

## COURTAULD INSTITUTE OF ART ACCESS AGREEMENT

### **Fee limits**

The Courtauld Institute of Art intends to charge home/EU undergraduates tuition fees above the standard level in and after 2006/07. It offers only one undergraduate degree course that recruits approximately forty students each year. The fee level is planned to be the maximum, £3,000, in 2006/07, and it is recognised that this fee cap is expected to rise with inflation.

### **Amounts of additional fee income to be spent on access measures**

The Institute estimates that it will have approximately £60,000 of additional fee income in 2006/07, and it plans to spend roughly 25% of this on access measures.

### **Bursaries and other financial support for students**

- The Institute will give minimum standard bursaries to cover the difference of £300 between the tuition fee of £3,000 and the full Higher Education Maintenance Grant of £2,700 for the 'poorest students' ie those in receipt of the full Grant. It will also offer four bursaries of £4,000 in year one. These will normally be either fee waivers or maintenance awards, but some part of each bursary may be given in the form of book vouchers or additional travel grants. The same level of bursary, increased by any inflationary rise in the level of the tuition fee, will be given in years two and three subject to satisfactory academic performance. The Institute will normally require bursary students to meet the criteria for a minimum standard bursary, have at least BBB at 'A' level, and come from a group previously under-represented at the Courtauld. Eligibility criteria will become clearer and be further defined after a year or two of practice, and the access agreement will be up-dated accordingly.

### **Provision of information to students**

Clear information on the costs of studying at the Institute and on financial support available will be provided for all prospective students on the Institute's website and in the undergraduate prospectus. Further targeted information and support is already provided on an individual basis through the Academic Registry for those who are offered a place at the Institute, but may have financial concerns. This includes information on estimated sums needed for rent, service bills, travel in London, food, clothing, laundry, books, field trips, travel home and personal expenditure; all of this will be enhanced and widely publicised through the website.

### **Outreach Work**

A copy of the Institute's Widening Participation Strategy is attached to this agreement. The most relevant area of development is the pilot scheme for working with target schools in the London area. This has the capacity to deliver concrete results within a few years, and is thus a high priority within the Strategy. Additional funds will be directed into this scheme either from the additional fee income or from other sources. The pilot scheme has two main strands: one is a more traditional approach, although new for the Institute, whereby a member of academic staff and a first-year undergraduate student, who previously attended a state school, together with the Head of Learning, visit a target school to introduce students to sustained examination and interrogation of a work of art through presentations and a Q and A session. The second strand involves a more innovative in-depth approach that aims to raise aspirations. Postgraduate students use their art-historical skills to work alongside art and other subject teachers with a diverse group of secondary students, including A-level students and Year 7 and Year 9 students. Using the Courtauld's Art and Architecture website as a resource, they focus on paintings and photographs as a source of language. Each programme involves 4 visits to the school or Institute.

### **Milestones**

All lower socio-economic groups and all BME groups are currently under-represented in the Institute's pool of applicants. The Institute proposes to set the following milestone: to increase its intake from under-represented

groups by 4 (the number of bursaries offered). This would increase the Institute's scores against the HESA socio-economic benchmarks by approximately 10% in the first year.

**Institutional Monitoring Arrangements**

Progress against the milestone will be measured annually and monitored by the Admissions and Widening Participation Committee, which reports to the Governing Board through the Academic Board.

Dr Rose Walker  
Deputy Secretary  
Academic Registrar  
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