

TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY

ACCESS AGREEMENT 2011-12

a) Level of fees

In light of the recent announcements about the future of student funding, this Access Agreement will cover a one year period for students entering the University in 2011/12.

Our primary target over the period of the Access Agreement is to maintain full time undergraduate recruitment at a level consistent with the 'cap' and continuing to expand part time recruitment (particularly through Foundation Degrees and the new campus in Darlington), postgraduate recruitment (both part time and full time), and overseas recruitment.

For students entering in 2011/12 the University proposes to charge £3,375 p.a. tuition fees for all full-time, HEFCE funded undergraduate provision (i.e. delivered directly at the University or indirectly through partnership arrangements).

Students who are away from University on a scheduled work placement as part of a sandwich course will be charged a tuition fee of £844 for that year.

The University will maintain tuition fees for part-time courses at an appropriate level. Students on unemployment benefits will continue to receive tuition-free entry.

It is proposed that the fee levels will rise in line with inflation for students entering in 2011.

b) Bursaries and other financial support

The University will provide a Bursary for students entering in 2011/12.

Income Related Bursaries

The University will continue to offer Bursaries directed at those from less affluent backgrounds.

- For students with a household income of £31,000 p.a. or less the bursary will be £500 per year of study.
- Students who come to the University from a care background will be given an additional bursary of £1,075 per year of study.

These bursaries will be payable to all full-time home and EU students who are liable for tuition fees at the full rate of £3,375 and who meet the above criteria. All bursaries will be paid in cash and it is proposed that these bursaries will rise in line with inflation throughout that period.

The household income used to determine bursary allocations will be taken directly from the income provided for the assessment of student support funding provided through the HEBSS system.

The bursary scheme ensures that the income threshold is in line with the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) scheme. This allows the University to deliver a clear and simple message to students about receipt of a bursary long before they enter Higher Education. Where a student's household income has changed since the assessment for EMA, the University will honour the commitment to giving the student a bursary as long as they can provide evidence of previous receipt of EMA.

c) Widening participation and outreach activities

Throughout the first five years of the Access Agreement the University has successfully maintained its position by continuing to encourage the engagement of students from socially disadvantaged and low participation areas in further and higher education. Appendix 1 outlines the activities and initiatives the University is delivering as part of its ongoing commitment to widening participation. This comprehensive range of activities includes the outreach work described in the previous Access Agreements in addition to the extensive on-campus programme of pre-entry events which include information, advice and guidance on tuition fees, bursaries and scholarships.

The pre-entry activities of the University also reflect the increased range of widening participation activity relating to progression through the workplace, and progress has been made to embed this particular aspect of the university's work. The Summer University Programme, which continues to engage adult learners in higher education, neatly dovetails into the Adult Passport Scheme to support adult learners transition to higher education.

The Retention Support Officers have developed best practice to ensure a successful transition for groups of students currently underrepresented in higher education. This work ensures that the University remains aware of, and responsive to, the particular needs of students from non-traditional backgrounds.

The University has a mature strategic Higher Education Business Partnership and sees this partnership as central to widening participation in the region. The development of HE learning centres within partner colleges provides an accessible 'first step' into Higher Education. We have evidence that this strategy is widening participation, both in encouraging less confident students to benefit from the more secure and accessible environment of their local FE college as well as our growing ability to reach into sectors such as the workforce where progression opportunities have been made available through the development of foundation degrees.

d) Communication to prospective students

The University will continue to ensure that all prospective students are informed of the aggregate amount of fees that the institution will charge for the completion of the course.

The University intends that its bursary scheme will be straightforward and simple to understand. The University continues to employ 3 additional Advice and Guidance staff to ensure that sufficient resource is available to make sure potential applicants are aware of the schemes and how they might impact upon them.

The provision of information to students will complement the existing highly respected and successful forms of advice and guidance.

The University processes for communicating with potential applicants are through the following mechanisms.

- Information directly into schools via local, regional and national mailings for distribution to students
- Targeted applicant support communications via the web and email
- Information and events targeted at professionals in the advice and guidance and subject specialists (Heads of Sixth Forms/Heads of Careers/Subject Teachers)
- Face to face activities through the recruitment team at Higher Education Fairs, Parent's Evenings and Careers and Options events – locally, regionally and nationally
- Standard publications which reach a wide audience e.g. prospectus and newsletters, course specific information
- Web-site information – FAQs and Virtual Adviser
- A schedule of pre-entry activities delivered into schools/colleges and on-campus via our Passport Scheme e.g. Discovery Days, Lecture Series, Masterclass, Transition activities, Open Days, Applicant Open Days, Visit Days

The University has introduced a student funding element into all of these information and pre-entry activities and has enhanced its provision of individual advice and guidance to applicants through the extension of its financial advice services. This provides additional information about the costs of study (including tuition and living costs), the availability of funding to support study and support in developing money management skills.

e) Total amount to be spent on access measures

There will be additional expenditure on continuing outreach activity of £450,000 over the period of this agreement funded from additional fees income.

This expenditure will be on:

- Funding existing raising aspirations and widening participation activities (i.e. initiatives such as Meteor, Passport and Summer University)
- Extension and development of further specific measures to encourage mature students;
- Continued staffing costs associated with the provision of additional student support and guidance
- Other marketing and advice/guidance activities prior to 2011/12.

- Supporting work to communicate information about funding and studying to potential applicants and their influencers
- Developing support and transition arrangements for care leavers
- Two additional student advisors within the University's Student Services Department who are responsible for advising students and administering the bursary/scholarship scheme.
- One post with responsibility to disseminate the details of the changes to student funding and the potential benefits of the Teesside proposals.
- 6 Retention Support Officers to build upon the University's successful research and activity in transition management into Higher Education. In addition to work in supporting applicants through the application and admissions process, these new posts will enhance the student support experience throughout their studies at the University.
- The investment of £170k p.a. of the University's additional fee income to support its work in widening participation/raising aspiration initiatives (Meteor, Student Ambassadors and Passport).

The University adds a significant amount of other funds and resources to this area of activity to complement the allocation from additional fee income, as set out in our Strategic Assessment of Widening Participation.

Summary data of estimated income and costs associated with the implementation of the Fees and Bursary Strategy 2011/12

	Year 1 (2011/12)	
	Est Students	Income
<u>Variable Fee Income</u>		
Total Income from Variable Fees	5,626	11,420,780
<u>Bursary Strategy Costs</u>		
Pre 2010 System		
<u>Bursaries for less affluent students</u>		
Residual income of £25,000pa or less (1,075 in 2011/12)	783	842,065
2010 System		
<u>Bursaries for less affluent students</u>		
Residual income £31,000pa or less (£750pa)	964	742,190
2011 System		
<u>Bursaries for less affluent students</u>		
Residual income £31,000pa or less (£500pa)	1,088	543,864
<u>Care Leavers Bursary</u>		
(£1,075 in 2011/12, £1,100 in 2012/12, £1,125 in 2013/14)	30	32,250
<u>Scholarships up to £1,000 p.a. (all UK/EU FT students</u>		
From low participation neighbourhoods*		108,000
Funding to support communication and advice and guidance work		120,000
Funding to support raising aspirations/widening participation activity		330,000
Sub Total		2,718,369
Excess of Income over Cost		8,701,161
Costs a % of increased variable fee income		23.80%

Assumptions

1. Numbers of students likely to receive bursaries in each category are estimates based on current profile
2. FT home undergraduate recruitment to remain static
3. Attrition rates included
4. The criteria for qualification for a bursary will be applied equally to all home and EU students.
5. The University has assumed that a 60% the funding that is made available for Scholarships will directly support students from low participation neighbourhoods.

f) Objectives and Milestones

Objectives

The University has continued to exceed the HEFCE national and location adjusted benchmarks and has a national reputation for its widening participation and outreach activities.

The University established as its primary objective in the first Access Agreement, the maintenance of the nature and characteristics of its then existing student population. This objective recognised the University's sustained outstanding record on widening participation and that increased investment by other Universities in Widening Participation activities might have a direct impact on the University's ability to sustain or further enhance our recruitment from these groups. The objective of maintaining a performance that was better than HEFCE performance Indicators in this area was realistic. That objective remains relevant for this new access agreement.

Performance Targets (linked to HEFCE Performance Indicators)

To maintain the existing differential based on the 2002/3 HEFCE indicators between the actual level achieved and our performance benchmark in

- T1B: Young Full Time Undergraduates from Socio Economic Groups 4-7: (2002/3 +4.9%, 2005/6 +8.4%, 2007/8 +9.1%, 2008/9 +8.5%)
- T1B: Young Full Time Undergraduates from low participation neighbourhoods: (2002/3 +10.2%, 2005/6 + 11.6%, 2007/8 +13.6%, 2008/9 +14.5%)
- T2A: Mature Full Time Undergraduate entrants (% of mature entrants who are mature with no previous experience of HE from low participation neighbourhoods): (2002/3 +8.2%, 2005/6 + 11.6%, 2007/8 +13.1%), 2008/9 +11.9%

Milestones for Outreach Activity

- To continue to extend membership of the University's Passport scheme within the North East and/or North Yorkshire regions each year over the period covered by the Access Agreement.
- To maintain the current level of on campus raising aspirations and widening participation activity and incorporate a student 'awareness, advice and guidance' funding element within those activities (currently 250 per year).
- To offer student funding 'awareness, advice and guidance' information events to approximately 250 institutions per year.
- To continue to offer at least 50% of the University's major feeder institutions the opportunity to select from a range of student funding 'awareness, advice and guidance' information events to be delivered off-site.
- To maintain an Adult Passport Scheme and offer the opportunity of membership of this scheme to a minimum of 750 by 2011/12

- To attract a minimum of 10 care leavers annually into the University.

g) Monitoring

The University will produce a report in December of each year for inclusion in the HEFCE Annual monitoring statement of HEIs which will draw upon:-

- An analysis of the HEFCE performance indicators as identified above
- A commentary on the additional outreach activity against the defined milestones
- An analysis of the level of support given to students through the bursary strategy

The report will be presented to the Academic Board, the Corporate Management Committee and a summary report to the Board of Governors.

Appendix 1

STUDENT LIFE CYCLE AND WIDENING PARTICIPATION

ACTIVITY

Stage	Young People	Adult Learners/Part-time Learners
Aspiration Raising	<p>Meteor Scheme - Year 6-9 (17 Primary Schools, 11 Secondary Schools – Tees Valley)</p> <p>Students /Speakers into Schools (Outreach - North East & North Yorkshire Secondary Schools & Colleges)</p> <p>Mentoring Schemes - years 7 - 13 – Tees Valley wide – Schools, Sixth Forms & Further Education Colleges</p> <p>AimHigher regional/national activities for widening participation</p> <p>Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics – STEM interventions across all Key Stages</p> <p>AimHigher HEFCE HE Summer Schools – Year 10</p> <p>Master Classes</p> <p>University Visits</p> <p>Passport Scheme - post-16 Tees Valley, North East & North Yorkshire</p>	<p>Subject Tasters (Discovery Days)</p> <p>Partnership with FE Sector - tasters, small bites of learning delivered off campus</p> <p>Workforce development briefings for employers/employees</p> <p>Employer/Employee development days</p> <p>Advice and Guidance to Adults as an integral part of Adult Passport and subject tasters (Discovery Days) or Open Days and other pre entry events such as Summer University</p> <p>Outreach work by university staff and student ambassadors</p> <p>Open days and outreach visits to colleges with the North East</p> <p>Networking with partners & learners in the community through the work of the Institute of Digital Innovation</p> <p>Adult Passport Scheme – Input into Careers Education programmes for Adult Learners in local further education colleges</p>
Pre-entry	<p>Subject tasters – Discovery Days - all disciplines</p> <p>Subject Enrichment Days</p> <p>Passport Scheme - early application/advice on application</p> <p>Open Days and Visits Applicant Preview Days</p> <p>Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics interventions – to support HE applications</p> <p>Higher Education Fairs and input into Careers Education Programmes</p> <p>One to one advice and guidance through one stop shop in Student Services</p> <p>Discovery Days (Subject Tasters)</p> <p>Speakers into Schools</p>	<p>Full and Part time Open Days - subject sessions plus bursary and scholarship information, advice and guidance</p> <p>Applicant Preview Days (TOPS)</p> <p>Work-based learning skills modules</p> <p>Make your Learning Count – introduction to APEL</p> <p>Spring and Summer University - HE level short courses, skills based and subject introductory programmes</p> <p>HE input into colleges progression events</p> <p>University visits for students making transition from FE to HE</p> <p>One to one advice and guidance through One Stop Shop in Student Services</p> <p>Discovery Days (Subject Tasters)</p>