

**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*c* 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 in Law, Philosophy and Psychology from autumn 2010

A - Annual Tuition Fees

- *FDS*c* Garden Design in Practice*

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.

- *LLB, BA Philosophy, BSc Psychology*

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 its undergraduate, full-time, degree programmes. In 2010 / 11 this fee will be £3,290.

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

Birkbeck will direct 25% of the additional fee income from the FDS Sc Garden Design in Practice to supplement its Birkbeck College Awards Fund for individual students.

Birkbeck will direct up to 20% of the additional fee income from the LLB, BA Philosophy and BSc Psychology 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.

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 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 at least the difference between the full maintenance grant and the full fee (for 2010/11 this will be a £384).

All full time UK students who receive partial state support or no state support will also be eligible to apply for a bursary. The bursary award for each eligible student will reflect the level of financial need, within funds available from the Birkbeck Full-time Undergraduate Bursary Fund. All awards will be means tested.

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 either none or 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

In 2006 Birkbeck invested in a new Outreach and Widening Participation team. This has since been supplemented by additional staff funded by donors. There will not be any specific funds from additional fee income directed towards Outreach work however Birkbeck's Outreach and Widening Participation team are committed to working with a wide range of community groups, Aimhigher, Sure Start groups, Connexions advisors, schools and colleges to encourage participation in higher education, in all forms of study, part-time and full-time.

The Outreach team has developed links with these groups in non-traditional educational routes to introduce the possibility of Higher Education study at Birkbeck as a non-traditional Higher Education provider, in order to make the transition to Higher Education study smoother and more appealing. Birkbeck has also developed specific links with more traditional educational routes such as London based sixth form colleges to also introduce the wide range of options available to them at Birkbeck College, which now include full time undergraduate courses.

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 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%.

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 Widening Participation and Student Support Committee and reported through Academic Board to Governors.