



The University of Liverpool
Updated Access Agreement – Entry 2011/12
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1. Introduction

This Access Agreement is designed to cover the period 2011/12 and describes a range of activities that are being delivered by the University of Liverpool to support the institutional mission to widen participation for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The University has taken this opportunity to alter the range of bursaries and scholarships that are available to students entering the University in 2011; students who entered the University before this date will be subject to the terms of the previous Access Agreements. Please note that it is only anticipated that these changes will be in force for one year since our position on fees, scholarships and bursaries for Entry 2012, following the publication of the Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance, are yet to be determined.

This agreement includes the arrangements for students from the Lancashire and Cumbria Medical and Dental Consortium. Given the singular nature of the Medical and Dental Consortium's provision and ethos, it has been agreed that, while sharing a common fees structure with the University of Liverpool, it should have a separate bursary scheme and articulate its approach to access separately. This will be forwarded once completed.

2. Fee Limits – 2011

2.1 Standard fee limit

For 2011/12 entry the University of Liverpool will charge the maximum allowable fee of £3,375 for all eligible undergraduate courses, except those detailed in 2.2 and 2.3 below.

2.2 Fee for the Foundation Year of Specified Courses

The fee for the Foundation Year of specified courses based at Carmel College, St Helens or Birkenhead Sixth Form College for Entry 2011/12 is £1,345.

Students on the Foundation Year of these programmes which are not subject to the full fee will remain eligible for the Liverpool Bursary in the same way as all other students; further details can be found in section 3.1.1.

2.3. Fee for the Placement Year of Four Year Programmes

The fee for the placement year, where students spend either a full year abroad or on a placement in industry for 2011/12 is £665.

Students undertaking the placement year who are eligible for any of the following awards will receive 50% of the relevant award(s) during the placement year:

- Liverpool Bursary;
- Liverpool Opportunity and Achievement Scholarship;
- Liverpool Scholars Award;
- North Liverpool Academy Scholarship.

Further details are provided in section 3.1.1.

3. Widening Participation and Recruitment Strategy

The University's Widening Participation Strategy is delivered primarily by the Educational Opportunities Team who work closely with the Student Recruitment and Admissions Team and with a range of schools and colleges both across Greater Merseyside and nationally. Further details of these activities are provided in sections 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4.

3.1 Financial Support Package 2011

In order to provide high levels of support to identified students, the University is committing approximately £6m annually (around one third of additional fee income) to support both undergraduate and postgraduate students from the following target groups, to receive bursaries and other financial support:

- Students from lower socio-economic groups currently under-represented in higher education;
- Students from lower income households;
- Students from the Greater Merseyside sub-region;
- Students from lower income households who have excellent attainment;
- Students from schools and colleges where there is limited progression to Higher Education.

3.1.1 Undergraduate Students

A wide range of awards are available for undergraduate students; some are means-tested, some recognise excellent attainment and some recognise excellent attainment but are also means-tested.

Type of Award	Target Group	Amount p.a.
The Liverpool Bursary	All Home students who are eligible to pay fees (other than those with non-exempt ELQs) from households with incomes less than £25,000 per annum.	£1,400
The Liverpool Opportunity and Achievement Scholarship	All Home students who are eligible to pay fees (other than those with non-exempt ELQs) from households with incomes less than £20,817 per annum (this figure is expected to rise for 2009 entry) achieving 3 x A level grades AAB or equivalent.	£4,000
The Liverpool Scholars Award	Students in Greater Merseyside who have participated in the University's Scholars programme.	£1,500
The North Liverpool Academy Scholarships	Students progressing to the University from the North Liverpool Academy.	£1,500
The South Liverpool Academy Scholarships	Students progressing to the University from the South Liverpool Academy.	£1,500

3.1.2 Postgraduate Students

Additionally, in order to further support University of Liverpool students wishing to progress to postgraduate study, the University is offering the following postgraduate award.

Type of Award	Target Group	Amount p.a.
The Liverpool Postgraduate Loyalty Award	Students graduating in 2008/09 and 2009/10 from the University of Liverpool who subsequently progress onto either a Master's or research programme at the University of Liverpool and who achieved a first class honours or 2.1 degree and who have additionally been in receipt of the Liverpool Bursary will be eligible for this award. Pro-rata awards will be made for part-time study.	£1,500

3.1.3 Other Support Available to Students

The University will continue to target bursary support to students resident in the Merseyside area through the established John Lennon Scholarships and Hillsborough Memorial Bursaries. These awards recognise the low level of participation in Higher Education in the Merseyside sub-region and are targeted to students from lower income families.

3.1.4 Detailed Arrangements

The University's bursary arrangements will apply to all UK students who are eligible to pay fees (other than those with non-exempt ELQs) provided that the appropriate means-testing information is in place.

The University's bursaries and scholarships will be paid to eligible students in instalments, subject to satisfactory attendance. The University uses the Higher Education Bursary and Scholarship Scheme (HEBSS) offered by the Student Loans Company to administer the Liverpool Bursary. All other scholarships and bursaries are administered by the University.

3.2 Outreach Activities

Widening Participation Initiatives

The University of Liverpool provides a range of widening participation activities and works with over 8,000 young people a year, from Years 5-12. These activities are targeted at schools where there is not a strong tradition of progression to higher education, and includes residential and non-residential summer schools, study skills and revision sessions, and visit days. The majority of this work is with entire year cohorts of young people in primary and lower secondary schools and becomes more targeted, with smaller numbers of individual learners, in older school year cohorts. The University of Liverpool has a specific programme of activity aimed at Looked After Children and has been awarded the Frank Buttle Trust Quality Mark for its Plan of Commitment to Care Leavers.

In order to support the delivery of outreach activities associated with this Access Agreement the University currently funds 5 staff posts within the Educational Opportunities Team. The total salary costs for these staff posts are £213,810.

In February 2008, the University re-located its Educational Opportunities Team to the newly opened Victoria Gallery and Museum. This provides office, training space and a small science laboratory for the Team and is complemented by a School Science Laboratory based in the Department of Chemistry. This facilitates work with groups of young people on campus, using the science laboratories and the museum exhibits to support a progression curriculum with local schools.

In addition to its self-funded outreach work, the University works closely with Aimhigher Greater Merseyside and, from August 2008, will be the lead higher education institution for the Aimhigher partnership. As part of its contribution to Aimhigher Greater Merseyside, and in line with the plan agreed with HEFCE, the University will provide in-depth support to 12 local schools to develop and deliver a progression curriculum designed to support entry to HE for non-traditional entrants. These schools will be identified by the Greater Merseyside Borough Co-ordinators.

The University of Liverpool has developed, and is delivering, the National Primary Network which is supporting universities and colleges across the country to deliver aspiration-raising activities for primary age young people, their families and teachers.

The University of Liverpool is committed to ensuring that all its students complete their studies and are successful in their progression on to further work or study. A peer mentoring scheme and learning skills support which includes web-based materials, some one-to-one support and staff development, helps students to progress successfully through their studies. This is complemented by a range of support services, including:

- Pre-entry support and guidance for mature students;
- Specialist help and support for students with disabilities;
- An employer mentoring scheme for students who are at a disadvantage in the labour market, for example, black and minority ethnic students, students with disabilities, mature students, and those who are the first in their family to enter higher education;
- Opportunities for accessing part-time work to fit in with the requirements of the degree course.

Target Schools and Colleges

The Education Liaison and Events Team takes a proactive approach to working with 115 target schools and colleges (which in 2008 accounted for 39% of all acceptances). These target schools and colleges are made up of the following types:

- State schools - 53%
- Sixth form colleges - 24%
- FE colleges -14%
- Independent schools - 9%.

These target schools and colleges are kept informed of the range of bursaries and scholarships available from the University together with developments in the criteria required for admission.

3.3 Fair Admissions

The University of Liverpool is nationally recognised as one of the Russell Group leaders in widening participation to Higher Education and supports the principles of fair and transparent admissions.

The University recognises a wide range of progression routes and seeks to ensure that applicants from non-traditional backgrounds are given every opportunity to demonstrate their potential to succeed at the University of Liverpool.

Admissions criteria, which are publicly available via the departmental admissions policies published on the University's website, provide for individual circumstances to be taken into account when they

are raised and evidence of their impact is provided, either via the personal statement on the UCAS form or via the reference, to ensure fairness and transparency.

Additionally, a wide range of non-traditional qualifications are accepted for entry to many of our programmes. For adults living locally who want to return to full-time education and may have no formal qualifications, the University offers a 'Go Higher' access programme. This is a one year, part-time course in two pathways, Arts and Social and Environmental Studies. After successful completion of 'Go Higher', participants are eligible to apply for a wide range of University of Liverpool degrees.

3.4 Assisted Admissions

The Liverpool Scholar

In 2008 the University established a new assisted admissions programme 'Scholars', with Year 12 students currently studying in one of 19 designated Greater Merseyside Schools. To participate in this programme, students have to meet the following criteria:

- Be part of an identified under-represented social group in HE
- Be in receipt of an Educational Maintenance Allowance
- Have no parental history of participation in HE.

Students accepted onto this programme participate in a number of academic workshops, are assigned an academic tutor, given revision support from the University, and complete a piece of academic work. Following successful completion of the programme students receive:

- Where appropriate, a differentiated offer, reduced by up to 40 UCAS Tariff points;
- The guaranteed offer of a place to study at the University of Liverpool in 2011, although not necessarily for an individual's first choice of programme.

Scholars who enter full-time undergraduate study at Liverpool will receive as a minimum, The Liverpool Bursary, as well as an additional non-repayable Scholars Scheme bursary of £1,500 for every year of their studies.

The Lifelong Learning Network

The University of Liverpool, in collaboration with local Further and Higher Education providers, has created a Year 0 foundation programme for Home/EU students that leads to access onto the following programmes at the University of Liverpool:

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Nursing
- Diagnostic Radiography
- Occupational Therapy
- Orthoptics
- Physiotherapy
- Radiotherapy

The programme is targeted at applicants with significant workplace experience or people with related vocational rather than traditional A level qualifications. Successful completion to the specified standard of this one-year foundation programme ensures automatic progression onto the programmes listed above, offered by the University of Liverpool.

4. Provision of Information to Students

Given the dynamic nature of funding for Higher Education at the present time, the University of Liverpool now provides full details of the fees for UK undergraduates and the scholarships and bursaries available to them, on our web site.

In addition, the UK and EU Recruitment Team provide regular presentations to groups of students in target schools and colleges of the finance arrangements in Higher Education.

5. Milestones

5.1. The University performs well in relation to comparator institutions and its HESA performance indicator benchmarks in the area of widening participation, particularly in respect of recruitment, exceeding its benchmarks for the proportion of students recruited from state schools and from low participation neighbourhoods. It also has an excellent record in retention of students given the mix of students recruited. The University is committed to maintaining its current position and if possible improving recruitment from the socio-economic classes 4, 5, 6, and 7 and it is anticipated that the assisted admissions programme Scholars and the Lifelong Learning Network together with the introduction of the new Opportunity and Achievement Scholarships will assist with this. The University does however recognise that it will be difficult to enhance its performance much further, given the situation of its main comparators.

5.2 The University uses the performance indicators produced by HESA on annual basis to monitor progress against objectives at an institutional level.

5.3 The University has also developed a series of internal recruitment, progression and completion indicators which identify performance based on ethnicity, gender, age on entry and domicile. Scrutiny of these internal performance indicators on an annual basis provides further complementary information in assessing progress against objectives.

5.4 The University also uses data on the number of students in receipt of a bursary as a key indicator of participation from low income households. Using the 2006 figures as a baseline, an annual assessment is made of numbers, broken down by subject area, to ensure that the University maintains the baseline figure for the period covered by this Access Agreement.

5.5 The University also undertakes an annual review of its mechanisms for administration of the bursary and scholarships schemes in order to ensure that this administration is effective, timely and efficient.

5.6 The University continues to work with regional partners, as a member of the Greater Merseyside IAG partnership, to ensure that progression routes into the University for under-represented groups are transparent and equitable.

5.7 Appropriate training for all staff engaged in recruitment and admissions activities is provided to ensure that the needs of under-represented groups are being met. This training is reviewed and updated annually.

6. Institutional Monitoring Arrangements

6.1 The University will use its existing monitoring arrangements to ensure that progress is being assessed appropriately. An annual assessment of progress is made through the University's Learning and Teaching Committee, which has overall responsibility for this area, through Sub-Committees and Groups where necessary.

6.2 In addition, regular monitoring points throughout the year will be identified whereby the outreach support team and study skills support team assess progress at departmental level, informed by qualitative and quantitative management information.

6.3 This consideration will form the basis of the University's annual report to OFFA.