

**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 limits 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.

A Annual Tuition Fees

Annual fees for full time students will be set at £825 above the basic fee amount in 2008/09. The additional fee will rise by a further £100 above the basic fee amount for each successive new intake to 2012/13 (e.g. the fee charged for the 2012/13 intake will be the basic fee plus £1,225). The basic fee amount in 2008/09 is £1,255 and will be subject to small annual increases determined by the Government.

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

Birkbeck will direct 25% of the additional fee income to supplement its Birkbeck College Awards Fund for individual students. This means that in 2008/09 with an estimated 13 new students, the fund will be enhanced by £2,681. The balance of additional fee income will be directed to supplement resources for other types of student support within Birkbeck.

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 all of the Maintenance Grant. All full-time UK students who receive full or partial state support will be eligible to receive a bursary contributing to course costs and other expenses related to their studies (e.g. books, travel, child care). The bursary award for each eligible student will reflect the level of financial need within funds available to the college.

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

In 2006 Birkbeck invested in a new Outreach and Widening Participation team. This has since been supplemented by additional staff funded by donors. This team work with other Birkbeck staff and with a wide range of community groups, Aimhigher, Sure Start groups, Connexions advisors, schools and colleges to encourage participation in higher education.

F Milestone

The College will collect baseline data on the family income of the 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 increase in the baseline proportion of financially disadvantaged students receiving full or partial state support at 15% to 20% by 2010/11 and maintenance of the baseline proportion of students aged 25 and over at 50%.

G Institutional Monitoring Arrangements

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