



Freedom of Information Policy

PART A

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a framework for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and subsequent amendments. Part B sets out the college group's publication scheme, as required by the Act.

Scope

The Policy applies to all activities undertaken by the college group, including those activities undertaken through subsidiary companies and sub-contractors.

The Policy Statement

The Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 promotes openness and accountability across the public sector by requiring information to be made available proactively, through a publication scheme. The IEG publication scheme describes the information the college group publishes, or intends to publish, and is subject to change as new material is published or existing material is revised.

Responsibilities

Governors

- To approve and annually review the Freedom of Information Policy.
- To receive and consider updates on the application of the Policy.

Group Executive

- To ensure that the college group manages its duties under the Freedom of Information Policy systematically, economically and effectively and remains compliant with the legislation.
- To have oversight of FOI requests and responses.

Freedom of Information Officer

- To receive and maintain a log of all requests for information under the FOI Act 2000.
- To determine whether the information requested is covered by an exemption and should not be disclosed.
- If appropriate, to pass requests to the member of staff responsible for maintaining the information requested.
- Advise members of staff on the requirements of the FOI Act 2000 and provide updates on changes to the legislation.
- To manage timely responses to FOI requests.
- To maintain the IEG Publication Scheme set out in Part B of this Policy.

Accessing information and response time

The classes of information we publish (the 'Publication Scheme') are described in Part B of this Policy. Some information is available for download/ printing directly from the group's website, www.ieg.ac.uk. The address to request a hard copy of the Publication Scheme or to make an application for information not covered by the Publication Scheme is:

Freedom of Information Officer
Inspire Education Group
Park Crescent
Peterborough
PE1 4DZ
Tel: 0345 872 8722

Please state clearly which information you require and provide the full name and address including postcode of the person making the request. Some information is exempt from FOI and in these cases the college will respond with the reasons for not providing this information. We will respond within 20 working days of receipt of a request to supply information within the Publication Scheme. The response time is dated from the date of receipt by the college group.

Charges

If the cost of providing the information exceeds £450 (calculated at an hourly rate of £25) the college group will respond by indicating the costs of providing the information. Requests will be processed within 20 days of payment being made.

Exemptions

Part II of the FOI Act includes 23 separate exemptions. The most relevant in a College context are:

- Information Accessible to Applicant By Other Means (S21)
- Information Intended for Future Publication (S22)
- Law Enforcement (S31)
- Health and Safety (S38)
- Personal Information (S40)
- Information Provided in Confidence (S41)
- Legal Professional Privilege (S42)

Absolute Exemptions include:

- Personal Data in Limited Circumstances
- Information Reasonably Accessible to the Public by Other Means
- Confidentiality
- Disclosure Prohibited by Statute or Court Order
- Information belonging to a Third Party and a College is Holding It for a Third Party

For the full list of 'Exemptions' – please refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2000: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents>.

FOI and Copyright

Reproducing any material supplied by this college under the FOI 2000, be it listed in the Publication Scheme or not, without the express permission of Inspire Education Group, will be considered an infringement of copyright. Requests for permission should be made in writing and addressed to:

Freedom of Information Officer
Inspire Education Group
Park Crescent
Peterborough
PE1 4DZ
Tel: 0345 872 8722

Feedback and Appeals

We welcome suggestions for additional classes of information that could be included in the Publication Scheme. We also welcome suggestions as to how the publications themselves might be improved. Any questions or comments about this scheme should be sent in writing to the address above. In cases of dissatisfaction where you wish to appeal against a decision the College has made, then please write to:

Chief Financial Officer
Inspire Education Group
Park Crescent
Peterborough
PE1 4DZ
Tel: 0345 872 8722

In your letter of appeal you will need to state clearly:

1. That you are appealing a decision previously made by IEG under the FOI, indicating the date of the letter sent from the college group.
2. The reason for the appeal.
3. Any supporting evidence.

You will need to provide the college group with a name and address for response. The college group will investigate the circumstances of your appeal and respond within 20 working days of receipt of your letter. If we are unable to resolve any complaint, you can complain to the Information Commissioner, the independent body that oversees the Freedom of Information Act:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Related Procedures and Documentation

IEG Data Protection (GDPR) Policy

Responsibility

This policy is the responsibility of the Freedom of Information Officer.

Date of Last Review December 2020

PART B

PUBLICATION SCHEME FOR INSPIRE EDUCATION GROUP

This Publication Scheme lists information which is available from the college group. The scheme is split into eight main sections, each with a number of classes. The main sections are:

- Index
- 1. Governance
- 2. Financial Resources
- 3. Human Resources
- 4. Physical Resources
- 5. Student Administrations and Support
- 6. Information Services
- 7. Teaching and Learning
- 8. External Relations

General Information

1. Currency of Documentation Issued

Unless otherwise stated information below relates to current* documentation, or in the case of Minutes of Meetings the last Minutes before the request was made.

**Current means that currently in operation and in circulation in the college group. However, where requesting certain information such as, for example, prospectuses for the following session, these will be supplied as soon as they are published, and the college group reserves the right not to respond within the time frame if the documentation is not ready for publication.*

2. Single Copies of Documentation

The college group will only supply in all cases single copies of documentation requested.

3. Where Minutes of Meetings are requested the college group may only publish non-reserved information - that is Part 1 Agenda Items. Part 2 Agenda items may be 'redacted' in part or whole. In such circumstances, an explanation will be provided why 'redaction' has taken place.

1. Governance - Introduction

This section covers information relating to the way the college group is governed and how decisions are made. It includes information on the legal status of the institution, which individual member of staff or group within the organisation is responsible for specific functions and where they fit in the overall structure of the organisation. In some instances information from committee minutes will be exempt from disclosure where it contains personal information, information that may damage the commercial interests of the institution or that may threaten the health and safety of specific individuals.

1.1 Legal Framework

Class: **Legal status of the college group**

Availability: Website

Charge: No Charge from Inspire Education Group

Description: Corporation Status. The College was conferred by the Education Reform Act of 1988 and the Further and Higher Education Act of 1992. Both of these are available on the government website: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1988/40/contents> and <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/13/contents>.

1.2 How the institution is organised

This class contains information classes relating to how the college group's management structure is organised, and the function and purpose of each part of the management structure.

1.2.1 Class: How the institution is organised. College committees

Availability: Paper

Description Current management structure

1.2.2 Class: How the institution is organised. Organisational Structure Charts

Availability: Paper

Description: Management Organisational Structure

1.2.3 Class: How the institution is organised. Job Titles of Management Post Holders

Availability: Paper

Description: Job Titles of Management Post Holders and Descriptions

1.3 Information on the Content of the Institution

This class includes information made available by the College on the Mission Statement and relevant sections of the Corporation's Strategic Plan.

1.3.1 Class: Information on the Institutional Context

Availability: Paper /Web

Description: Mission Statement and Strategic Plan

The College Website is: www.ieg.ac.uk

1.3.2 Class: Information on the Institutional Context

Availability: Paper

Description: Relevant sections from Corporation's Strategic Plan

1.3.3 Class: Information on the Institutional Context

Availability: Electronic/Paper

Curriculum, Quality

- Self-Assessment Documents and Quality Improvement Plan
- Course Approvals – Policy
- Course Files and Records – Curriculum Planning Strategy and Business Plan Process
- Course Monitoring and Management Cycle
- Course Team agendas and minutes
- Induction arrangements – online induction platform
- Internal Curriculum Audit
- Internal Quality Assurance Policy and Procedure
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment – Strategy, Blended Learning/Remote Delivery Policy, Online Guidance for Students and Staff
- Plagiarism – Assessment/Malpractice and Maladministration Policies
- Appeals – Academic Appeal Policy/Appeal Policy
- Student Attendance Reporting
- Student Handbook
- Student Perception of Course – induction surveys, end of term surveys, focus groups available by Faculty/Department
- Student Guidance and Support – student intranet
- Student Lack of Academic Progress

1.3.4 Class: Government and Regulator Relations

Availability: Paper for first item listed, Web for second item listed.

Description: QAA reports for Higher Education Reviews may be obtained from the web address - <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/>

Ofsted Inspection reports and monitoring visits may be obtained from the Ofsted website address - <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>

1.4 Management Structure

This class contains information relating to how the college group's management structure is organised, and the function and purpose of each part of the management structure.

1.4.1 Class: Information on the Institutional Context – Management Structure

Availability: Paper
Description: Governing Body Membership
Schedule of Governing Body (Corporation Board) Meetings
Code of Conduct for Corporation Board
Terms of Reference of Audit Committee
Membership, Minutes and Papers of Corporation
Membership, Minutes and Papers of Audit Committee

2. Financial Resources

Introduction

This section covers information on the college group's strategy and management of financial resources. Information that may damage the institution's commercial interests will be excluded from publication.

2.1.1 Class: Finance

Availability: Paper
Description: Accounts as published in current Annual Report and Financial Statements

2.1.2 Class: Finance

Availability: Paper
Description: College Insurance arrangements

2.1.3 Class: Finance

Availability: Paper
Description: Pension Guidelines

2.1.4 Class: Finance

Availability: Paper
Description: Travel Arrangements Procedure

2.2 Resource Planning

This class includes information that defines how the college group undertakes its planning and resource allocation, how it regulates the deployment of resources and how it publishes the outcomes.

2.2.1 Class: Resource Planning

Availability: Paper
Description: Financial Rules and Regulations and Accounting instructions

2.2.2 Class: Resource Planning

Availability: Paper
Description: Accounts published in the current annual report and Financial Statements

2.2.3 Class: Resource Planning

Availability: Paper
Description: Strategic Plan/Mission Statement

2.2.4 Class: Resource Planning

Availability: Paper
Description: Published Annual Report

3. Human Resources and Personnel

This section covers information on the college group's strategy and management of human resources, rather than information relating to individual members of staff, which is exempt from disclosure as personal information. The information available covers personnel policies and procedures.

3.1.1 Class: Employment and Employee relations

Availability: Paper

Description: Health and Safety Policy
Disciplinary and Grievance Policy

3.1.2 Class: Employment and Employee Relations

Availability: Paper

Description: Job Advertisements see College website www.ieg.ac.uk

3.1.3 Class: Employment and Employee Relations

Availability: Paper/Web

Charge: Free of Charge

Description: Freedom of Information Policy

3.2.1 Class: Equal Opportunities

Availability: Paper

Description: Single Equality Scheme

Equality and Diversity Action Plan

Equality Diversity and Inclusion Policy

3.3.1 This class includes information on staff development and training, including induction programmes, probation and appraisal.

Class: Staff Development

Availability: Paper

Description: Performance Review and Development Policy

4. Physical Resources

Introduction

Institutions are often substantial land and property owners in their own right. Classes in this section cover information at a strategic level relating to the institution's management of its physical resources. Information that provides specific details of the institution's future plans to alter its estate (eg proposals to purchase additional property) may be exempt from disclosure where such disclosure would damage the institution's commercial interests

4.1. Estates

Class: Estates plan

Availability: Paper apart from where indicated with web address

Description: The College's Property Strategy, commercially sensitive information will be excluded, including plans/maps/schematics

Map of Main Site

5. Student Administration and Support

Introduction

This section contains information on how the college group manages the administration and progression of their students from admission to course completion, including student support services. Information available within this section does not include specific student personal details, by virtue of being personal information.

5.1 Student Admissions, Progression and Completion

Information relating to the admission/registration of new students, including policies and procedures covering the assessment of external qualifications and the creation of student records

5.1.1 Class: Information on Student Admission, Progression and Completion

Availability: Paper

Description: Admissions Policies

Student Qualifications on Entry as described in Prospectus

5.1.2 Class: Information on Student Admission, Progression and Completion

Availability: Paper

Description: Range of student entrant percentages classified by age, gender, ethnicity,

Socio-economic background, disability and geographical origin as returned to the ESFA.
Percentage Student Progression retention and achievement of data
Data on qualifications awarded to students by percentage
Data on Student Destinations by Percentage

5.2 Student Accommodation

This class includes information relating to accommodation services.

5.3 Student Administration

This class includes information relating to areas of the maintenance of individual student records, including policies and procedures covering the management of the student records system itself.

5.3.1 Class: Student Administration

Availability: Paper

5.4 Student Admissions and Enrolment

This class includes information relating to the admission/enrolment of new students.

5.4.1 Class: Information on Student Admission, Progression and Completion

Availability: Paper

Description: Admissions Policies

5.5 Student Discipline

This class includes information relating to the conduct of disciplinary proceedings against students.

5.5.1 Class: Code and Policies

Availability: Paper

Description: Student Disciplinary Policy

Complaints Policy

Academic Appeals Policy/Appeal Policy

Assessment/Malpractice and Maladministration Policies

5.6 Student Learning Support Services

This class includes information on student support services from an academic and learning perspective, particularly those not covered under Information Services.

5.6.1 Class: Student Learning Support Services

Availability: Paper

Description: Careers Education Policy

Single Equality Scheme

Equality Diversity and Inclusion Policy and key objectives

5.7 Student Liaison

This class includes information relating to the structure and functioning of staff/student consultative committees or other liaison groups.

5.7.1 Class: Student Liaison

Availability: Paper

Description: Minutes of Student Council meetings

Student Focus Groups

Student Perception of Course – induction and end of term/year surveys available by Faculty/Department

5.8 Student Policies

This class includes some key student policies not listed elsewhere in the scheme and published by the College

5.8.1 Class: Student Policies

Availability: Paper

Description: Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures
Safeguarding for All Policy

5.9 Student Welfare

5.9.1 Class: Student Welfare

Availability: Paper

Description: Careers Education Policy (CEIAG)
Health and Safety Policy
Fees Policy

5.10 Student Associations and Activities

This class contains information relating to the operation and activities of the Students Union and other clubs, associations and non-academic activities that are organised for or by the students

5.10.1 Student Associations and Activities

Class: **Student Union**

Availability: Paper

Description: Students Union Constitution

6. Information Systems

Introduction

This section covers those functions within the college group that provide access to information to the student body and both academic and administrative staff. These include libraries, computing services and information support services. Information services inevitably hold large quantities of personal data that are exempt from general disclosure.

6.1 Availability and conditions of use of facilities

Information in these classes provide details about who can access systems and services and the facilities that they can access. They also provide assurance for external bodies/individuals that rules exist to ensure that breaches of conditions of use (e.g. breach of copyright, email spamming of an external site) are appropriately dealt with.

6.1.1 Class: Availability and conditions of use of facilities

Format: Paper/Web

Description: A range of Leaflets detailing Library Services and conditions of use
Policy on Computing and Telecommunications Usage
Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Policy

6.2 Policies with regard to data and Information

Information in this class offers assurances to data subjects, whether they are individuals or companies that deal with the institution, that data relating to them is being handled well, minimising the risk of unauthorised access or disclosure.

6.2.1 Class: Policies with regard to data and Information

Availability: Paper

Description: Data Protection (GDPR) Policy

6.3 Procurement and Disposal Policies

Information in this class offers assurances that monies are being appropriately spent and assurances that procurement is fair and open. The disposal policies also assure that the institution is making correct and appropriate use of funds.

6.3.1 Class: Purchasing of Goods and Services

Availability: Paper

Description: Financial Regulations and Procedures

6.4 Scope of Collections held

6.4.1 Class: Scope of Collections held

Availability: Student and Staff Intranet/Paper

Description: Details of the library collections available in the College Library

7. Teaching and Learning

This section contains information regarding the management of teaching and learning within the institution including mechanisms for reviewing and ensuring the quality of teaching provided.

7.1 Academic Year Dates

This class should include information on the dates for the current Academic Year as well as future academic years (as far as is known).

7.1.1 Class: Academic Year Dates

Availability: Paper, Web

Charge: Free of Charge

Description: Full-time, Part-time and HE prospectuses

Academic calendar

7.2 Further course information

This class includes information relating to particular departments, also information relating to programmes and qualifications. (This class will not include information for which exemption might be claimed under S.43 Commercial Interest, for example, course learning materials and content).

7.2.1 Class: Course Information

Availability: Paper – obtained through current prospectus data

Charge: Free of Charge

Description: Term dates

Structure of courses

Overview or introduction to courses

7.3 Subject Review and Institutional Review

This class includes information about the institution's internal quality audit programmes and annual review. It should also include information on the college group's internal procedures for assuring academic quality and standards.

7.3.1 Class: Information on Internal Quality Procedures for Assuring Academic Quality and Standards

Availability: Electronic/Paper/website/staff and student intranet

Description: Quality Procedure Handbook

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, Equality and Diversity Action Plan and Single Equality Scheme

Health and Safety Policy

Assessment Policy and Procedure

Latest published summary of Student Voice

'You Said, We Did' posters

A range of leaflets detailing Library Services and Conditions of Use

7.3.2 Class: Internal Quality Programmes and Review Mechanisms and Systems

Procedures only

Availability: Electronic/Paper

Description: Quality Procedure Handbook

Quality Management – Guidance documents for procedures on Self-Assessment, Quality Improvement Plans

Complaints Policy

Higher Education Strategy

Annual Planning Cycle – Curriculum and Business Planning

Self-Assessment Report Summary

ProAchieve course data benchmark summary. **By appointment only in the college** (please write to the FOI Officer if you wish to make an appointment at the address on page 2)

This material can be accessed by appointment only and you will need to state in your application the programme you are seeking such benchmark data for:

Curriculum Quality

- Annual Course Review and Evaluation – Self-Assessment documents and Quality Improvement Plan
- Course Approvals Policy
- Curriculum Planning Strategy and Business Plan process
- Course Monitoring and Management Cycle – Curriculum Performance Reviews, Curriculum, Quality and Student Experience Committee
- Course Team Agendas and Minutes
- Induction Arrangements – online platform
- Internal Quality Assurance Policy and Procedure
- Learning Walks, Quality Improvement initiatives
- Moderation of the Lesson Observation Process
- Plagiarism and Appeals Policy
- Student Attendance Reporting
- Student Handbook
- Induction and end of term surveys, focus group surveys available by Faculty/Department
- Student Guidance and Support – student intranet

7.4 Staffing Structure of College

This class includes information about staff roles within Programme and Support Areas, together with the organisational listing of the staff.

7.4.1 Class: Staffing Structure of College

Availability: Paper

Description: Staff email and telephone contact details in College

Job titles of academic staff and support staff

7.5 Student Assessment Strategy

This class includes information on the regulations and/or policy governing student assessment.

7.5.1 Class: Student Assessment Strategy

Availability: Paper - by personal inspection only. Please apply in writing in the same way as all other applications. However, additionally provide a telephone number where you may be contacted so that the manager responsible for this area may telephone you to arrange a mutually convenient time to visit the College.

Charge: No Charge

Description: Exams timetable

7.5.2 Class: Student Assessment Strategy

Availability: Electronic/Paper

Description: Exam Appeal Procedure

Student Handbook

Awarding Organisation Qualification Guides

7.5.3 Class: Student Assessment Strategy

Availability: Paper/Electronic

Description: Assessment/Malpractice and Maladministration Policies

Student Handbook

7.5.4 Class: Student Assessment Strategy

Availability: Paper/Electronic

Description: Awarding Body addresses and contact information

7.6 Tuition Fees

This class includes information relating to tuition fees for UK students, EU students and other international students, including information on when tuition fees are payable.

7.6.1 Class: Tuition Fees

Availability: Paper, web

Description: Tuition fees for UK, EU and International students including information on when tuition fees will be payable and how to pay can be found in the college's prospectuses.

8. External Relations

Introduction

This section covers information relating to the college group's relationship with its external environment. These include the formal reports the institution it is required to provide to its funding bodies, arrangements with other institutions, how it manages its relationship with the local community and how it retains contact with its former staff and students.

8.1 Government and Regulator Relations

This class relates to the information that the institution is legally obliged to make available to its funding and/or monitoring bodies. Such material may provide information as to how well the institution is performing.

8.1.1 Class: Government and Regulator Relations

Availability: Paper

Description: Summary of College Self-Assessment Report

8.1.2 Class: Government & Regulator Relations

Availability: College group website and online

Description: Ofsted Inspection reports and monitoring visits: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>

8.2 Marketing and Recruitment

This class includes publications relating to student recruitment including the College prospectus.

8.2.1 Class: Marketing and Recruitment

Availability: Paper, Web

Description: Full-time Prospectus, see Note below

Higher Education Prospectus, see Note below

Information on Open Days for the current academic year

Information on entry requirements

Most items are available on the College websites at www.ieg.ac.uk, www.stamford.ac.uk, www.peterborough.ac.uk, www.ucp.ac.uk

NB: Please state in your application if you would like either a large print or abridged Braille version.

8.3 Public Relations

Information included in this class is created to help publicise our facilities and activities.

The majority of such information will have been created for prospective and current students but may still be of considerable interest to those wishing to know more about what the institution has to offer and the activities of its students and staff.

8.3.1 Class: Press Releases

Availability: Paper, web

Charge: No Charge

Description: College Group website address is: www.ieg.ac.uk (other college website addresses are: www.stamford.ac.uk, www.peterborough.ac.uk, www.ucp.ac.uk)

Recent 'press releases' available on the website.

Exam results overall College profile for last year's full and part-time courses as requested.

Map and contact details on the website.