

University of Nottingham Access agreement for 2010 entry

1. Level of fees

The University of Nottingham will charge home students £3,225 pa for all full-time HEFCE-funded undergraduate degree courses and TDA-funded ITT courses.¹

2. Providing the minimum level of bursary support

The University of Nottingham will meet the minimum level of bursary support to students on full state support.

3. Targeted bursary or other financial support for students to be provided from additional fee income

The University of Nottingham will continue its current bursary arrangements. This includes core bursaries and a number of additional bursaries for targeted groups.

The University of Nottingham will continue to go significantly beyond the minimum bursary requirement, providing support to at least one-third of its full-time UK undergraduate students. Criteria for guaranteed bursaries are designed so that the majority of prospective students know their likely entitlements at an early stage in the application process. The total cost of means-tested bursaries is estimated to be about £6m in 2010-2011.

Guaranteed core bursaries provide up to £1080 per student per annum in 2009-10. The income thresholds and levels of award for core bursaries will increase for 2010-11, but arrangements will otherwise be the same. Students with residual income levels up to £34,500 will receive £1080, while those with residual income levels between £34,501 and £44,500 will receive between £810 and £270.² In 2010 about one-third of UK undergraduate students are likely to be eligible for a core bursary. Students' bursary entitlement is reassessed annually.

Guaranteed additional bursaries relate to particular schemes of study, entrance routes or circumstances. Students may be eligible for more than one bursary. Additional bursaries include the following:³

- Awards of £1080 per annum to entrants from non-traditional routes with a residual income figure below £44,500

¹ This is the fee for students entering in 2009. The fee for students entering in 2010 and in subsequent years will be subject to the annual inflationary increase announced by the Government.

² Students with incomes between £34,501 and £35,500k receive £810, those with incomes between £35,501 and £43,500 receive £540 and those with incomes between £43,501 and £44,500 receive £270. These figures are for 2009 entry. Levels of core bursaries and the associated income thresholds will rise thereafter to reflect the annual inflationary increase.

³ The levels of these additional bursaries and the associated income thresholds (where applicable) will rise to reflect the annual inflationary increase.

- Awards of £1080 per annum to students with children or elderly dependants and with a residual income figure below £44,500
- Awards of £1080 per annum to students joining the University of Nottingham through the collaborative Lincoln/Nottingham Certificate in Health Science course
- Awards of £1080 per annum to students who have been in the care of a local authority (that is, who have been looked after as children)
- The University is currently developing additional bursaries to support study abroad by lower-income UK students as part of their Nottingham degree.

The University of Nottingham is committed to supporting part time students from a low-income background. Any student who is eligible to receive external Fee Support will automatically be awarded a standard University bursary of £806 (per 60 credits) to reduce course fees. The University has agreed to match the maximum level of funding available to part-time students, ensuring those in receipt of the full government tuition fee support will have no further tuition fees to pay.

Other financial support schemes targeting low participation student groups and originally funded by donations or external sponsorship will be continued and expanded (see section 6 below). Donations towards these schemes will be supplemented by additional fees income.

4. Supporting care leavers in higher education

The University of Nottingham has developed a Plan of commitment to care leavers in higher education. The Buttle Trust has approved this plan, though at the time of writing has not yet formally awarded its Quality Mark. We have already implemented a number of measures to address better the needs of care leavers; these include an additional bursary and targeted outreach. Additional support services both pre-entry and while at University are being implemented incrementally. We will develop and implement additional outreach services in collaboration with local authorities and other local higher education providers.

5. Outreach activities to be funded through additional fees income

Of the total spend on access measures, most will be directed towards financial support for students. The University is committed to contributing funds (estimated to be up to £200,000 pa) as necessary from September 2010 towards continuing centrally organised outreach activities at the current level; the actual amount contributed will be determined by the level of the Hefce widening participation premium and external sponsorship. See appendix 3 for a summary of the University of Nottingham's current outreach activities.

6. Additionality

The University of Nottingham is committed to spending a sum equivalent to approximately 23% of additional fees income on access measures in 2010. This figure excludes the Hefce widening participation premium and uses additional fees income from UK students only as a more accurate reflection of commitment. Most

of this expenditure is directed to measures additional to provision in place before 2006. Continuing provision includes the following measures:

Bursaries (approximately £290,000):

- First in the family scholarships and Malone scholarships for low-income students from the East Midlands
- Summer school graduates' scholarships
- Continuation of EMSTA scholarships in 4th year of study

Outreach: The University of Nottingham's centrally organised WP outreach programme currently provides over 22,000 contact opportunities for individual learners annually. Established in 2001 and expanded incrementally since then, this programme provides an ongoing core service to schools and colleges as well as additional academic enrichment activities for individuals. Schools and Faculties provide an increasing level of additional WP outreach; some activities in STEM subjects and in Modern Languages were in place before 2006. Centrally organised WP outreach and additional WP outreach by Schools and Faculties are currently funded through the widening participation premium from Hefce, external sponsorship and additional fees income. We anticipate that these various sources of funding will continue, though the balance between them will vary from year to year. The University of Nottingham is active in seeking additional external sponsorship for widening participation outreach.

Admissions and special entry pathways: About £80,000 facilitates admissions support and entry pathways for WP applicants. This includes administrative support for the Certificate in Health Science.

7. Provision of information to students and prospective students on financial support and the aggregate cost of tuition

The University will continue to provide information through its printed prospectuses and other materials, web site, face-to-face meetings at recruitment fairs, open days and interviews, and through responding to individual letters, e-mails and telephone calls. The Financial Support Team has been progressively augmented to increase its capacity for pre-admission financial advice. All staff involved in enquiries receive additional training in financial support.

On-line personalised information on fees and costs is provided via an enhanced on-line prospectus and a fees and bursaries calculator. Work on course-specific costs is ongoing. The Students' Portal supports bursary provision through the following functions:

- alerting users to both the guaranteed bursaries and additional financial support
- interfacing with HEBSS and the University's student application system to:
 - allow applicants to find out whether they are eligible for a core bursary and track the progress of their applications for additional financial support
 - explain to successful applicants what they need to do to activate bursary payments once registered
 - trigger payment of awards following provision of bank details by students via a secure on-line system
- providing guidance and assistance in the transition to University
- signposting prospective and current students to support services.

The administration of bursaries funded from additional fees income and other financial support schemes with a value of £500 per annum or above for home students sits within an expanded Financial Support Team, which has extensive experience in dealing with discretionary financial support. This centralisation of bursaries administration ensures a clear point of enquiry, consistency of policy and high quality of service to prospective and registered students. A physical relocation of the Financial Support Team to the centrally located Student Services Centre (2007) and the addition of a second Student Services Centre on Jubilee Campus (2008) reflect the University's commitment to improving services to students and have resulted in an increased uptake of services.

Students receiving the maximum core bursary were surveyed in early 2009. The results showed a very high level of satisfaction with the process of obtaining a bursary. While three-quarters of respondents had found it easy to find information on the Core Bursary and two-thirds rated the information available as 'good', we have implemented measures to improve this further. One-third of respondents said that the availability of bursaries had influenced their decision to choose Nottingham. Key findings of the bursary survey are appended to the access agreement. Interviews with students who had withheld financial information from the University established that they had done so inadvertently.

8. Institutional milestones and objectives

Key milestones for the access agreement are as follows:

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| a. Ongoing | Staff, processes and systems in place to ensure the efficient processing of student financial information and the provision of financial support. |
| b. Dec. 2010 | Provide £6m in bursaries to low-income students. |
| c. Dec. 2008 – Dec. 2012 | Increase the proportion of low-income undergraduate entrants from 20.0% to 25%. |

Progress

- a. The results of the bursary survey and our financial records confirm that this milestone continues to be met.
- b. The total expenditure on bursaries in 2008-09 is projected to be £4,796,000. This is only £30,000 less than planned bursary expenditure, and thus a significant improvement in terms of take-up on the previous year, in which actual bursary expenditure was 89% of the planned level. This increase is due in part to increased uptake of additional bursaries (from about £400,000 to £600,000) and in part to an increase in the proportion of students receiving core bursaries (from 32.5% to 35.6%). The recent survey of bursary recipients indicates high levels of satisfaction with the information provided about bursaries and the process of obtaining one; this may have contributed to the increase in uptake. Core bursaries account for £4,105,000 of total bursary expenditure. Additional bursaries provide extra support to local students, summer school 'graduates', students with dependents, care leavers and other targeted WP groups. At the point of writing, 98.2% of eligible

students have claimed their bursaries. Final figures will be available at year end (31 July 2009).

- c. The proportion of low-income students has fluctuated over the last three years, though at 20.0% (2008 entry) still shows a net rise of just over two percentage points since 2005-06. The proportion of students from deprived areas has risen more consistently. See appendix 2 for figures. A recent review of the previous WP strategy and access agreement confirmed the target of recruiting 25% of our UK students from low-income households, but extended the period in which to achieve this to September 2012.

9. Monitoring compliance with the agreement and progress towards milestones

The University confirms its commitment to monitor compliance with the agreement and progress towards milestones. Compliance with the access agreement and progress towards key milestones is monitored by the University's Management Board.