

## Conservatoire for Dance and Drama

### ACCESS AGREEMENT (September 2006 – July 2011)

#### Introduction

- 1 The Conservatoire for Dance and Drama was established in 2001 to secure the future of conservatoire-level vocational training in dance and drama in the UK, originally with two affiliate schools. CDD is a designated higher education institution in receipt of funding from the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). CDD provides an unrivalled quality of teaching and learning to prepare students for entry into the dance, drama and circus arts professions. Its affiliate schools are:

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School  
Central School of Ballet  
The Circus Space  
The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art  
London Contemporary Dance School  
Northern School of Contemporary Dance  
Royal Academy of Dramatic Art

- 2 This Access Agreement sets out CDD's plans for charging additional fees from September 2006 (often described as 'top-up fees'). By charging these fees, CDD will be able to increase its spending on learning and teaching. This will help CDD maintain its standard of teaching and the quality of its resources which compete with other conservatoires around the world. One of the main reasons for establishing CDD was to ensure that talented students could benefit from high level vocational training irrespective of their background or financial circumstances. By dedicating a proportion of the funds raised to CDD bursaries and the supplementary bursary scheme, CDD will be able to offer financial help to students wishing to take up places on its courses.

#### Fee limits

- 3 From 2006/07, the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama will charge a home/EU student fee of £3,000 for all its full-time undergraduate courses (subject to OFFA approval of this Access Agreement).
- 4 In accordance with the provisions of the Higher Education Act 2004, fees will increase only by the rate of inflation for the five-year period of this Access Agreement.
- 5 The example below shows the total cost of courses to EU students starting courses in 2006/07, assuming an inflation rate of 2.5%:

| Course                                | Year One | Year Two | Year Three | Total  |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|--------|
| Three year BA/BA (Hons)/BPA programme | £3,000   | £3,070   | £3,152     | £9,222 |
| Two year Dip HE programme             | £3,000   | £3,070   | -          | £6,070 |

- 6 Students who start their courses before September 2006 will not be charged the new variable tuition fee of £3,000. Students completing Foundation Degree programmes at Central School of Ballet or The Circus Space in July 2006 or July 2007 will be charged the standard tuition fee rate if they opt to study for a third year to achieve an honours degree from September 2006 or 2007.

- 7 Students who have been offered a place before 1 August 2005 and chosen to defer entry from September 2005 to September 2006 will not be charged the variable tuition fee of £3,000.
- 8 Students who have started their courses before, or chosen to defer entry until, September 2006 will pay the standard tuition rate (in 2004/05 this is £1,150 likely to increase to £1,200 in 2006/07) for each year of study until completion.

### **Amounts to be spent on access measures**

- 9 By charging £3,000, CDD estimates that it will raise £647,000 of additional income in 2006/07. CDD will allocate approximately £193,000 of the funds it raises to access measures. This represents 30% of the income raised. CDD commits to spending a minimum of 30% of the additional income raised on access measures for the five years of this agreement. At least 24% of the additional income raised will be spent on access measures designed to increase participation by groups under-represented in higher education, focusing on students from low-income backgrounds.
- 10 CDD has decided to concentrate all the income allocated to access measures on providing bursaries for students from low-income backgrounds to contribute towards their living costs. As noted below (paragraphs 23 to 25), affiliate schools already engage in a variety of widening participation activities. CDD believes that offering bursaries is the best way of ensuring that students from lower-income backgrounds are not deterred from entering higher education programmes at its affiliate schools.
- 11 In summary CDD proposes to spend funds raised in the following way:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| CDD bursaries:<br><i>for UK resident students only</i>   | 24% |
| Supplementary bursaries and reserve:<br><i>for eligible students (this may include UK students already holding degrees or EU students)</i> | 6%  |
| Additional income for learning and teaching<br><i>benefiting all students</i>  | 70% |

### **Bursaries**

- 12 CDD will offer cash bursaries available to UK resident undergraduate students attending any affiliate school who meet the requirements for the scheme. These will be called 'CDD bursaries' and will apply only to UK resident students new to higher education (ie those who have not previously completed a course of study at another institution). This is a new scheme offered in addition to any bursaries or other support currently offered by affiliate schools.
- 13 **CDD bursaries**  
In summary, CDD proposes to offer bursaries of £1,600 per year (to rise with inflation) to students from the lowest-income backgrounds. For students on two and three year programmes, an additional bursary up to a maximum of £400 will be paid in their final year of study. The minimum bursary any eligible student will receive will be £100. In the final year of study all students eligible for bursary support will receive an additional bursary of at least £200. This means that for final year students the minimum anyone eligible for a bursary will receive is £300. This scheme ensures that students from the lowest income backgrounds will receive five times the minimum payment of £300 per year that CDD is obliged to offer.
- 14 **Assessment**  
CDD will use LEA/Student Loan Company information to assess what level of bursary students may receive. This will be done at the CDD level rather than by individual affiliates.

- 15 CDD bursaries will be offered as follows (the qualifying income levels will be the same as those used by the DfES for calculating maintenance grants):

| Qualifying income     | Standard Bursary | Final Year Bursary |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| £17,501 or less       | £1,600           | £1,600 + £400      |
| £37,425 (upper limit) | £100             | £100 + £200        |

Between the minimum and maximum bursaries, CDD will offer students bursaries according to income in bands likely to be set at around £200 intervals. Detailed information about the income bands will be published in the CDD fee information leaflet (see paragraph 20 below).

16 **Supplementary bursaries**

The 6% of funding allocated to supplementary bursaries will be kept specifically to support students not eligible for the general CDD bursary scheme or to assist CDD in targeting particularly talented students it wishes to support through training. In particular, CDD expects the supplementary scheme to support EU students or UK students who already hold degrees. The level of these bursaries and assessment criteria will be determined and information published during the 2005/06 academic year.

17 **Example of the cost from 2006**

The example below is for a UK student studying at an HE level for the first time, from a family with a household income of less than £17,501 and starting his or her course in September 2006. Such a student would be eligible for a full CDD bursary. This example assumes that fee costs and maintenance support will increase by inflation of 2.5% each year.

| Student on a three year BA/BA (Hons)/BPA programme             | Year One      | Year Two      | Year Three    | Total         |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Fees (to be repaid through loan payments, not up front)</b> | <b>£3,000</b> | <b>£3,070</b> | <b>£3,152</b> | <b>£9,222</b> |

The maintenance support available is as follows:

|  |               |               |               |                |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Higher Education Maintenance Grant               | £2,700        | £2,768        | £2,837        | £8,305         |
| CDD bursary                                      | £1,600        | £1,640        | £1,681        | £4,921         |
| CDD final year bursary                           | -             | -             | £ 400         | £ 400          |
| <b>Total cash maintenance support receivable</b> | <b>£4,300</b> | <b>£4,408</b> | <b>£4,918</b> | <b>£13,626</b> |

In addition, students may borrow up to £4,405 per year (or £6,170) through the Student Loan Company to support their living expenses. This loan entitlement is reduced by £1,200 for students receiving Higher Education Maintenance Grant because the grant is designed to replace some of the need to borrow. This loan will be repayable once the student has completed his or her programme. For the student example above, this would mean the following:

|   |               |               |                |                |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Bursaries and grants  | £4,300        | £4,408        | £4,918         | £13,626        |
| Student loan (for a student living in London eligible for maximum loan) | £5,050        | £5,176        | £5,304         | £15,530        |
| <b>Total maintenance support available</b>                              | <b>£9,350</b> | <b>£9,584</b> | <b>£10,222</b> | <b>£29,156</b> |

18 **Repayment**

Based on the current guidance issued by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES),

students will start to repay their loans from the April after they complete their course. Students will have to earn at least £15,000 before they must make repayments. If there is any balance on the loan remaining after 25 years (from the April that repayments become due), this will be written off. The government expects the average repayment period to be around 13 years.

### **Information for prospective students**

- 19 CDD is keen to ensure that prospective students fully understand its proposed fees and the maintenance bursaries it can offer to support students. As the majority of its affiliate schools were, until recently, privately-funded institutions, they have acquired considerable experience in advising and supporting prospective students. With the introduction of variable fees across the HE sector, CDD will endeavour to ensure that all prospective students understand clearly the proposed fee rates, what the aggregate cost of their course will be, what bursary support is available and what they must do to secure such support.
- 20 CDD will produce an information leaflet about the bursary support. This will include the following:
- clear information about the fees charged to UK and EU students (as well as the standard overseas fee);
  - examples of the aggregated cost of fees for students on one, two and three year programmes of study;
  - a description of the CDD bursary scheme, with levels of support according to family income and how this will be assessed;
  - a description of how students should apply for a CDD bursary;
  - information about the CDD supplementary bursary scheme;
  - information about the Higher Education Maintenance Grant with further contacts for DfES information sites;
  - brief contacts and addresses for further information about other student support.
- 21 The information leaflet CDD produces will be circulated:
- with all prospectuses sent out by affiliate schools;
  - by publication on CDD's website;
  - by publication on affiliate websites;
  - by ensuring that information is supplied as part of any information events run by affiliates or at other outreach events.
- 22 **Review of information**  
CDD will review how it provided information about bursaries and fees to students in the promotion/audition cycle of 2005/06 during the subsequent academic year (2006/07) and make necessary adjustments if it is found that students are confused by it or do not understand what the costs of their training will be and what financial support is available.

## Outreach work

- 23 CDD recruits students on the basis of talent and potential to benefit from vocational training in dance, drama and circus arts. Affiliates seek students who they believe will, once trained, be able to have successful careers as artists or technicians. Outreach work, aimed at locating, nurturing and supporting talented people, is central to what CDD schools do.
- 24 CDD schools engage in a range of outreach activities which range from participating in career days to running DfES-funded training programmes aimed at offering subsidised pre-vocational training to young people. All outreach activities fit within the following headings:
- short courses/summer schools;
  - student performance tours to primary and secondary schools;
  - subsidised classes for children and young people;
  - specific projects with primary and secondary schools;
  - promotional activity (for example careers fairs);
  - workshops and masterclasses;
  - youth performance groups or companies;
  - reduced interview and application fees;
  - other funded projects (for example, Music and Dance Scheme projects);
  - work with the validating university.
- 25 As affiliates already engage in some 25 different outreach programmes and activities, CDD has decided to concentrate 30% of the funds raised from additional fees to bursaries to support students. It is not proposing to fund any additional outreach activity at this time. CDD will, however, ensure that affiliates maintain the existing level of investment in outreach and access activities. CDD will also monitor affiliates' work in this area and may choose to allocate funding to specific initiatives if it is felt that these will significantly improve participation rates from groups currently under represented within the institution.

## Milestones

- 26 CDD has taken account of two sets of indicators to prepare milestones for this Access Agreement. First is information obtained from analysis of Student Loans Company (SLC) data about fee remission to indicate the income of students or their families. Second is information collected and published by HESA on performance indicators in higher education (data for the 2003/04 academic year). As noted below in paragraph 30, the information available to CDD will need reviewing. For that reason, the milestones set are interim and will be reviewed after the first year of the scheme.
- 27 **Fee remission information**  
The Student Loans Company (SLC) supplied CDD with data on the numbers of students receiving fee remission. This indicated that approximately 39% of CDD students receive full or partial fee remission. However, this figure does not properly represent CDD because a substantial number of students at some schools are not eligible for fee remission because they already hold a degree and have therefore not been assessed. With adjustment to take account of these students, approximately 47% of CDD students new to higher education come from households with an income of less than £31,981.
- 28 The SLC and the DfES have supplied averages of student fee remission for England and Wales. According to their figures, approximately 46% of students receive some fee remission. CDD is, therefore, slightly above average in the number of students in receipt of fee remission. We have used this to establish the first milestone.

**Milestone: to maintain participation of students from income backgrounds of less than £37,425 (or the new upper limit for maintenance support to increase with inflation) at 47% and not to drop more than 1% below that target during the**

### **five years of the agreement.**

#### **29 Performance indicators in Higher Education in the UK**

A number of the performance indicators provide information about under-represented groups in higher education. The report on CDD's performance for 2002/03 does not provide benchmarks for all the available categories. It does, however, provide information on the following benchmarks:

- the number of young full-time first degree and other undergraduate entrants (CDD exceeds the benchmark);
- the number of young full-time first degree and undergraduate entrants from low-participation neighbourhoods (CDD is not yet meeting the benchmark);
- the number of mature full-time undergraduate entrants from low-participation neighbourhoods (CDD is not yet meeting the benchmark);
- the number of students in receipt of Disabled Student's Allowance as an indicator of the number of disabled students within the institution (CDD almost meets its benchmark).

**Milestone: to meet all four relevant benchmarks by December 2008.**

- 30 The data for 2002/03 do not accurately represent CDD because the institution has grown considerably since 2002/03 from two affiliates and 300 home/EU students to seven affiliates and some 890 home/EU students in 2004/05. Because of the cycle of collecting, analysing and publishing data, it is unlikely that HESA will provide data which accurately reflect the current composition of CDD before September 2006. It is proposed, therefore, that CDD reviews its milestones after that date on the basis of more accurate information.

**Milestone: to obtain an accurate dataset about student access to CDD by December 2006.**

#### **Institutional monitoring arrangements**

- 31 CDD plans to monitor its arrangements for charging variable fees and offering a CDD bursary scheme and a supplementary bursary scheme in the following ways:

- collect detailed information about who applies for and receives either a CDD or supplementary bursary on an annual basis;
- analyse the data collected to review how bursaries are allocated by programme (annually);
- analyse information about students' background including family or household income, ethnicity, gender and disability (annually);
- report annually to the Principals' Management Group about the outcome of such analysis;
- annually review the operation of the bursary scheme and the allocation of funds to the scheme;
- annually review progress against the milestones;
- report to OFFA, as required, through the HEFCE Annual Monitoring Statement;
- review the provision of information to students following the first year of the scheme;
- review plans for funding outreach work after the first two years of the scheme.

CDD  
22 August 2005