



UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

ACCESS AGREEMENT

2012/13 Entrants

(as at November 2011)

1. Tuition Fees

For 2012/13 entrants the University's proposed standard tuition fee for home/EU students on full-time and sandwich undergraduate degree programmes will be £8500 p.a. The proposed fee for Foundation Degrees and HNC/D courses taught at the University is £7,000 p.a. Proposed tuition fees for Foundation Degrees and HNC/Ds students taught in partner colleges have not yet been finalised and will be notified as soon as possible. These will not exceed £6,000 p.a. The fee for 2012/13 entrants onto Foundation Year programmes (whether taught at the University or in partner colleges) will not exceed £6,000 p.a.

The University expects to revise tuition fees annually for 2012/13 entrants, in line with inflation.

NB: Courses funded by the TDA and the NHS are not covered by this Agreement.

2. Expenditure on additional access, retention and employability measures

The University's entrant profile currently exceeds the national benchmarks on all widening participation measures (state school, lower socio-economic groups, low participation neighbourhoods). The University intends to maintain this profile, and broadly current intake levels.

We have been making good progress towards the national benchmarks on student retention and success, and will continue to focus our activities in this area. Our students have been successful in finding employment after graduating, and our aim is to continue to meet or exceed the national benchmark, notwithstanding the currently difficult economic climate and the particular West Midlands context, and support for enterprise and employability is a major strand of our new Strategic Plan.

In 2012/13 the University plans to spend just over 26% of its additional tuition fee income on Access Agreement measures (including matching the National Scholarship Programme, and providing fee waivers for students on progression to the next year of study, and successful completion of their course).

In 2012/13 the University's additional expenditure on current and previous Access Agreement commitments, for full-time and part-time students, will include:

Outreach (pre-entry) measures	
Start Right bursaries for continuing students	£1.83m
Academies and Trusts Support Unit	£250k in 2011/12 £300k in 2012/13
Student Recruitment Steering Group initiatives to support additional outreach and applicant support work	£140k in 2011/12 £140k in 2012/13

Retention and employability (post-entry) measures	
Continuing Achievement Reward (retrospective fee waiver on successful re-enrolment the following year).	The cost to the University for OFFA countable students is estimated to be just under £2m at the end of 2012/13.
IT project to join up information to personal tutors to identify at risk students.	£50k in 2012/13
Additional 'student support graduate interns', building on recent pilot project	£100k p.a.
Reducing additional charges to students on courses with specific additional costs.	£25k in 2011/12 £50k p.a. from 2012/13
<p>A range of new 'Employability' initiatives, initially pilot schemes, including:</p> <p>No tuition fee for sandwich year</p> <p>Delivering a free new 'Employability Award' for students alongside their main programme (pilot)</p> <p>Delivering a Postgraduate Certificate in Employment and Enterprise (no fee to student if successfully completed)</p> <p>'Employability' graduate interns, offering advice to unemployed graduates identified from DLHE survey</p> <p>Enterprise and incubation programme, building on the existing SPEED project, which provides guidance, training and support during study and after graduation.</p>	<p>£0 in 2012/13; £250k p.a. by 2014-15</p> <p>£60k in 2011/12 £60k p.a. from 2012/13 (subject to evaluation of pilot)</p> <p>£50k in 2011/12 £50k p.a. from 2012/13 (subject to evaluation of pilot)</p> <p>£40k in 2011/12 £40k p.a. from 2012/13 (subject to evaluation of pilot)</p> <p>£50k in 2011/12 £150k p.a. from 2012/13 (subject to evaluation of pilot).</p>

These activities will supplement existing University-funded and externally funded activities such as:

Outreach (pre-entry) measures	
Frank Buttle Trust Accreditation	We have achieved the Quality Mark for care leavers, and will continue to offer £500 p.a. bursaries to care leavers. We currently have 150 undergraduates from a care background (2010/11).
Strategic support for educational development and delivery	For example, the University is the regional hub for co-ordinating the Teach First initiative, and co-ordinates all newly qualified teacher recruitment on behalf of the four Black Country boroughs. It has also recently secured Arts Council funding (£340k over three years) to develop creative and arts education in the region.
Collaboration with FE Colleges	The University is committed to sustaining and nurturing these partnerships to complement its own provision.
Sustaining Lifelong Learning Network initiatives	Successful LLN initiatives will be sustained after the cessation of earmarked funding.
Retention (post-entry) measures	
Redesigned undergraduate curriculum incorporating three key graduate attributes: digital literacy; entrepreneurship and global citizenship	New 'Learning Works' portfolio implementation completed in 2011/12.
'Back on course': the University is participating in this HEFCE project.	Scheme whereby early leavers are contacted and advised of options for return to study.
Institute of Learning Enhancement projects building on the legacy of our HEFCE Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, which focused on enabling achievement by students from under-represented backgrounds.	
Employability (post-entry) measures	
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs)	The University now delivers the highest number of KTPs in the UK (currently 35) enabling graduates to gain real experience working on a specific project in a company, typically for 2 years.

Graduate Internships	The University arranges over 100 internships annually through the Graduate Advantage (West Midlands) scheme and is now the regional co-ordinator for the national STEP programme. 73% of internships have directly developed into full-time graduate jobs.
KITTS (Knowledge Innovation Technology Transfer Scheme)	KITTS matches the skills of recently qualified graduates with the specific needs of small and medium sized enterprises in the West Midlands through 10 to 12 week placements.
Institute of Directors scheme	The University is partnering with the Institute of Directors to provide an opportunity for experienced business people to mentor final year University undergraduates and provide valuable advice on their future career developments.

3. Additional Financial Support for Students

University of Wolverhampton National Scholarships

The University will participate in the National Scholarship Programme.

In 2012/13 University of Wolverhampton National Scholarships will be awarded to 420* entrants to full-time courses where the tuition fee is £8000 or more. To be eligible for consideration, candidates must:

- Be confirmed by the Student Loans Company not later than July 2012 as having a residual income of £25,000 or less.
- Have firmly accepted a conditional or unconditional offer of a place at the University of Wolverhampton by July 2012.
- Have achieved a minimum 280 UCAS Tariff points or equivalent.

Applicants will be asked to confirm that they wish to be considered for a Scholarship. In the event that there are more eligible applicants than scholarships available, they will be awarded on the basis of the date of receipt of UCAS application, and awarded to the first 420 applicants.

University of Wolverhampton National Scholarships will take the following form.

In a student's first year of study:

- A reduction of the tuition fee in 2012/13 by £1000.
- A cash payment of £1000.

- Either a reduction of at least £1000 on a place in University accommodation, or a further £1000 fee reduction.

National Scholarship holders will also be eligible for additional tuition fee waivers of £1000 on successful completion of their second year (and third year, if on a four year programme), and £1000 on successful completion of their third year, under the Continuing Achievement Reward Scheme described below.

University of Wolverhampton Continuing Achievement Reward Scheme

To support the retention and progression of students, UK and EU entrants in 2012/13 who are paying a tuition fee of £8000 or more will be eligible for a retrospective £1000 waiver on their first year fee when they re-enrol for the second year; a further waiver of £1000 on re-enrolment for the third year; and a final further waiver of £1000 on successful completion of their degree. National Scholarship Programme holders will be eligible for this award on re-enrolment for their third year and on completion.

Start Right Bursaries for continuing students in 2012/13

The University's existing Start Right bursary scheme will continue for eligible students who commenced their courses before 2012/13.

*The exact number has yet to be finalised by the Government.

4. Targets and Milestones

Detailed targets are set out in Annex B. In summary:

Access targets

- To maintain the current number of entrants.
- To maintain above benchmark performance for the admission of students from state schools, lower socio-economic groups, and low participation neighbourhoods.

Retention and achievement targets

- To exceed benchmark for the retention of students in each category identified in the HESA performance indicators (i.e. young and mature, and by neighbourhood participation markers).
- To increase the proportion of students who complete first degree courses to benchmark levels by 2014/15.
- To increase the proportion of students awarded first class or upper second class degrees to the sector average by 2014/15.

Employability targets

- To maintain benchmark performance for graduate employment
- To exceed the UK average graduate employment rate by 2014/15.
- To achieve 95% graduate employment or further study in the longer term.

5. Monitoring and evaluation

The targets and milestones will be incorporated into the University's Key Performance Indicator set. These indicators are reviewed annually by relevant University committees, including the Student Affairs Committee, Academic Board and the Board of Governors, all of which include student representatives.

Overall managerial responsibility for the University's Access Agreement lies with the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs).

6. Provision of information to prospective students

The University undertakes to provide the information specified in the OFFA Guidance circular (March 2011/1), including the provision of information to UCAS and the Student Loans Company, as required to populate their applicant-facing web services.

The University will use the following forms of communication:

- A published guidance leaflet 'Money Matters'
- The University's undergraduate prospectus
- University 'Money Matters' web pages
- Briefing guides available from the University Gateway service
- Briefing sessions at five open days p.a.
- Briefing sessions for schools' and colleges' careers advisors

A detailed communications plan will be developed in the light of guidance published by UCAS and the SLC.

7. Summary

The challenge for the University of Wolverhampton is to maintain its existing excellent widening participation profiles and recruitment of students from disadvantaged groups under new market conditions, and to continue to improve student retention and employability.

Annex A: Access agreements for 2012-13: OFFA template for mainstream ITT providers (HEIs and FECs)

Name of institution	University of Wolverhampton
---------------------	-----------------------------

Please complete this template, and the Excel return at Annex B, and return to us using the HEFCE extranet by 30 March 2012.

Where your arrangements are the same as for other courses, we would encourage you to cross-refer to your main agreement wherever possible, rather than seeking to replicate information from that main document here.

Part one: Introduction to your agreement

A. Your current position in relation to access and, where appropriate, retention

For undergraduate ITT (BEd), all aspects of our current Access Agreement apply, and these students are subsumed within our targets and milestones. Our emphasis is on (i) maintaining the current number of entrants and above benchmark performance for the admission of students from under-represented groups; and (ii) improving the academic and employment outcomes for these students (e.g. retention, completion, % good degrees, graduate employment).

For postgraduate ITT (PGCE Secondary), we plan to maintain our strong performance of recruitment of 'first generation' graduates and BME students.

For postgraduate ITT (PGCE Primary), we aim to increase the proportion of entrants from BME backgrounds towards the TDA target of 18%.

Part two: Fee limits, spend on access and financial support for ITT trainees

B. Fees you are proposing to charge for your ITT courses

For undergraduate ITT (BEd) and postgraduate ITT (PGCE) the tuition fee will be £8500 p.a., in line with other undergraduate degrees offered by the University. The fee will be revised annually, in line with inflation.

C. Amounts of additional fee income to be spent on access measures

Assuming that the NSP programme will be extended to undergraduate ITT students, for undergraduate ITT we estimate that we will spend at least 25% of our additional fee income on access measures in 2012/13.

D. Financial support for trainees

Assuming that the National Scholarship programme will extend to undergraduate ITT programmes, we expect financial support to be the same as outlined in our main Access Agreement, ie: that we will offer a National Scholarship programme and a Continuing Achievement Reward programme.

National Scholarships will be offered to entrants who are (a) confirmed by the SLC not later than July 2012 as having a residual income of £25k p.a. or less; have firmly accepted a conditional or unconditional offer of a place at the University of Wolverhampton by July 2012; and have achieved a minimum 280 UCAS Tariff points or equivalent.

In the student's first year of study the National Scholarships will take the form of a reduction of the tuition fee by £1000; a cash payment of £1000; and either a reduction of at least £1000 on a place in University accommodation, or a further £1000 fee reduction. National Scholarship holders will also be eligible for additional tuition fee waivers of £1000 on successful completion of their second year and £1000 on successful completion of their third year, under the Continuing Achievement Reward Scheme described below.

The Continuing Achievement Reward Scheme supports the retention and progression of students. UK and EU entrants who are paying a tuition fee of £8000 or more will be eligible for a retrospective £1000 waiver on their first year fee when they re-enrol for the second year; a further waiver of £1000 on re-enrolment for the third year; and a final further waiver of £1000 on successful completion of their degree. National Scholarship Programme holders will be eligible for this award on re-enrolment for their third year and on completion.

The arrangements above are exactly the same as in our main Access Agreement.

Part three: outreach and retention

E. Outreach and retention work

All activities described in our main Access Agreement apply.

Part four: Targets, milestones and monitoring

F. Targets and milestones

For undergraduate ITT (BEd), all targets and milestones apply as set out in our main Access Agreement, and these students are included in the statistics used for the main targets, drawn from HESA Performance Indicators.

For postgraduate (PGCE) ITT we aim to continue to recruit a high proportion of 'first generation' graduates (i.e. higher than 50%) and to maintain recruitment of BME students at or above the TDA target of 18%.

G. Your monitoring arrangements

Monitoring will be as per our main Access Agreement.

Part five: Information to students

H. Provision of information to trainees

The University undertakes to provide the information specified by OFFA.

