

Coventry University

Access Agreement for new entry UK/EU students in 2011

For continuing 06, 07, 08, 09 and 10 cohorts please refer to previous access agreements.

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The following procedures will apply to students paying UK/EU fees who start as new undergraduate students from **1st September 2011**, excluding those applying during the entry cycle for **2010/11 but deferring entry until 2011/12**. These procedures and figures may be subject to change if legislative, statutory or government requirements alter, and in the light of inflation. All figures and statements below are subject to modification in the light of any approval granted by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA).

Students studying a University course at another institution under a **franchise** agreement are eligible for all the fee bursary arrangements shown below.

Students on courses offered by other institutions whose final awards are **validated** by the University are covered by the fee, bursary and scholarship arrangements of the institution at which the course is studied, which may be different from those applying to similar courses offered by the University itself.

Unless otherwise stated students on courses **not** funded by HEFCE (eg NHS courses) are **not** covered by these provisions.

The student numbers and expenditure shown below reflect the projected situation when *these* arrangements cover *2011 entry* students in all years of study, and are therefore estimates rather than specific targets.

a) Level of fees, fee limits for UK and EU students (2011/12)

- (i) All full time students taking one of the University's undergraduate degree or HND Courses will be charged **£3375** per annum.
- (ii) All full time students taking one of the University's Foundation Degree courses, or undergraduate foundation years ("year zero") courses, will be charged **£2265 (2010 rates – to be updated)** per annum.

b) Bursaries and other financial support for full-time students to be provided from estimated additional fee income

- (i) The University assures that all full time UK students who are in receipt of a maximum UK Government maintenance grant (**£ 2906**) taking one of the University's courses as listed under (a) above will receive a bursary of at **least £338** financial support

from the University, as specified in §41 of the OFFA guidance document 2004/01 and §6.2.3 of the Secretary of State's letter guidance.

- (ii) Full time UK/EU students will be considered for scholarships as shown below.
- (iii) Students may receive at most one bursary and one scholarship.

Bursaries

- (iv) **All full time students (2011 entry) who are in receipt of the maximum UK government maintenance grant for a given academic year will receive a bursary for any year to which the government's assessment applies, of at least the minimum required by the Government. (£338 for 2011)**
- (v) **This provision is targeted specifically at improving access for under-represented socio-economic groups, especially those to whom the Government offers the maximum form of maintenance grant support for low-income families, those being the groups most at risk under the new fee procedures. The University estimates that approximately 45% of its full-time undergraduate population of ca. 10,000 (2004/05) will benefit from this bursary, of which approximately 40% of the first degree and "year zero" population and approximately 60% of students on FD and HND are drawn from under-represented groups.**

Scholarships

- (vi) With the following scholarships the University aims to maintain its present attractiveness to students from under-represented groups, and to improve recruitment of high achieving students from these groups who might otherwise be deterred by financial constraints. The criteria are specified in broad terms: detailed terms and conditions will be included in promotional literature.
- (vii) Any new full time student who is admitted to a course with a tuition fee set **at £3375** as a new student on the basis of an entry qualification score of at least **340** points on the UCAS tariff gained from 3 full A-levels or acceptable equivalent vocational qualifications as listed in the University publicity, and who has made a firm (CF,UF) commitment to the University, will, **subject to a maximum limit of 300**, receive a scholarship of **£1000** in the first year, renewable each subsequent year of the course depending on good academic achievement in the preceding complete stage. These scholarships are intended to be very attractive to high performance students from socio-economic groups to whom an additional financial incentive could be decisive.
- (viii) For new full-time students on a course with a tuition fee set at **£3375** who are involved with **sporting** performance activities which the University wishes to promote, scholarships of **£1500 or £3000 as a mix of cash and services** will be awarded for a **current sporting performance** not directly linked to individual academic entry qualifications. The scholarships are renewable for each year of full-time study depending on continued high achievement in the particular **sporting** performance field concerned. These scholarships are intended to be attractive to students with non-standard academic qualifications who might otherwise not choose to enter higher education. Sports Scholarships will be available to all students on NHS funded courses as well as HEFCE funded courses.

c) Student Support, outreach and related activities

- (i) Much of this activity, described in previous agreements, now forms part of the Widening Participation Strategic Assessment.
- (ii) Additional administrative posts will be ***maintained*** specifically to manage the flow of information to intending applicants and to current students, and to process their applications for financial support.

d) How we will provide information

The University's prospectus and web pages will contain clear and concise information for prospective students on:

- (i) the fees for their course (§a above)
- (ii) bursaries for which they may be eligible (§b above)
- (iii) scholarships for which they may be eligible (§b above)
- (iv) student support (§c above)
- (v) typical living costs for a student based in Coventry

In addition the University will give clear and specific information on the above in all relevant promotional materials and outreach activities, especially those targeted at groups at present under-represented in HE who are likely to benefit most from the bursaries and related schemes.

e) Total amount to be spent on access measures

The total support to be offered in scholarships and bursaries for the 2011 cohort will, of course, depend on the number of eligible students. Various options have been modelled, and the University at present estimates additional expenditure of £1.47m as direct financial support for 2011 entry students through bursaries and a further £1.17m on scholarships and outreach activities to make HE more attractive to groups at present under-represented. This is predominantly new expenditure, with the exception of approximately £75,000 already allocated on sports scholarships and £2500 to support student artistic activities. The amount estimated to be spent on additional support is therefore £2.72m by year 3 of this scheme. These figures are overall totals, ie not purely those elements targeted at students from under-represented groups.

f) Institutional milestone and objectives, including institutional baseline data

The University's prime objective in the above initiatives is to enhance the recruitment and retention of better motivated, better skilled, and better supported students, going out from the University with a high employability rating. The main milestone is therefore an increase in applications and admissions, and an improved retention rate, together with improved employability. The student numbers and expenditure shown above reflect the projected situation when the arrangements cover students in all years of study, and are therefore estimates rather than specific targets or milestones.

The baseline data and milestones are as follows:

- current complete year applications figures (UCAS, 2008 entry): 21,211: target 1% growth per annum.
- current full time enrolment of new students (HESES 2008/09): 4698: target 1% growth per annum.
- current (2008/09) retention rate 1st year to 2nd year: 88.6% : target 1% improvement per annum
- latest FDR return (2008/09): 65.4% in "graduate" posts: target 1% growth per annum

It is the University's intention to continue to meet its benchmark on access performance indicators.

g) Compliance

The University's compliance with the OFFA code and the agreed access statement and milestones will be overseen by the Academic Executive, the Board of Governors, and senior management, principally the Vice-Chancellor, the Finance Director, and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor responsible for recruitment, retention and the quality of the student's overall experience.