

Access Agreement 2011/12

Introduction

Goldsmiths is a College of the University of London and has an international reputation for the study of the visual and performing arts, educational studies, the humanities, and social and cognitive sciences. Goldsmiths is committed to offering its students a first-rate education which leads to qualifications that are internationally respected, through providing challenging and innovative courses, taught by staff who are at the forefront of scholarship within their disciplines. We also believe it is important to provide our students with the resources they need to support their learning and for personal development through academic and leisure activities. In order to maintain and enhance the opportunities available to our students, and to further develop the campus, infrastructure and student support facilities, we have decided to use the opportunities offered by the Education Act 2004 to raise the fees paid by our home and EU students.

The income raised from the new fees will be used to develop all aspects of the student experience and the College's mission. Several areas have been identified for investment. These include: increasing student support resources, including information technology, the library, and learning support; improving our facilities for sport and leisure; renovating or replacing key buildings on the campus; investing in enhancing and expanding the academic activities and profile of the College. The aim will be to ensure that the money raised from fees serves to enrich the quality of the student experience at Goldsmiths, and that our students leave with qualifications and experience which will be of value to them throughout their lives.

Goldsmiths is already involved in many outreach and recruitment activities which are designed to attract entrants from a wide range of educational and social backgrounds and to widen participation in higher education. The College has consistently performed strongly against its HEFCE benchmarks for participation from under-represented groups. We have 8,000 full and part-time, home and international students on undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Forty four percent of our undergraduate students are 21 or over on entry, two thirds are women and 38% from ethnic minority groups. Students from state schools comprise 90.5% of the student population and we recruit strongly amongst students from backgrounds which are typically under-represented in higher education with 27.6% from Socio-Economic Groups IV-VII and 25.5% from Low Participation neighbourhoods

As Goldsmiths already has a substantial proportion of students from under-represented groups, we believe that our aim for the period of this Access Agreement should be to maintain the current levels of recruitment from those groups. Our bursary policy is directed towards this and will be supported by outreach activities, which will focus on groups we have identified as under-represented or vulnerable to the impact of variable fees.

a. Fee limits

The level of fees will be set at **£3375 per annum** for full-time undergraduate students and for those on PGCE programmes. Part-time students registered for degree courses will be charged pro-rata. The government has indicated that the level of fees may rise to reflect inflation during the term of the Access Agreement. Goldsmiths will follow government regulations in this matter.

b. Amounts of additional fee income to be spent on access measures

Goldsmiths intends to devote a minimum of 20% of the income raised from fees towards the cost of bursaries and widening participation activities.

c. Bursaries and other financial support for students

For those students who started in the 2006-07 or 2007-08 academic years we will continue to provide bursaries calculated according to the annual household income of the student and will range from £1,000 per annum for those with household incomes of £18,360 or less, to £50 for those with household incomes of £39,333.

For those students who started in 2008-09 and 2009-10, Goldsmiths will continue to provide bursaries of £1000 for students with an annual household income of £19,000 or less, a bursary of £500 for students with an annual household income of £19,001 - £25,000, and a bursary of £329 for students with an annual household income of £25,001 - £40,000. Students on PGCE programmes will be eligible for bursaries of up to a maximum of £500 with household incomes of £25,000 or less, to £300 for those with household incomes of £40,000 or less.

For students who start in 2010-11, Goldsmiths will apply the same arrangements as in 2008-09 and 2009-10, with the exception of BA Social Work and PGCE students, who will receive the minimum bursary of £338 if they have a household income of less than £25,000. This is in recognition of the fact that low-household income students on these courses are eligible to receive additional grants from other sources.

For students who start in 2011-12, Goldsmiths will apply the same arrangements as in 2010-11, with the exception of Welsh-domiciled students who will receive the minimum bursary of £338 if they have a household income of less than £25,000, in recognition of the fact that they will be eligible to receive an increased level of Assembly Learning or Special Support Grant. In addition, all students who have household incomes of between £25,001 and £40,000 will qualify for a reduced bursary of £225.

Goldsmiths recognises that these thresholds may change during the course of the Access Agreement as a response to changes in the level of state support and our experience of the working of the bursary system.

Although part-time students registered for degrees are not included in the terms of 2004 Education Act, we developed a part-time student bursary for fees. This is available to home and EU students receiving the maximum level of national support from student finance direct.

In order to administer the bursaries, the College has appointed a Bursaries Officer. Additional office and clerical support costs will also be involved and altogether these will amount to at least £150,000 per annum.

Prior to 2006 Goldsmiths offered bursaries to students in two forms:

- £32,700 as student residential bursaries
- £38,330 as maintenance bursaries funded from 10% of the money allocated to College through ALF.

In addition, and separately from the bursaries, the College has created a new range of undergraduate scholarships. These are awarded on the basis of academic ability and it is likely that some will go to able students from our target groups.

d. Provision of information to students

Information will be provided to students through the appropriate channels, including the Undergraduate Prospectus, recruitment events, visits to schools and colleges, open days, departmental recruitment days and campus tour events.

The Undergraduate Prospectus is the main source of information for potential students and is available in print or on the web. However, as this has an early print date, a supplementary booklet is produced annually.

It outlines the funding package and includes details on local and national provision for full-time undergraduate students, disabled students and part-time students. The Prospectus and Booklet also include a link to a special webpage which will be updated to provide additional information as it becomes available.

The webpage can now be found at the top level of the College's website. The page will be regularly updated as information is made available and will include details of the cost of study and the financial support which is available to students.

e. Outreach work

We regard our diverse student population as one of Goldsmiths' major strengths. Our students come from many different backgrounds within the UK and abroad and their variety of interests and experience result in a vibrant and creative academic community.

1 What we currently do

Goldsmiths offers a range of activities designed to increase awareness about higher education and support local schools and colleges in raising attainment at 14-19. We also work with local colleges, community groups and other agencies to encourage mature students to return to study.

Widening Participation Section

The Widening Participation (WP) Section was established in September 2002. The outreach work developed by the section is designed to raise awareness, aspiration and attainment for those from underrepresented groups with the potential to benefit from higher education. Activities range from visits to Goldsmiths to curriculum support projects.

- Our *Open Book* initiative recruits and supports students from offending and addiction backgrounds. The project has enabled adults from socially excluded groups to find places on

undergraduate and postgraduate courses at Goldsmiths and other universities, with particularly close links with those in our Aimhigher partnership.

- Our Peer Assisted Learning programme is designed to help first-year students make the transition to Higher Education by creating a supportive environment that works alongside other college services. A range of activities are organized to coincide with student need at different times of the year.
- Our Partnership Work is a key feature of our widening participation activity. WP staff work closely with the Aspire Aimhigher South East London Partnership and the South East London Lifelong Learning Network (SELLLN). We are also engaged with a range of other partnerships including the Excellence Hub, Routes into Languages, and the Creative Way LLN which has the specific remit of engaging with creative industries in the Thames Gateway.
- A range of generic and subject specific awareness and aspiration and attainment raising activities are offered to schools and colleges in the South and East London areas.
- Our Ambassador scheme was established to encourage our undergraduate and postgraduate students to engage pro-actively with the local community. Ambassadors are trained to work on a range of outreach activities.
- Our TDA-funded Associate scheme provides support for current students who are placed in local schools.

Recruitment and Admissions

The Recruitment Section co-ordinates and delivers a range of information and awareness-raising activities for state schools and colleges across London. The aim is to provide impartial advice and guidance on progression to higher education in order to ensure that young people choose the right course for their individual needs and have the information and skills to make a successful application. This approach to local recruitment is consistent with our ethos, enabling us to make productive links with our feeder schools and colleges and the wider community. Interventions include general information sessions on the application process and study options; entry requirements for specific subjects and courses; information about financial support; completion of the UCAS form, especially the personal statement, and interview techniques. In addition to these more general sessions we also provide information about the Goldsmiths offer and the range and content of specific programmes. Potential students from London schools are encouraged to attend our general open days, taster sessions and student-led campus tours.

Department of Professional and Community Education (PACE)

The Department of Professional and Community Education (PACE) is a UK leader in the fields of professional development and widening participation. PACE offers a range of programmes aimed at non-traditional learners with limited educational qualifications who want to work at undergraduate level. For those returning to higher education there is a range of full and part-time provision including Access courses and Integrated Degrees. In many cases stand-alone courses can be the beginning of a progression route to a degree at Goldsmiths. There are progression routes leading to professional qualifications in Social Work and in Youth and Community Work and close links with many other academic departments - including Anthropology, English, Design, History, Media and Communications, Music and Psychology. An Integrated Degree is also available in Computing Studies offering an alternative entry route.

Academic departments

Academic departments undertake a number of visits to schools and colleges and organize a range of applicant visit days for prospective students to support them in application and induction processes. The involvement of departments is essential to the delivery of our subject specific work.

Each department has an Access and Recruitment Tutor responsible for coordinating widening participation activities. Their work is organized through the Widening Participation Section and termly meetings are held to share best practice.

Students' Union

In 2002, as a result of funding from the Higher Education Active Community Fund, the Students' Union launched a pilot prison visiting scheme, *Inmates*, which trains students and staff through UNLOCK, the National Association of Ex-offenders, to go into prisons as visitors to provide a link to the outside world.

Through the Students' Union, the College is also involved in the New Cross Gate New Deals for Community Scheme. Students from Goldsmiths work with young people from the local area as mentors in six creative areas – art, dance, drama, fashion, music and web design - to bring them into contact with higher education in an informal setting.

2 Aims

Goldsmiths is committed to maintaining its current widening participation and outreach activities. We believe that with the introduction of variable fees, we will have the opportunity to consolidate our current range of activities and to extend our links with schools and colleges. The main aim of our outreach activities will be to:

1. encourage applications from all prospective undergraduate and postgraduate students from a range of social, economic or cultural backgrounds who have the skills, talents and academic potential to benefit from study at Goldsmiths;
2. raise awareness of Goldsmiths' cultural diversity and provide access to our degree programmes;
3. facilitate routes into higher education by offering wider learning opportunities through provision in PACE (Professional and Community Education) and other academic departments;
4. support successful progression, retention and completion through provision of pastoral and academic development and study skills support before and after entry;
5. engage actively with local and national partnerships and initiatives that seek to widen access;
6. develop close links with schools, colleges, employees and the local community to raise awareness, aspiration and attainment amongst groups that are less likely to progress on to higher education;

7. monitor and evaluate our widening participation activity and undertake research in areas that will support and inform our aims.

3 Target groups for Widening Participation

Goldsmiths recruits students from all social backgrounds, a wide range of ethnicities and cultures and has a majority of female students. We recognize that wider social issues continue to act as barriers to participation in higher education.

Widening Participation Students

We have identified eight target groups where we intend to focus our outreach and retention activities as follows:

1. Those with academic potential but without a family background of higher education who lack information about the opportunities available to them and ways to access university study
2. Those who could benefit from higher education study but lack aspiration and/or support, in particular those from low participation neighbourhoods and social classes IV – VII
3. Poorer students, and their parents and teachers, who aspire to higher education but are unaware of the financial support mechanisms available
4. Ethnic minorities, lower social groups and/or men and women with academic potential underrepresented in certain subject areas
5. Young people with academic ability attending our local state schools and FE colleges
6. Gifted and talented students from deprived backgrounds
7. Students progressing from vocational courses, apprenticeships and others displaying academic potential
8. Mature students entering or returning to study at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

f. Milestone Targets

Goldsmiths already recruits strongly from state schools and amongst students from backgrounds which are typically under-represented in higher education. As a result we feel it would be appropriate for us to set milestones which aim to consolidate our current levels of recruitment from state schools, from social groups IV-VII and from low participation neighbourhoods. We feel that this is reasonable as these groups are the most vulnerable to any detrimental effects of an increase in fees. We will use our bursaries to offset the threat of economic hardship to students and encourage applications by developing our outreach and widening participation activities. In addition, the College will work with Goldsmiths Students' Union, to provide support for better levels of retention amongst all students, but particularly widening participation entrants. These milestones are based on HEFCE performance indicators.

Category	Benchmark	Performance 2007- 08
From State Schools or Colleges	87%	92%
Socio-Economic Groups IV-VII	29.3%	25.9%
Low Participation Neighbourhoods	6.5%	6.4%

Milestones 2006-11

Recruitment Target Group	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Entrants from State Schools/ Colleges	90.5%	90.5%	85.2%	85.2%	85.2%
Socio-Economic Groups IV-VII	25.5%	25.5%	25.5%	25.5%	25.5%
Low Participation Neighbourhoods	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%

g. Institutional monitoring arrangements

Annual monitoring of performance in relation to the Access Agreement will be undertaken by the Senior Management Team and reported to the Academic Board.

The College will monitor:

- spending on bursaries
- outreach activities with schools and colleges
- progress against the Milestones