

ACCESS AGREEMENT, amended August 2009 – applies to new entrants commencing courses in 2010/11

Summary

The University has a diverse student population and currently meets or exceeds its benchmarks for “under-represented” groups in HE. It will seek to maintain its record of fair access and diverse admissions whilst extending its outreach activities to enable the sector as a whole to achieve increased applications from under-represented groups. The University’s Widening Participation Strategy is available at <http://www.brunel.ac.uk/about/strategy/strat/wps>.

The University has set a fee of £3290 for all Home & EU undergraduate students commencing full-time undergraduate studies in Autumn 2010 and subsequently. For students on four-year sandwich courses the fee for the sandwich year is £822. Actual fee and bursary levels will be published on the University’s website at <http://www.brunel.ac.uk>.

The University has a small number of undergraduate courses in the Arts, Health and Social Care and Sport which recruit part-time. The fee for admission to a part-time undergraduate course will be based pro rata on the enhanced fee. The University will continue to pro-rate the standard fee for those students taking only part of their programme of studies in order to redress academic failure or to make up time lost through illness.

Scholarships and bursaries will not be available to those undergraduates whose fees are funded by other agencies (eg Social Work or NHS) or where the variable tuition fee is not charged.

The University’s Access Agreement has two main strands:

- Financial support
- Regional Partnership Scholarships

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Bursaries

Bursaries will be means-tested and will normally be payable in cash in instalments. The University will rely on data to be supplied by the SLC under arrangements agreed by UUK to identify those who are eligible for bursaries.

The University will allocate £1000 pa maintenance to all Home/EU full-time undergraduate students in receipt of “full support” from their LEA/SLC, who have a household income of less than £25,000 and £500 for students in receipt of ‘partial support’ who have a household income greater than £25,001 and less than £35,000.

Scholarships

Scholarships will normally be payable in cash (or, subject to agreement, by way of credits for accommodation fees or other University facilities and services) in instalments. Normally the value of a scholarship will be fixed for the duration of the course. The initial value of scholarships will be reviewed annually.

The University will allocate up to 25 scholarships worth up to £3K a year for high performing pupils from partnership schools/colleges in six West London boroughs.

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

The University has established a Brunel Scholarships Fund with contributions from alumni, friends of the University and University staff. This fund will be open to students from all groups.

For other Scholarships and Bursaries available from Brunel University see:
<http://www.brunel.ac.uk/ugfunding>

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The University has a strong tradition of outreach activity centred on the six West London Boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon and Hounslow and has continually surpassed its benchmarks with regard to the number of students admitted from state schools and from under-represented social classes.

As a result of the additional funding the University has expanded its outreach activities to include a Mentoring office and a programme to mentor pupils in eight local schools and colleges. It has also expanded its Urban Scholars Programme for gifted and talented pupils.

The University has also chosen to develop outreach activities both with parents, focussing on raising aspirations within our local community, and by holding inspirational events for children with around 4,000 attending each year.

MILESTONES

The University's aim is to sustain its performance as measured by the percentages from the various groups identified in relevant HESA Performance Indicators.

As datasets are continually developed and improved, both nationally and within Brunel, milestones will be further refined. It is planned to undertake a major review of performance against targets in 2011.

INSTITUTIONAL MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

The Strategic Planning and Resources Committee (a joint committee of Senate and Council) has responsibility for the implementation of the Access Agreement and monitoring progress towards the strategic goals of the University and considers performance against targets through the Annual Monitoring Statement report, which is submitted to Council and to HEFCE annually.

Relevant extracts from these reports will constitute the Annual report to OFFA.