

**ACCESS AGREEMENT, amended January 2006 – applies to new entrants commencing courses in 2006/7**

**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 £3000 for all Home & EU undergraduate students commencing full-time undergraduate studies in Autumn 2006 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 £700. For students on thin sandwich courses the fee level will be £350 for each of the two periods of placement.

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.

The University’s Access Agreement has three main strands:

- Financial support
- Outreach
- Scholarships

***Context/Milestones***

In Autumn 2004 the University received 20,497 applications through UCAS from the UK and EU. It admitted over 2,800 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 2004 (national data for 2003) from under-represented groups was:

Group	Applicants %		Admissions %
	UK (2003)	BU (2004)	BU
Low socio-economic class	<b>20</b> n/k = 21%	<b>21</b> n/k =25%	23
Ethnic minority	<b>16</b> n/k=8%	<b>46</b> n/k=6%	54
Disabled - not just DSA recipients		<b>4</b>	4
Mature		<b>13</b>	18
State School		<b>82</b> n/k = 10%	82
Non - Tariff Scheme qualifications on entry		<b>N/K</b>	23

*Note: Home intake = 98.8%; EU = 1.1%; Channel Is = 0.1%*

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 £25.5K for Aimhigher activities in London West during 2003/4.

In addition Brunel University runs the "Urban Scholars" programme for over 160 pupils aged between 12 and 16 years from 9 boroughs in London.

The University and the HSBC Education Trust are sponsors for a new 16-19 City Academy to be based on the University's Uxbridge campus. The DfES is conducting a feasibility study from which the report is due in Autumn 2005.

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 £300 pa maintenance to all Home full-time undergraduate students receiving "full support" from their LEA/SLC.

*2800 full-time undergraduate students at the University were in receipt of full support in 2003/4.*

In addition, the University will allocate £200 pa to all full-time undergraduate students receiving “partial support” of not less than £750 pa.

*The number of students at the University in receipt of such support in 2003/4 was 500.*

We will develop proxies for the UK means-testing system in order to provide similar levels of support to EU students.

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 continuing Widening Participation Strategy (*Widening Participation Strategy submitted to HEFCE, attached for OFFA but not available as part of this Agreement*), the University will allocate additional funding to outreach activities to encourage appropriately qualified low participation applications.

Key activities will be:

- Brunel HSBC Academy: mentoring scheme; outreach and liaison work (*from 2008/9*)  
The University intends to open the Brunel/HSBC Education Trust Academy on its Uxbridge campus in September 2008. Currently in the feasibility phase the Academy will provide for up to 800 16-19 year olds who might otherwise not continue in education and from areas of London where participation rates at 16+ and 18+ are low. Key aspects of the co-location will be shared facilities for sport, the arts, catering and general seminars, introducing the Academy students to working and living in a university environment. All Academy students will have undergraduate mentors and receive specialist help in 'transition issues' (from school to Academy and from Academy to HE). A goal is to establish partnerships with locality schools and colleges to enhance their participation rates and achievement. Fee income will be allocated to support HE transition and undergraduate mentoring;
- 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 160 participants from nine boroughs with pupils attending one of two locations for 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 Scheme: a differentiated 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 working chiefly with 14-18 year-olds in targeted schools/colleges in Low Participation Boroughs to raise aspirations/attainment;
  - Appointment of a Mentoring Co-ordinator to recruit, train and support mentors, monitor and evaluate outcomes to ensure progression to Brunel;
- 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 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.

- 150 scholarships at up to £3k pa for under-represented groups. Criteria (variable by subject annually) include minimum 280 tariff points or IB score of at least 30, or degree performance at a specified level or above for PGCE entrants. Full details for a particular year of entry see website:  
<http://www.brunel.ac.uk>
- Late Applicants: 50 awards of up to £2k pa in specific subjects, for first in family and those who do better than they expected in A-levels or equivalent **and** who are making a late decision to apply to HE.;  
For further details for a particular year of entry see website:  
<http://www.brunel.ac.uk>
- 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 Low Participation 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 and through a dedicated Student Centre and the Union of Brunel Students' Information and Advice Service (IAS). The IAS is accredited by the Community Legal Service and is registered with the Consumer Support Network.

- Leaflets, brochures, posters setting out details annually – to include revised UBS/Registry leaflet on financial advice/support available, full cost of tuition throughout course and cost of living estimates;

- Website development, including online application and progress monitoring;
- Mailouts to Schools: to be sent to coincide with their briefing sessions on the UCAS application process and to applicants throughout the recruitment cycle, from May 2005;
- Support staff for administration of the above and the Bursary & Scholarship Schemes.

### **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 has purchased LINK software and will use the data sets to 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.

From 2010 we will provide data on the effect of the Brunel HSBC Education Trust Academy on HE applications and admissions.

### **Outreach:**

- By July in Year 1 100 participating undergraduates will have worked with 550 pupils. This will rise to 150 and 600 in Year 2 and 200 and 650 in Year 3;
- Audit trails of pupils participating in the mentoring programme will measure their participation at 16+, 17+ and 18+ and gather evidence of their attitudes towards participation in HE;
- 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;
- By September 2008 400 students will have been recruited to the Brunel HSBC Education Trust Academy. This will increase to 800 by September 2009.

### **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 (nb inflation rates will be applied from 2007/8)**

Mode of study	F'dation Year*	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total	MEng**
Full-time	1500	3000	3000	3000	N/A	£9,000 - £10,500	3000
Thick SW	1500	3000	3000	700	3000	£9,700 - £11,200	3000
Thin SW	1500	3000	1500 + 350	1500 + 350	3000	£9,700 - £11,200-	3000
PGCE FT						£3000	

\*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/advice/publications.shtml>

The Union currently advises international students to budget for £7K 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>