

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

ACCESS AGREEMENT 2011/12

1. Level of Fees

- 1.1. For students commencing courses after 1 September 2011 the University of Exeter proposes to set tuition fees across all undergraduate courses at the rate of £3,375 per annum¹, including students enrolled on PGCE courses. The only exceptions to this will be:
- BSc Medical Imaging (Diagnostic Radiography), for which the annual fee will be covered by an NHS Bursary;
 - Students spending a whole year studying at a European University under the Socrates/Erasmus programme, who will be exempted from all tuition fees;
 - Students undertaking a full-year placement either in industry or at a foreign university not covered by Socrates or Erasmus, who will be liable for fees of £1,688 per year;
 - Fifth year B Medicine and B Surgery students at the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, where tuition fees will be met by the Department of Health.
- 1.2. Prices and charges will be publicised and made readily available to prospective applicants through the normal channels, as outlined in section 3.3 below. Students will be advised that these fees will be subject to change in line with government announcements.

2. Bursaries and Financial Support

- 2.1. The University of Exeter understands and fully supports the Government's concern regarding the potential deterrent nature of the perceived cost of higher education within some under-represented groups. In this section we will outline the approach to targeting and promotion of bursaries for 2011/12 entrants, and in section 5 we will detail the proposed levels of expenditure in 2011/12.
- 2.2. Our UK Access Bursary Scheme will be open to any applicant to the University, and eligibility will be judged on the basis of financial criteria obtained via Student Finance assessments for the purpose of entitlement to Grants and Loans. For 2011 entrants, all students from families with income levels below £25,000, (ie those who receive the full Maintenance Grant), will be guaranteed a bursary of £1500. Students from families with incomes between £25,001 and £35,000 will be offered an award of £750.
- 2.3. We will provide additional financial support in the form of the Partnership Scholarship for students participating in our two Fair Access compact schemes; Realising Opportunities and Sutton Trust Academic Routes. The Partnership Scholarship scheme will offer additional support worth up to £1500.
- 2.4. Through a targeted regional and national approach, the University is setting out to draw together the areas of outreach work and financial support, in order to address the issues relating to under-aspiration and under-representation. The dual approach of national and regionally targeted schemes means that in some cases support of up to £3,000 per year will be available.
- 2.5. Different arrangements are in place to meet the special circumstances of prospective PGCE students, and prospective students at the Peninsula Medical School which is managed jointly by the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth:
- 2.6. PGCE students will be liable for fees of £3,375, but will also be eligible for funding through TDA Bursaries and Maintenance Grants. For this reason, we do not feel it appropriate to treat PGCE students in the same way as undergraduates when considering financial need. The Graduate School of Education will retain the portion of fee income that would normally be allocated to the central pot for bursaries. All PGCE students who are in receipt of the full maintenance grant will be awarded a Minimum Standard Bursary from the School which together with the

¹ Fees will rise annually in line with inflation.

maintenance grant will equal the fee of £3,375 (ie the bursary will be £3,375 less the full maintenance grant). In addition, the School has undertaken to retain the remainder from the 20% of the additional fee income used elsewhere for bursaries, and to use this to develop a scholarship scheme best suited for the challenges of attracting and recruiting a diverse range of talented students to PGCE courses.

- 2.7. Students at the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry will be enrolled at either the University of Exeter, or the University of Plymouth. The two Universities will be offering different bursary support, and we intend to ensure that no student be treated less favourably as a result of their allocation to one or the other University. When considering bursary applications, PCMD will take account of the different support arrangements offered by each of the Universities, and will seek to ensure that the package of support offered matches the most generous that would be available for the specific needs of the student, irrespective of the student's home institution.
- 2.8. Taken together, we believe that the above measures reflect the University's commitment to tackling the possible deterrent effect of the perceived cost of higher education amongst disadvantaged groups.

3. Financial Information for Prospective Students

- 3.1. In the process of developing these proposals for financial support outlined under section 2, the University has given consideration to the means by which information on the availability of support should be communicated to prospective students.
- 3.2. Fee-income will continue to be used to support additional staff posts in the Student Funding Team, in order to ensure the effective distribution of advice and information. In order to develop a more proactive approach, and to offer individual financial advice to those who might be most deterred from considering HE, we will continue to support a post in the Students' Guild through which we will support the outreach programme for partner schools.
- 3.3. In respect of tuition fee levels and financial support available the University proposes to communicate with students in a number of ways:
 - through printed and web-based information sources (prospectus, leaflets etc), to be distributed through the normal channels at UCAS HE Conventions and Careers Fairs. We expect this information to be available for distribution in line with prospectus publication dates, i.e. late in spring term in the year in which applications are made
 - through finance workshops and advice surgeries in partner schools and colleges in the southwest, throughout the normal cycle of student preparation for application and entry, commencing spring term prior to application;
 - through presentations and resources for teachers available on the web
 - through presentations and advice surgeries at open days and other recruitment events during the normal cycle of pre-application events and post-offer events.

4. Milestones and Measures of Progress

- 4.1. Many of our targets and milestones are now contained within the Widening Participation Strategic Assessment and will not be restated here. However, our previous Access Agreement, covering the period up to 2010/11, set explicit targets for 2010/11 in two key WP indicators; 70% for state school entrants and 17% for lower social classes.
- 4.2. We propose to retain these targets for the academic year 2011-12 and to develop an additional target relating to our Fair Access policy during the coming year. This target will relate to applications, offers and conversion for students from poorly performing schools and colleges and our use of contextual data to inform admissions decisions. The indicators used to define such schools and the levels at which implied educational disadvantage might be set are a work in progress. The milestones and targets for Fair Access and our use of contextual data for admissions purposes will be fully expressed in the new Access Agreement following the Browne Review of student fees and funding and subsequent changes in legislation.

4.3. The other key outputs which we will measure on an annual basis include the numbers of bursary applications received and the value of the awards made.

5. Financial Expenditure on Bursaries

5.1. As part of our annual requirement to report to OFFA on actual and planned expenditure for the period covered by this agreement, we have estimated that under the current arrangements for bursaries, we will spend £3,847,499 on bursaries in 2011/12. In addition to the amount spent directly on bursaries, we have also made provision for administrative costs of £127,045 in 2011/12.

5.2. The full commitment of the University to widening participation outreach activities is detailed in the institutional Widening Participation Strategic Assessment (Section 2 paras 7.1 – 7.8). £130,000 of this resource is being met from additional fee income under the terms of this Access Agreement.

5.3. The University will undertake an annual review of the use of additional fee income in line with our commitments as articulated in the Widening Participation Strategic Assessment.

6. Monitoring and Reporting Process

The University undertakes to report annually to OFFA on financial expenditure on bursaries and outreach and on progress towards relevant targets.

Appendix I – Bursary bandings for 2010/11 entrants

Income	Exeter Bandings	No of Students	Cost of Awards
< £25,001	£ 1,500.00		
£25,001 to £35,000	£ 750.00		
Total		977	£1,186,078*

***Based on 977 students receiving an average award of £1214. Approximately 576 (59%) would receive an award of £1500 and 401 (41%) would receive an award of £750.**