

BIRKBECK UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

ACCESS AGREEMENT

College Mission

The **principal aims** of Birkbeck are to:

- Provide higher education courses which meet the changing educational, cultural, personal and career needs of adults; in particular those who live or work in the London region.
- Enable adult students from diverse social and educational backgrounds to participate in our courses.
- Maintain and develop excellence in research and provide the highest quality research training in all our subject areas.
- Make available the results of research, and the expertise acquired, through teaching, publication, partnerships with other organisations and the promotion of civic and public debate.

Accessibility Statement

Birkbeck assesses individual learner needs associated with the curriculum offered. All reasonable adjustments to provision are made to enable students to study and succeed on their courses.

This access agreement sets out the fee and bursary arrangements for:

- the Birkbeck FDS Sc Garden Design in Practice programme being run in collaboration with Capel Manor College for 2008/09 to 2012/13 inclusive. It indicates the amount of additional fee income and how this income will be spent in order to safeguard and maintain fair access.
- Full-time undergraduate degree programmes from autumn 2010

A - Annual Tuition Fees

- *Undergraduate full-time degrees*

With effect from the start of the 2010 / 11 academic session Birkbeck will charge the maximum tuition fee permitted under the terms of Higher Education Act 2004 across all undergraduate, full-time, degree programmes. In 2010/11 this fee will be £3,290.

2010/11 is the first year that Birkbeck will be offering courses of this kind and the first programmes are: BSc Psychology, BA Philosophy and LLB Law.

B - Amount of additional fee income to be spent on access measures

Birkbeck will direct approximately 20% of the additional fee income from the undergraduate full-time degrees on bursaries for students on these programmes. We will make annual inflationary increases to our bursaries in line with the rate determined by

government regulations in relation to fee increases. All bursaries will be in the form of cash awards.

Additional, Birkbeck will continue to work towards encouraging participation in higher education within key areas of London through the work of the dedicated outreach and widening participation team funded by central College funds.

C - Financial support for students

The main target groups for financial support to help widen participation and increase access to higher education include those students who receive full or partial state support, i.e. all students in receipt of part or the entire maintenance grant. All full time students receiving the full or partial state support will be eligible to receive bursary funding.

For those students receiving the full maintenance grant and paying the maximum tuition fee, we will continue to pay above the minimum bursary and agree to pay at least the difference between the full maintenance grant and the full fee (for 10/11 this will be £384, for 11/12 this will be £469).

For those students receiving partial state support and paying the maximum tuition fee we will pay a means-tested bursary based scaled to the bursary of those in receipt of the full maintenance grant.

Details as indicated below:

Income	Bursary	%
Up to £25,000	£469	100%
£25,001-£29,999	£288	75%
£30,000-£39,999	£198	50%
£40,000-£50,019	£96	25%
£50,020 or more	No bursary	

Based on the sector-wide profile of student household income, we have estimated an above average intake of students receiving the full maintenance grant (50%), Birkbeck estimates that approximately 8-10% of additional fee income will be spent on bursaries for students in receipt of the full maintenance grant and approximately between 5-10% of additional fee income will be spent on bursaries for students in receipt of partial maintenance grant.

D - Provision of information to students

Information for students on the aggregate cost of their fees and the financial support available will be detailed on the College web site and in written communications to students. Course leaflets and other promotional material will also advise prospective students of the targeted support that will be given to them to study and achieve their qualifications, including academic and pastoral support. Information regarding the fees and financial support available will be sent to students with their offer of a place.

E - Outreach work

The Outreach and Widening Participation team at Birkbeck organises a highly developed series of events, activities and interactions. These are only delivered and developed within key areas of London which experience low participation rates and high levels of deprivation. The groups and communities it is dedicated to working with include some sixth forms, further education colleges, community centres, Connexions and Nextstep services, Aimhigher (LETG and WECAN), Lifelong Learning Networks, Sure Starts and Children's centres. The work the team undertakes with these groups is to promote all modes and levels of study suited to the needs of their service users.

The Team's commitment to its full-time cohort is to ensure individuals receive high quality information and advice and support activities which are relevant to their needs. We will continue to run subject specific masterclasses and lectures at key times of the academic year; expand upon the current 3 progression agreements and partnership arrangements with local colleges; offer monthly talks and tours; attend 10 HE fairs and deliver talks introducing Birkbeck to students and staff unaware of our new presence in the full-time arena. All of this work will be targeted at local 6th forms and further education colleges. We will continue to work closely with a local charity, 'INTO University', targeting primary and secondary school children in the poorest areas of London in delivering Focus Weeks – activities designed to demystify university and raise their aspirations and attainment in the subjects we have on offer at Birkbeck.

F - Milestone

The College is committed to monitoring the affect of the fees and financial support available for full time students receiving state support. The College will collect baseline data on the family income of each cohort (students entitled to Government financial support) and numbers receiving bursaries and monitor this over time using internal Management Information Systems.

The College will work towards an annual increase in the proportion of financially disadvantaged students receiving full or partial state support. As 2010/11 is the first year that Birkbeck is running BA/BSc full time undergraduate degree programmes data gathered in 2010/11 will be used as the baseline. Birkbeck will also work towards maintenance of the baseline proportion of students aged 25 and over at 50%.

The HESA performance indicators will be used for comparison of baseline data.

G - Institutional Monitoring Arrangements

Progress towards milestones will be monitored using College Management Information Systems, reviewed annually by the Student Experience and Widening Participation Committee and reported through Academic Board to Governors.