

ACCESS AGREEMENT, amended October 2006 – applies to new entrants commencing courses in 2007/8

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 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 has set a fee of £3070 for all Home & EU undergraduate students commencing full-time undergraduate studies in Autumn 2007 and subsequently. Fees and bursary levels will rise in line with inflation annually. Actual levels will be published on the University’s website at <http://www.brunel.ac.uk>.

For students on four-year sandwich courses the fee for the sandwich year will be a reduced fee of £770.

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 three main strands:

- Financial support
- Outreach
- Scholarships

Context/Milestones

In Autumn 2005 the University received 22,761 applications through UCAS from the UK and EU. It admitted over 2,900 Home/EU undergraduate students, over 500 through Clearing.

Brunel performs considerably above national norms in terms of applications from and recruitment of under-represented groups. The profile of Home/EU applicants and entrants in 2005 (national data for 2003) from under-represented groups was:

Group	Applicants %		Admissions %
	UK (2005)	BU (2006)	BU
Low socio-economic class	33	31	29
Ethnic minority	17	46	56
Disabled - not just DSA recipients		4.8	5.1
Mature	23	19	28
State School	89	92	95
Non - Tariff Scheme qualifications on entry	23		

According to HEFCE benchmarks the University's admissions profile more than meets the challenges of diversity and "widening participation".

The University has a well-established Widening Participation Office which works closely with designated schools in local boroughs with lower participation. The University is a member of the West London Aimhigher Partnership. <http://www.aimhigher.ac.uk/home/index.cfm>. The University received £20K for Aimhigher activities in London West during 2005.6.

In addition Brunel University runs the "Urban Scholars" programme for over 120 pupils aged between 12 and 16 years from 9 boroughs in London.

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

Financial Support

Bursaries Total cost approx £1M pa after 3 years

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. Bursaries will rise in line with the rate of increase in fees.

The University will allocate £305 pa maintenance to all Home/EU full-time undergraduate students receiving "full support" from their LEA/SLC.

1552 full-time undergraduate students at the University were in receipt of full support in 2004/5.

In addition, the University will allocate £205 pa to all full-time undergraduate students with a household income of between £17,911 and £30,000. Eligibility of EU students will be assessed by the Student Loans Company.

The number of such students at the University in 2004/5 was 670.

The University will set aside the sum of £120k annually to top-up (to equivalent undergraduate levels) DSA support for Brunel graduates wishing to stay on to take postgraduate study at the University.

Students admitted to a part-time undergraduate course of study will be eligible for a bursary of £150 pa if they are in receipt of appropriate income support.

Outreach Total cost approx £400k pa after 3 years

In addition to our extensive activities under our new 2006-2009 Widening Participation Strategy the University will allocate additional funding to outreach activities to encourage appropriately qualified low participation applications. The website contains full details: www.brunel.ac.uk/about/strategy/strat/wps

Key activities will be:

- Urban Scholars Programme
 - Expansion of scheme by one further cohort of 100 pupils commencing in October 2006 for four years. The Urban Scholars programme uniquely works over a four-year period (from 12 years to 16) with pupils from under represented groups who have been perceived by their teachers to have high academic potential not necessarily supported by high-test scores. The programme currently has 120 participants from nine boroughs with pupils attending ten Saturdays and an Easter/Summer School in each year of the programme. Taught by experienced University tutors, the study programme includes skills development (critical thinking, research, presentation), mathematical, scientific and technological challenges, creative writing, drama and discussion, examination techniques and interaction with successful people from the fields of medicine, law, and business as well as careers advisors;

- Brunel Undergraduate Mentoring Schemes:
 - a) a mentoring programme targeting hard to reach, lower achieving Widening Participation students and gifted and talented students under-represented in HE or on specific programmes of study. Undergraduates will work chiefly with 14-18 year-olds in targeted schools/colleges in Low Participation Boroughs to raise aspirations/attainment;
 - b) Level 2 and 3 undergraduates will mentor Level 1 students in targeted subject areas within the University;
 - c) Expansion of existing National Consortium Mentoring Programme for Level 3 ethnic minority undergraduates;
 - d) New programme for Level 3 Widening Participation students involving public and private sector mentors.

Establishment of mentoring office - appointment of a Mentoring Co-ordinator and administrative staff to recruit, train and support mentors, monitor and evaluate outcomes to ensure progression to Brunel, improve retention and enhance employability.

- Work with parents: raising the profile of HE for parents in West London
 - Annual conference for parents;
 - Focused events/HE awareness visits at Brunel;
- Additional expertise and training in central Recruitment and Admissions Offices, to include liaison with schools and colleges
- Post-entry support in maths and statistics for under-represented groups, working with existing Effective Learning Advice Service in the University's Learning & Teaching Development Unit.

Scholarships Total cost approx £1.9m pa (max) after 3 years

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.

- Up to 150 scholarships at up to £3k pa for under-represented groups. Criteria (variable by subject annually) include minimum 300 UCAS tariff points or IB score of at least 30. Full details for a particular year of entry see website: <http://www.brunel.ac.uk/ugfunding>
- Non-tariff scheme entrants: 2 scholarships per Academic School of the University, each worth up to £3k pa in years 2 and 3 for high performance in year 1 (for those in receipt of a minimum of 50% LEA/SLC support);
- Partnership School/College Scholarships in six West London boroughs: up to 25 scholarships worth up to £3K a year for high performing pupils.

Communication, Marketing & Publicity Total cost approx £200K pa

The University provides advice and support to applicants and current students through its website, a dedicated Student Centre, the External Relations department, and the Union of Brunel Students' Advice and Representation Centre (ARC). The ARC is accredited by the Community Legal Service and is registered with the Consumer Support Network.

- Frequently updated folder and leaflets on scholarships, bursaries and fees for UG students, cost of living estimates and budgeting tips, as well as UBS/Registry leaflets on financial advice and support;
- Major website resource, including online funding calculator, application form for scholarships, and podcasts at staggered intervals about scholarships and how to apply for them;
- Mailouts to schools to coincide with briefing sessions on the UCAS application process and to applicants throughout the recruitment cycle;
- Talks at Open Days, UCAS Days and in schools about funding and fees;
- Dedicated phone helpline to answer funding queries from potential applicants;
- Support staff for administration of the bursary and scholarship schemes during and after the applications process;
- Series of awards ceremonies for scholarships recipients.

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 further developed, both nationally and within Brunel, intermediate milestones will be further refined. It is planned to undertake a major review of performance against targets in 2009.

Bursaries

The University, through its Admissions Committee, track applications to HE and to Brunel both in general and in targeted groups/areas.

Urban Scholars will be tracked through the 16-19 phase of their education.

Outreach:

- By July in Year 1 100 participating undergraduates will have worked with 275 school, college and Level 1 students. This will rise to 150 and 300 in Year 2 and 200 and 325 in Year 3;
- Audit trails of school/college students participating in the mentoring programme will measure their participation at 16+, 17+ and 18+ and gather evidence of their attitudes towards participation in HE;
- In Year 1 40 Level 3 undergraduates will be mentored by staff working in public and private sector organisations;
- By July in each year a conference for parents and a minimum of two other focused events for parents will have been held;
- By September 2006 an additional 100 pupils will have been nominated by their schools to participate in the Urban Scholars programme for a four year period;

Scholarships:

In any one year all scholarships will be taken up by students who have met the criteria set by the University.

Institutional Monitoring arrangements

Senate has established an Admissions Committee (in accordance with the recommendations of the Schwartz Report on Fair Admissions) which will report at least annually to Senate on the implementation of the Access Agreement.

The Strategic Planning and Review Committee (a joint committee of Senate and Council) has responsibility for 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 each July.

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

Summary of Fees to be charged (N.B. inflation rates will be applied annually)

Mode of study	F'dation Year*	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total	MEng**
UG Full-time	1535	3070	3070	3070	N/A	£9,210	3070
UG Thick SW	1535	3070	3070	770	3070	£9,980 - £11,515	3070
UG Thin SW	1535	3070	1920	1920	3070	£9,980 - £11,515-	3070

*Engineering and IT entry only (lower entry standard or additional science needs)

** Undergraduate Master of Engineering

The University's Students' Union provides advice leaflets (online and on paper) for students, covering such issues as health, accommodation and living costs.

<http://www.brunelstudents.com>

The Union currently advises international students to budget for £7.5K expenditure pa (excluding tuition). The University has a "Job Shop" on site and placements also enable students to earn while studying.

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. The University has earmarked up to £1.3m pa of the above balance for other scholarships should the Brunel Scholarship Fund be insufficient to meet its commitments.

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