



**Bournemouth University**

**Access Agreement**

**2009-10 to 2011**

## **BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY ACCESS AGREEMENT 2009-10 to 2001-12**

*This Access Agreement covers Bournemouth University students undertaking a programme of study that falls within the scope of variable fees, i.e. UK and other EU students undertaking a BU full-time undergraduate course not funded by the NHS.*

### **1. Introduction**

‘Bournemouth University is a youthful and innovative international institution offering a range of high-quality academic programmes geared to the professions’ (Corporate Plan 2006-2012). The Corporate Plan also reiterates a commitment to growth in local provision, to strengthen access for non-traditional students who have the potential to succeed in Higher Education and significantly enhance their employment opportunities.

The University’s commitment to widening participation (WP) is embedded within its vision, mission and value statements in the Strategic Plan 2007-2012. The WP Strategy 2009-2012 outlines objectives, and the related WP Strategic Assessment 2009-2012 identifies specific targets and milestones. In partnership with Further Education (FE) Colleges in the region the University aims to identify and recruit students who may not have followed a traditional route to higher education but who can be identified as having the academic ability to succeed on the University’s programmes.

Working with these partner FE Colleges is an important part of the University’s WP and fair access activities in the region. Through these collaborative links, the University is committed to continue to develop its portfolio of Foundation Degrees, providing a range of progression opportunities into and through Higher Education.

### **2. Fee Limits**

The University charges the maximum standard variable fee for Bournemouth University campus-based Home/EU full time or sandwich, undergraduate degree programmes that fall within the scope of variable fees. This applies to Bournemouth University programmes delivered through five of the University’s six partner FE Colleges (listed below), and to the Anglo-European College of Chiropractic, an Associate College of the University.

- Bournemouth and Poole College
- Kingston Maurward College
- Weymouth College
- Wiltshire College Salisbury
- Yeovil College

Bridgwater College are an exception to this, and charge below the maximum standard variable fee.

Any inflationary increases applied annually by parliament to fees, grants and loans will automatically apply. Fees for Bridgwater may be increased by more than the annual rate of inflation, up to the level of the maximum standard variable fee.

Up to date information on the top-up fees charged by Bridgwater College is available at:

<http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/futurestudents/funding/>

### **3. Bursaries and Other Financial Support for Students**

#### **3.1 General Principles**

The University policy in relation to fees, scholarships and bursaries is clear and transparent. The University is committed to offering value for money throughout the range of services provided to students.

Unless otherwise specified in the offer of a place to a student, normally there will be no extra charges for:

- Activities that all students on any particular programme are required to undertake to achieve their award e.g. going on field trips, etc.
- Most specialist equipment that all students on a particular programme are required to acquire e.g. laboratory coats etc.

The Fees Board may also approve such other incentives, as they deem appropriate.

### **3.2 Bursaries**

Bursaries are available to **Home/EU students only** and will be used primarily to support the University's widening access and participation strategic aims, and to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Bursaries may also be used to promote/encourage recruitment to particular programmes. Bursaries may be awarded for any or all years of study dependent upon the type of bursary and the student's eligibility.

This agreement incorporates any Bursary scheme that Bournemouth University students may be entitled to under the scope of variable fees at the time of approval.

The Bursaries currently available within the scope of this Access Agreement are specified below. The University may offer additional Bursaries from time to time.

- BU Bursary: the Standard Minimum Bursary (£319 per annum in 2009/10). Eligibility for the BU Bursary will be determined in the first instance by family/household income. This also applies to all six partner FE Colleges, and the Anglo-European Chiropractic College, an Associate College.
- BU Partnerships Bursary: Students enrolling on BU programmes at partner FE Colleges automatically receive a non-repayable bursary of £500. This does not apply to Bridgwater College as they charge a lower top-up fee. The Partnership Bursary is in addition to the BU Bursary above.

Information on how to apply for Bursaries is available in the BU Bursary Scheme which is updated annually.

The Bursary is normally paid for each year of a student's course (excluding any sandwich year) while they remain eligible under the published criteria. Students are required to reapply to Student Finance England for their tuition fee loan on an annual basis, and therefore their financial circumstances are assessed yearly.

Eligibility to receive the BU Bursary is not affected by any other loan, grant, scholarship or bursary received by a student from any source.

Further information on the eligibility criteria and the details of each bursary can be found on the website:

[www.bournemouth.ac.uk/futurestudents/funding/](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/futurestudents/funding/)

### **3.2 Scholarships**

There are a number of Scholarship schemes included in this agreement as it covers any scheme that Bournemouth University students may be entitled to under the scope of variable fees. Eligibility for a Scholarship will be determined in accordance with the published criteria for each scholarship. A range of Scholarships are available to Home/EU students, with alternative arrangements in place for International (non-EU) students. Scholarships are normally awarded for the first year of study only.

Further details on the eligibility criteria and the range of Scholarships available can be found on the website:

[www.bournemouth.ac.uk/futurestudents/funding/](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/futurestudents/funding/)

#### **4. Provision of Information to Students**

The University endeavours to provide clear, accurate, comprehensive and timely information to prospective and current students on the Access Agreement and any other related information as may be deemed relevant. The full range of student support available is publicised through a range of mediums, including the prospectus, website, student handbook and hard copy information leaflets. In particular, the offer letter draws applicants' attention to the fact that the University offers a range of bursaries and scholarships. It also provides a web link where more detailed information about what is available and how to apply can be accessed.

The 'askBU' service was introduced in September 2007 and is the University's 'one stop' information and guidance shop for incoming and current students. All askBU advisors are able to provide information on the range of financial support available to students and the Student Financial Support Team are an integral part of the askBU service.

The University's fees policy clearly demonstrates our commitment to informing students up front about all the costs included in the fee for the duration of their programme and the University ensures that this information is communicated to students before the start of the programme. This communication includes information on likely annual rises in line with the Retail Price Index (RPI) and the minimum level of bursary as well as details on the appropriate appeals processes.

The University's Fees Board sets all fees, and the criteria for the award of scholarships and bursaries, annually. This is normally 18 months in advance of them coming into effect. Changes to policy will be communicated to prospective and current students in a timely and appropriate manner.

#### **5. Outreach activities**

The University has committed additional expenditure on outreach of £200k (2008/09 with inflationary increase added thereafter) from top-up fee income. This will help support additional activities that will be undertaken to support achievement of the targets identified in the University's WP Strategic Assessment 2009-2012 and related Action Plans. Specifically, this expenditure will support the development of new schools partnerships, including co-sponsorship of an Academy project, and supporting other local schools to achieve trust and/or specialist school status. The full range of the University's outreach activities are outlined in the WP Strategic Assessment 2009-2012.

#### **6. Milestones and Monitoring**

The University's targets and milestones for the period 2009-2012 are outlined in the WP Strategic Assessment and a copy is provided in Appendix 1 for reference. Progress towards

the targets will be monitored formally through the annual WP report, in addition to ongoing regular monitoring.

**BU Access Agreement  
June 2009**



### Appendix 1: WP Targets and Milestones 2009-2012

Strategic Objective (from Strategic Plan 2008-2012)	Target	Annual Milestones			Baseline (based on 2007-08 Registry data)	Monitoring
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12		
<b>1. Achieve two of the three benchmark targets for widening participation.</b>	a. Increase % applications from students in LPNs.	0.4% increase in applications.	0.4% increase in applications.	0.4% increase in applications.	LPN applications 1385 against total of 14737 (9.4%). If total student numbers and conversion remain constant require LPN applications to increase to 1550 against total of 14737 (10.5%) to achieve benchmark.	WP Management Group HESA WP performance indicators. Registry data for in-year monitoring WP Annual report
	b. Increase enrolment of LPN and NS-SEC 4-7 students.	0.7% increase in conversion of students from LPNs.  1.7% increase in NS-SEC enrolments.	0.7% increase in conversion of students from LPNs.  1.7% increase in NS-SEC enrolments.	0.7% increase in conversion of students from LPNs.  1.7% increase in NS-SEC enrolments.	Conversion of LPN applicants is 17.6%. If LPN application numbers remain constant, need to reach 19.7% conversion to achieve benchmark.  Enrolment of NS-SEC 4-7 (with known data) is 29.4%. This is based on 716 students enrolling against total population of 2439. To meet benchmark need to achieve 5% increase in NS-SEC enrolments.	
<b>2. Continue to award Foundation Degrees providing a range of progression opportunities into and through HE.</b>	a. Increase student progression from Foundation degrees.	Undertake review and mapping of FdAs to top-ups. Identify progression targets.	Monitor progression rates.	Monitor progression rates.	44.6% progression from HND and FdA to BU top-ups.	WP Management Group WP Annual WP report Registry data Partnerships Coordinator Forum Annual Reports on Framework Monitoring
<b>3. Quality assure and enhance the student experience through the new School structures. Associate Deans (UG Students) will be responsible for ensuring the widening access and student retention targets of the School and University are achieved.</b>	a. Ensure appropriate support is available for under-represented groups.	Review effectiveness of existing support arrangements.	Implement outcomes of review.	Ongoing monitoring.	A review of the existing support arrangements will be included in the 2008-09 WP Annual Report.	WP Management Group WP Annual Report School Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committees.
	b. Review mechanisms for monitoring WP student progression and achievement.	Review existing mechanisms to include data monitoring.	Implement outcomes of review.	Ongoing monitoring.	An initial review to establish the baseline will be included in the 2008-09 WP Annual Report.	WP Management Group WP Annual Report School Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committees