

LIPA

THE LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE FOR PERFORMING ARTS

ACCESS AGREEMENT

CONTEXT

The Liverpool Institute for Performing (LIPA) was founded in 1990 and began teaching students in 1996. We began as a private higher education institute; we were designated on 1st August 2006.

There are approximately 480 HEFCE-funded students and a further 144 international students on undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes

Admission to the higher education degree programmes of the teaching portfolio is based on the candidate's ability in their chosen programme, together with: educational attainment, experience, interdisciplinary experience/interest, communication skills and enterprise.

These are assessed using the candidate's application forms and audition/interview events. This is carefully explained in our prospectus and on the website.

Entry to the 2005-06 session shows:

	Number of Applications	Number of places, including internationals	Invited to audition/interview
Acting	1689	32	1548
Dance	712	24	472
Management	221	26	117
Music	919	53	287
Sound Technology	462	34	132
Theatre and Performance Design	107	19	62
Theatre and Performance Technology	157	29	77

From the start, we wanted to serve local and regional objectives, particularly since Merseyside ranked low against economic benchmarks. Activities have

included a variety of outreach programmes, including the delivery of New Deal for Musicians programmes and support for new businesses in the creative sector. In 2003 we launched a part-time performing arts academy for four to nineteen year olds. We have run various performing arts summer schools for young people; some in collaboration with partner organisations. These have included a gifted and talented summer school in collaboration with Liverpool John Moores University.

Since inception, we have been an associated college of Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU). HEFCE reporting was amalgamated with LJMU's returns. We do not at present have assigned HEFCE performance benchmarks.

FEE POLICY

Performing arts training is resource intensive and expensive. This generates some of the highest costs in the HE sector. To maintain and develop the quality of provision, particularly the student learning experience, we will be charging UK/EU students the maximum fee for all of its full time undergraduate programmes from 2006/07 onwards. This is £3,000 for 2006/07 and will rise with inflation in line with the regulations published by the government each year.

This table shows how much additional income is expected to be generated from these increased fees:

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Expected Additional Income	340,200	621,000	912,600	912,600	912,600

BURSARIES

We want students to participate in higher education regardless of financial circumstances. To achieve this, we will be introducing a new bursary scheme in and after 2006-07.

A student that is in receipt of the full Higher Education Maintenance Grant / Special Support Grant of £2,700 (as it exists for 2006/07) will be eligible for a bursary of £500.

A student that is in receipt of the partial Higher Education Maintenance Grant / Special Support Grant of £2,700 (as it exists for 2006/07) will be eligible for a bursary of £250. There is no statutory need for a bursary to be given to partially funded students.

Based on trends in our student population, 45% of full time undergraduate students would be eligible for a bursary of either £500 or £250.

Bursaries will be paid via the Banking Automated Clearing System (BACS) direct to the student's nominated bank account or by cheque. Eligible students will receive the bursary in February after their attendance is confirmed through the Higher Education Students Early Statistics (HESES) census data and the attendance confirmation report to the Student Loan

Company. Bursaries will be increased each year to reflect inflationary increases in line with fees.

The table below shows the expected cost of the new bursary scheme:

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Expected Cost of new Bursary Scheme	35,438	67,275	102,668	106,470	110,273

Provision of information for students

We provide information on financial support in our prospectus and on our website. This topic is covered in the welcome and overview talk to students and their parents at open day events and can be provided to all school parties who visit (discussed with school co-ordinator if this is something they would like included before they arrive). All students who are offered a place and accept a place receive comprehensive information about financial support. All returning students are also sent up-to-date financial advice in the lead up to enrolment each year.

OUTREACH

We hold seven open day events each year, which are publicised to secondary schools with sixth forms throughout the UK (over 5,000 schools).

We also facilitate a number of school visits each year (in 2005/06 six visits were facilitated). These usually take place between January and June. Some of these are in conjunction with regional Aim Higher initiatives (e.g. visit from 60 students from Cheshire and Warrington Aim Higher group and 80 students from Cumbria Aim Higher group).

Individual schedules for each Aim Higher or school/college visit are discussed in depth with our contact within the school. They usually include a formal or informal presentation about LIPA, an extended building tour with student ambassadors and /or ,questions and answers sessions with student ambassadors. Some are also linked into the watching of a performance or a master class here.

All of our students' public productions are promoted to all North West secondary schools.

We introduced a specific schools matinee of one of our annual dance productions in December 2004 – also offering schools the opportunity for our dance students to visit their schools to provide a dance workshop. The matinees have been well attended each year and there has been a good uptake of workshops. The final year dancers also organise a short dance tour around the UK and publicise this to schools in the locale of each performance.

Theatre and Performance Design and Technology staff and students have also organised a number of school and college visits over the last three years.

We have also participated in a variety of European funded programmes. We were responsible for the delivery of the government's New Deal for Musicians programme for the North West Coastal Region.

MILESTONES

We have created a new Widening Participation Officer post reporting to the Director of Marketing and Student Recruitment. The successful appointee will take up the role in October 2006. The first task is to determine and agree an action plan.

The table below shows the expected cost of additional outreach activities:

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Expected Cost of Outreach Activities	40,700	54,860	61,603	64,683	67,917

Clearly there are a number of activities to consider including, but it is presently premature to report an action plan which has yet to be agreed.

Our aim will be to raise aspirations and remove obstacles to application from under-represented groups.

Currently no HEFCE performance indicators have been assigned to us. We will generate our own participation measures using, as far as possible, comparative data from the public domain. We will review progress against the most robust benchmarks we can find and implement further action. We would expect to maintain and, if possible, exceed in subsequent years the performance benchmarks established for 2007-08.

COMMUNICATION

Communication, using a variety of media, with prospective students (and indeed the world outside LIPA) is constantly reviewed and changed. Details of programme cost, the range of available financial support and indicative cost of living remain a standard feature.

MONITORING

Our senior managers will continue to receive regular reports on a range of performance indicators and an annual report on the implementation of the agreement will be made to LIPA's Council for onward transmission to the Office of Fair Access.