

Liverpool Hope University

Access Agreement July 2008

1. Preamble

The Higher Education Act 2004 allowed higher education institutions to vary tuition fees for full-time Home and EU undergraduates who begin an HE course in, or after, 2006-07. Full-time Home and EU undergraduates are able to apply to the Student Loans Company to borrow the full amount necessary to pay the tuition fees and then repay that after graduating and earning a particular amount (currently £15,000 pa). Bursary schemes are required to be in place to protect the poorest students.

2. Introduction

Liverpool Hope University is a teaching-led, research-informed, liberal arts-inspired University. It is the only ecumenical University in Europe, whose origins lie in colleges (one Anglican College founded in 1844, two Catholic Colleges founded in 1856 and 1965) which came together first in a federation, known as Liverpool Institute of Higher Education and then through full merger as a single ecumenical college. In 2002 taught degree awarding powers were secured and the title Liverpool Hope University College officially bestowed. In July 2005 the granting of full University status led to the adoption of the title Liverpool Hope University.

The Mission Statement reflects both the University's traditions and its intention to develop and maintain a distinctive and forward-looking programme relevant to local, regional, national and international needs and includes the aspiration to 'educate in the round' providing a nurturing environment for all irrespective of age, class, social or ethnic origins or physical capacity, including in particular those with promise who might otherwise not have had an opportunity to enter higher education because of historical disadvantage;

3. Time span

This Access Agreement is valid for five years, but Liverpool Hope reserves the right to vary the Access Agreement after reviewing the operation of the bursary schemes. All UK and EU students admitted to Liverpool Hope under the terms of this Access Agreement will be entitled to the benefits of the bursary scheme detailed in this agreement and will be charged the fee

level indicated (subject to any inflation-linked increase).

4. Fee levels

4.1 2009-10

Liverpool Hope University will levy a fee of £3225 per annum for all full-time Home and EU undergraduate students who begin their course in 2009-10. This includes students registered on (i) all Bachelor's Degrees, (ii) all Foundation Degrees, (iii) all Certificate of Higher Education courses and (iv) PGCE full time-courses. It is anticipated that the fee limit will rise in line with inflation.

4.2 Future years

The same policy as that adopted for 2009-10 will apply to students beginning their courses in future years, subject to the anticipated annual increase for inflation.

5. Bursaries

5.1 Liverpool Hope is committed to providing financial support to all UK students on full state support and in addition provides a bursary scheme for other students from the additional income received from tuition fees.

In 2009/10, Liverpool Hope intends to spend 29.4% of its additional income raised from additional fee income on financial support, including bursaries and scholarships, a substantial hardship fund and expansion of on-campus employment opportunities. The balance of the additional income will be used for a variety of purposes including the establishment of, outreach activities to assist widening participation to under-represented groups, a scholarship scheme to reward students with high entry qualifications or who demonstrate significant progress whilst on course (and its administration), measures to improve student retention, improvements to the learning and teaching infrastructure and continued implementation of a new pay framework.

5.2 Scope of bursary schemes

Liverpool Hope will pay cash bursaries to full-time UK and EU students registered on those courses detailed in 4.1 above and who receive full state support. The bursaries will be payable for each year of the course.

For full-time Bachelor's Degrees, Foundation Degrees, Certificate of Higher Education courses,

All students with a family income less than £39,333 will receive Liverpool Hope bursary payments of £500 per year, which incorporates the standard bursary of £319.

For full-time PGCE courses

Students with a family income less than £25,000 will receive a bursary of £400 p.a. which incorporates the £319 standard bursary.

The Standard bursary award will be increased year on year in line with the level of inflationary rise applied to the tuition fee limit.

5.3 Mechanism for assessment and payment of bursaries

Liverpool Hope uses the Higher Education Bursary Scheme for Students (HEBSS) administered via the Student Loans Company for the payment of all bursaries. Bursary payments are paid in regular instalments so as to make funds available for the length of the year of study.

6. Additional support for poorest students

Rather than provide an indiscriminate bursary scheme, Liverpool Hope has chosen to provide a flat rate bursary of £500 to all undergraduate students with a family income less than £39,333 (£400 for PGCE students with a family income of less than £25,000) and to supplement this with targeted support for those students facing most financial hardship.

6.1 Hardship Fund

Liverpool Hope will set aside £100,000 for students who face particular or unexpected financial hardship in any year of study. Eligibility for such support will be dependent on engagement with the student's programme of study and applications will be subject to scrutiny by the Student Finance Committee. 100% is expected to be allocated to students with a family income of less than £39,333.

6.2 Scholarships

The Dean's List Scholarships, which have hitherto been allocated on the basis of academic performance and community engagement, will be expanded by £17000 to incorporate a ring-fenced amount for students in receipt of full state support as well as satisfying the

two current criteria. 100% of this allocation will be to students with a family income of less than £25,000 p.a.

6.3 Hope Works

Hope Works is a campus-based employment scheme and £20,000 from the additional fee income will be used to expand this scheme. It is anticipated that 85% will be allocated to students with a family income less than £39,333.

7. Outreach work

7.1 Widening Participation Strategy

One of the key goals of the University's Corporate Plan 2007-2011 is to "continue efforts to attract students most likely to benefit from higher education from all parts of the UK and beyond, irrespective of their social and economic background".

Liverpool Hope University has a proud history of success in widening participation - it has been a core objective for over 162 years - and it remains committed to providing opportunities for those from historically excluded sectors of the population who have the potential to succeed in higher education. Merseyside still has one of the lowest participation rates in the UK and Liverpool Hope University will contribute to increasing that level of participation through carefully targeted support, including fellowships and scholarships for particular groups of students. This central tenet of Hope's Mission will continue to be of huge importance as opportunities are offered to students from low participation neighbourhoods in Merseyside and beyond, those with disabilities and those from ethnic minorities.

7.2 Structure

A Centre for Widening Participation co-ordinates and leads a considerable amount of activity with a range of partners and funders. The strategic management of the Centre is led by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Widening Participation and External Relations) and the Director of the Centre, a headteacher of a local Church of England high school, seconded to this post for one day a week.

The challenge is to develop coherence in the Widening Participation activities delivered in a constantly changing funding environment and to try and utilise the whole range of Hope's human and physical resources to achieve these objectives. In particular, the focus is on how Hope can live out its founding

educational mission alongside constantly raising its academic profile.

7.3 Collaboration through Aimhigher

The Centre for Widening Participation is closely involved with the Greater Merseyside Aimhigher partnership at a strategic and partnership level. Aimhigher is the government funded national outreach programme aimed at widening participation to higher education. It is structured around front-end delivery and partnership building between HE, FE, schools and work based learning. The project is governed and managed on Greater Merseyside by an inclusive partnership of all providers in the sectors above.

7.4 Additional outreach work

Areas of work which will be supported or extended by the additional tuition fee income include the following:-

Liverpool Hope University Compact Scheme

The Compact will aim to support students who fulfil the agreed widening participation criteria through the recruitment and selection stages at Key Stage 5 and during their studies at Liverpool Hope University. The principle structure will be a contractual agreement between the university, the Student Fellow, their parent/guardian and their school/college. This aims to establish an educational partnership, with named personnel and departments, who together will provide support for the Student Fellow to assist their transition to Liverpool Hope University. It will also support their progression throughout their degree course, to secure success and enable them to achieve their own personal careers goals and aspirations.

Take Aim

Take Aim gives students the guidance and information that will enable them to understand that Higher Education is a 'Passport' to a vast range of career choices and that each career choice contains a variety of career development paths. The workshops are designed to be 'hands on' and give a real insight into HE courses and career opportunities in a creative and inspiring way. Hope lecturers deliver the workshops and trained student advocates are used to support and motivate the students, promoting the aims of Aimhigher. Additional half day/full day workshops can be provided for other schools/organisations and will be designed to meet specific needs.

Syndicate

The syndicate aims to increase the likelihood of widening participation students in Greater Merseyside going on to Higher Education by raising their attainment. With Liverpool Hope as the lead partner and managed in conjunction with Halton Local Education Authority, Syndicate works by pooling the expert work of educators from across Greater Merseyside, who teach in the subject areas of English, Maths, Science, Business, ICT, and Leisure and Tourism. They work together on their specific subject area, creating packages of teaching activities to enhance student's classroom success. Interventions are all curriculum-driven and pinpoint areas including support and development. Programmes include staff development, mentoring, exam revision and presentations from business partners.

Bridge to Hope

Enhancing *Bridge to Hope*, as a pre-registration course, aimed particularly at under-represented groups as a way of ensuring their transition to HE is as smooth as possible. The scope of *Bridge to Hope* will be expanded using additional fee income.

8 Information

8.1 Cost of studying at Liverpool Hope

A picture of the typical costs of studying (income vs expenditure) is available to all current and prospective students. Sources of income will include changes in support from the state and the introduction of bursaries, whilst figures for expenditure will display aggregate amounts for fees and typical living costs. **From this information, students will be able to calculate their net costs of studying over the duration of their course.**

8.2 Methods of providing information to students

Information on financial support and costs will be made available to current and prospective students from the following sources:

8.2.1 Student Funds Office at Liverpool Hope University

This specialist advisory service offers prospective and current students up to date information on student financial support, money management and entitlement to welfare benefits.

- 8.2.2 Liverpool Hope University website – www.hope.ac.uk
- 8.2.3 Funding leaflet sent out to prospective students who have made an application
- 8.2.4 Undergraduate Prospectus
- 8.2.5 School visits
- 8.2.6 Open Days - a talk on 'Money Matters' is available to prospective students and parents during their visit. This is backed-up with a Student Funds help desk to answer any individual queries.
- 8.2.7 Applicant Days – students who have applied to Liverpool Hope will be invited to an Applicant Day where they will be able to discuss in detail all aspects of their application.

9. Milestones

Liverpool Hope University outperforms its benchmarks in all three categories of performance indicator used by the Higher Education Statistical Agency (HESA) to measure success in widening access to underrepresented groups – see www.hesa.ac.uk/pi for detailed explanation of the performance indicators. The Performance Indicators are published by HESA in September for the academic year completed 14 months earlier.

Liverpool Hope will judge its access measures a success if it continues to outperform the benchmarks year-on-year.

The Performance Indicators published in September 2007 relate to the academic year 2005-06 and, in summary, demonstrate the following:-

97.8% of Liverpool Hope's **young full-time** first degree entrants came from **state schools or colleges** (benchmark was 94.9%)

40.0% of Liverpool Hope's **young full-time** first degree entrants came from **NS-SEC (National Statistics Socio-economic Classification) classes 4 to 7** (benchmark was 36.4%)

30.3% of Liverpool Hope's **young full-time** first degree entrants came from **low participation neighbourhoods** (benchmark was 17.9%)

30.6% of Liverpool Hope's **mature full-time** first degree entrants had no previous HE and came from **low participation neighbourhoods**

(benchmark was 17.7%)

10. Monitoring

The University Secretary and Student Finance Manager will make an Annual Report to Senate and University Council on operation of the bursary schemes and performance against the milestones.