modern educational facilities and technology to support innovative teaching and learning environments.

- **Foster Student Support Systems:** Develop comprehensive student support services, including academic advising, career counselling, mental health resources, and financial aid programs.

Access and participation

11.   Our Ambition is to offer higher education to mature students from local disadvantaged areas within the Black Country of West Midlands, empowering our students to realise their potential in higher education and beyond.

12.   This statement, guided by OfS regulatory advice, details an assessment of current performance around access and participation, outlines current provisions and sets out ambitions and strategies for the future.

Current Access

13.   At Mortha Halls of Ivy, we have developed our Further Education provision with the goal of recruiting and enrolling 300 students annually in higher education programs. Our strong online system facilitates the delivery of higher education, allowing us to offer flexible learning modes, including blended learning, to local students. Additionally, our online platforms enable us to reach a global audience, and we currently deliver higher education to 80 online students per year. Furthermore, we provide consultancy services in higher education policy, showcasing our deep understanding of and expertise in the higher education sector in the UK.MHI receives no public or government funding and generates most of its annual income from our current further education provision and direct fee-paying higher education students. Our Admissions records the following trends in access:

- The lack of funding for our higher education provision presents a significant barrier to entry as it doesn't cover the cost of tuition for our HE students.
- that significant numbers of single mothers wish to join our programmes but cannot afford the resources to leave their family commitments to enter education, even though they desire to do so.
- Fewer blacks are joining our programmes than other ethnic groups.
- Although most students identify as white, most are of EU origin, and there are no British white students.
- There are significantly low numbers of students with disabilities.

14.   The more petite student body allows the University to define interventions one-to-one through our Student Outcomes Committee.

Data Availability

15.   Currently, Mortha Halls of Ivy lacks formal higher education provision, and as a result, we do not have direct access to student outcomes data such as retention, progression, achievement, and continuation rates. This absence of data presents a significant challenge in assessing the long-term success and impact of our Further Education (FE) programs on students who progress to university.

16.   Given that we do not track the progression and performance of our FE students once they enter higher education institutions, we are unable to measure their academic success, retention rates, or overall achievement in their subsequent studies. This gap in data hinders our ability to make informed decisions about how to better prepare and support our students for higher education and beyond.

17.   To address this issue, establishing formal partnerships with universities to share data on the performance of our alumni could be beneficial. Implementing a system to track and analyse the academic outcomes of our FE students who transition to higher education will provide valuable insights. This data will not only help us evaluate the effectiveness of our FE programs but also enable us to tailor our curriculum and support services to meet the needs of our students better, ultimately enhancing their success in higher education.

18.   Once we deliver our programmes at MHI, we can benchmark and monitor disparities in access, attainment, and progression.

Planned Programmes to Increase Access
1. Financial Support
- Scholarships and Bursaries: Establish a range of scholarships and bursaries targeting students from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds to alleviate financial burdens. Introducing the MHI Achievement Scholarship. MHI will select small numbers of access students to receive direct financial support, especially as these are mainly from low-income backgrounds
- Flexible Payment Plans: Offer flexible and deferred payment options to help students manage tuition fees.
- Grants and Sponsorships: Seek partnerships with businesses and charitable organisations to provide student grants and sponsorships.
- Provide some students with full fee waiver bursaries and additional financial support.
- Provide support with the costs of meals on campus.
- Scholarships and awards

2. Academic Support
- Pre-Enrollment Programs: Implement bridging programs and summer schools to help prospective students meet entry requirements and transition smoothly into higher education.
- Personalized Academic Advising: Provide personalised academic advising and mentoring to guide students through application and academic planning.
- Foundation Courses: Offer foundation courses for students who may not meet the standard entry requirements, helping them prepare for degree-level study.

3. Provide pre-entry support,
19.   This will include offering students enquiring to go onto our programs
- 1-1 application support;
- information, advice and guidance around student finance;
- Campus tours
- Offer taster sessions
- Offer support to new students with application for funding from the Student Loans Company
- Offer help to apply for disability funding to disabled students
- Over advance payment to disabled students awaiting approval of funding applications from the Student Loans Company
- opportunity to meet staff and existing students and ask questions about life at MHI in an informal and welcoming setting,
- talking through any challenges applicants might face in accessing higher education.
20.   MHI invites students to campus throughout the year and hosts a week-long residential

4. Flexible Learning Options

- Blended Learning: Continue to develop and expand blended learning options, combining online and face-to-face instruction to accommodate different learning styles and schedules.
- Evening and Weekend Classes: Offer classes during evenings and weekends to cater to working students and those with family responsibilities.
- Online Learning Platforms: Enhance online learning platforms to ensure high-quality, accessible education for remote learners.

5. Outreach and Engagement

- Community Outreach Programs: Engage in community outreach programs to raise awareness about MHI's courses and support services, targeting local schools, community centres, and adult education programs.
- Partnerships with Schools: Form partnerships with local schools and colleges to create clear pathways for students to transition to MHI's programs.
- Information Sessions and Open Days: Host information sessions, open days, and virtual tours to provide prospective students with detailed information about available courses, entry requirements, and support services.

6. Student Support Services

21.   Our Management Council has discussed extensively programmes to reach out to the low-access student groups and agreed on the following outreach and financial support arrangements

- Build a Student Support Team (2FTE) to offer comprehensive information, support and specialist advice to help students reach their potential.
- Provide extensive pastoral, practical and academic support tailored to the needs of students.
- Takes a whole-provider approach to student success, working across faculties, students, and professional services to foster attainment.
- Provide specialist wellbeing and mental health support (2FTE) with access to external experts
- Appointment of Wellbeing Officers (1FTE) who are first responders for students with questions or concerns about health, mental health, well-being, and any other pastoral issues that arise throughout the student journey.
- We partner with specialist counselling services where appropriate
- Comprehensive Student Support Services: Provide robust student support services, including career counselling, mental health support, and disability services, to ensure students have the resources they need to succeed (1FTE).
- Peer Mentoring Programs: Establish peer mentoring programs to help new students acclimate to higher education and build a supportive community.

7. Disability Support

- Appoint a Disability support specialist (1FTE) to support participation and success amongst students with disabilities.
- The Disability Support Coordinator will (1FTE):
    - provide information, advice and guidance for disability-related concerns;
    - liaise closely with teaching staff to communicate needs and set up Student Support Agreements;
    - organise exam concessions such as extra time and specialist equipment;
    - assist with applications for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA);
    - arrange screenings for specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia and dyspraxia;
    - advise staff on reasonable adjustments, so disabled students are not disadvantaged;
    - arrange 1:1 sessions with the specialists;
    - book counselling appointments; and
    - Arrange in-class support (Non-Medical Helpers) such as note-takers.
    - Notify all teaching staff to provide the necessary adjustments.

8. Marketing and Communication

- Targeted Marketing Campaigns: Develop targeted marketing campaigns highlighting the benefits of MHI's courses, financial support options, and flexible learning arrangements.
- Clear Communication Channels: Maintain clear and accessible communication channels, such as a dedicated admissions hotline and online chat support, to assist prospective students with their inquiries.

9. Activities of the Student Union

- MHI has an active Student Union through which students can participate in decision-making.
- The President of the Student Union receives payment and serves to consult and lead the student body and enhance the student experience.
- The President of the Student Union is on critical committees and participates in decision-making processes.
- The Student Union affects the entire provider

10. Family Support groups

- MHI will develop child-friendly facilities to encourage parents to bring their children to play centres in MHI
- and appoint child-minders to manage a children's play centre (2FTE)