



Association of Colleges  
International  
Charter

Becoming a Charter College

The Association of Colleges (AoC) is proud of the excellence and commitment Colleges bring to their international work.

The AoC International Charter embodies the unique qualities of UK Colleges, presenting the sector's work to key domestic and international stakeholders and ensuring Colleges maximise their international opportunities.

### **Why a Charter?**

The reputation of UK education, training and qualifications provides Colleges with new opportunities as they look to develop their commercial interests and enhance their students' learning experience.

Crucial to this, is the international reputation of UK Colleges with overseas governments, agencies, students and other stakeholders.

The AoC International Charter will enable Colleges to demonstrate their commitment to the provision of a high quality service and an ethical approach to all areas of their international activity.

Colleges signing up to the Charter will demonstrate the quality of their international provision against four key commitments:

***Commitment 1:*** Demonstrate commitment to, and support for, international work through management structure

***Commitment 2:*** Demonstrate commitment to international work through the development of a robust international/global strategic plan

***Commitment 3:*** Assure the quality of services to international learners, clients and partners

***Commitment 4:*** Promote an ethical and inclusive approach to all its international activities

## **Benefits of membership**

- Significant added value to Colleges via a widely recognised Charter Mark
- A blueprint for good practice to help Colleges shape their international offer
- Access to a community of Colleges that priorities excellence in their international delivery via regular Charter meetings organised by AoC
- A rigorous and comprehensive review conducted by professional reviewers that will allow Colleges to measure their international provision
- The opportunity to join AoC-led international events, such as study tours and inward delegations
- Use of the International Charter logo and promotional material
- Opportunity to promote your provision to international partners via AoC's International Charter website
- Preferential delegate rates for AoC international training and events
- Support and guidance from AoC's International team

## **Who should apply?**

- Colleges that have a strong and strategic commitment to delivering international excellence regardless of the extent of the operation or its maturity
- Any College keen to promote the quality of their international provision
- Colleges who want to join an international community of equally committed organisations
- Colleges that want to use the Charter as a framework for, and an aid to, strategic planning in relation to their international activity and as a mechanism for quality improvement
- Colleges that want to work closely with the AoC on developing a UK wide approach to the FE sector's international delivery

## The Commitments in detail

### *Commitment 1*

*The College demonstrates its commitment to, and support for, international work through its management structure which will include:*

1. A policy statement for international work approved by the governing body which reflects the core principles of the Charter
2. Clearly designated, managerial strategic responsibility for international work
3. An international/global strategy and a three year development plan, which is approved, reviewed and monitored against agreed performance indicators by the Executive and Governing Body

### *Commitment 2*

*The College demonstrates its commitment to its international work through the development of a robust international/global strategic plan which:*

1. Prioritises the target areas for development, including the development of international partnerships
2. Has developed in consultation with internal and external partners and relevant stakeholders
3. Supports the economic and social development of the College and its wider community
4. Promotes for international working only those areas of provision which have been graded as 'satisfactory' or higher, via the external inspection process applicable to the UK nation in which the College is located
5. Provides opportunities for home student community to develop their knowledge and understanding of other cultures
6. Seeks to disseminate the benefits of working internationally across the College, ultimately embedding an international dimension within all curriculum areas

### ***Commitment 3***

***The College assures the quality of its services to international learners, clients and partners by:***

1. Applying the same rigorous internal quality assurance processes to international work as it does to its provision for UK learners
2. Including within its annual self-assessment report all international activities, whether carried out at home or abroad
3. Ensuring that all members of staff engaged in activities with international students, clients and partners are appropriately experienced, aware of cultural sensitivities and supported by relevant professional development and training

***And where applicable to specific activities***

4. Providing dedicated support for all overseas students attending the College
5. Ensuring that the College has the capability and the capacity to deliver a high level of expertise and to make available necessary resources, before committing to the special projects, consultancy services and offshore programmes
6. Operating robust processes for supporting, monitoring, quality assuring and evaluating off-site activities carried out by partners under franchise, agency or other types of sub-contracting or collaborative arrangements

### ***Commitment 4***

***The College promotes an ethical and inclusive approach to all its international activities through:***

1. A marketing strategy and promotional materials which reflect high standards of accuracy and integrity
2. Celebrating and valuing the diversity of cultures brought to the College community, upholding at all times, the College's policy for equal opportunities in relation to race, nationality, religion or belief, gender, disability, age and sexual orientation
3. A student centred approach to international recruitment which is focused on the individual's abilities, personal learning goals and career plans
4. Ensuring that all international partnership activities are undertaken in a context of mutual respect and mutual learning

### **How much does it cost?**

There are two separate costs associated with International Charter membership:

1. A fee of £2,500 to undergo a Charter Review. A College should undergo a Charter Review once every three years in order to continue using the Charter Mark
2. An annual subscription fee of £2,500. The first payment will be requested upon successful completion of the review

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