



**Bournemouth University  
Access Agreement 2007-2011**

**October 2007**

# **BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY ACCESS AGREEMENT 2007 – 2012**

## ***Pre-amble***

*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 geared to the professions with a passionate commitment to academic excellence and student-centred and relevant higher education delivered in a financially robust and sustainable manner'. The University's 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.

Bournemouth University Widening Access and Participation Strategy is embedded within its vision, mission and value statements in the Strategic Plan 2007-2012.

The strengthening of the widening access and participation strategy and action plan is based upon the University's commitment to 'admit students from all sections of society who would benefit from Higher Education'. In partnership with FE Colleges in the region we will 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. In addition, we will provide financial support to students who would otherwise be unable to take up an offer of a place at the University on the grounds of financial hardship.

Working with Partner FE Colleges will remain an important part of the University's widening participation and fair access activity within the region. The University will continue to award Foundation Degrees, providing a range of progression opportunities into and through Higher Education.

## **2. Fee Limits**

*Proposed Fee Levels for the 2007/08 academic year and subsequently*

For the 2007-2008 academic year the University charges a standard fee of £3,070 per annum for all Bournemouth University campus-based Home/EU full-time or sandwich, undergraduate degree programmes that fall within the scope of variable fees.

2007-08 fees for Bournemouth University programmes running at its Partner Institutions are also £3,070 per annum with the exception of those students at Bridgwater College, whose fees are £2,055 per annum.

Please note that the fees above, post 2007-2008, will be subject to annual adjustment to reflect the inflationary increase applied annually by parliament to fees, grants and loans.

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

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 the 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.

Bursaries are available to Home/EU students only and will be used to encourage widening access to, and participation in, Higher Education and to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Bursaries may also be used to promote/encourage recruitment to particular programmes. Bursaries are normally awarded for the duration of eligible students' programme of study.

Scholarships are also available to Home/EU students to reward academic and vocational merit and are, in addition, available to students who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the area of sports, music and citizenship. Scholarships are normally awarded on an annual basis but will be automatically renewed if the appropriate merit criteria are met in each year of eligible students' programme of study.

Non-EU students are subject to separate funding and Scholarship arrangements. The University operates a separate Scholarship scheme for Bournemouth University graduates enrolling on subsequent programmes at the University. The Fees Board agrees the detail of these schemes annually and normally 18 months in advance of them coming into effect.

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

#### **3.1 Bursaries**

There are a number of Bursary schemes included in this agreement as it covers any bursary scheme that Bournemouth University students may be entitled to under the scope of variable fees. Eligibility for a Bursary scheme will be determined, in the first instance, by where the programme of study is delivered.

The different Bursaries available within the scope of this Access Agreement are:

- BU Bursary: means tested Bursary of up to £1,000 per annum.

- BU Partnerships Bursary: £500 per annum bursary offered by BU Partner Colleges (excluding Bridgwater College) in addition to the BU Bursary above.

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

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

- Anglo-European College of Chiropractic College (AECC) Bursary. From 2008/09 academic year AECC offers its own bursary scheme which comprises a means-tested bursary of £750 per annum. Further information on the eligibility criteria and the details the bursaries can be found in the AECC website: [www.aecc.ac.uk](http://www.aecc.ac.uk)

A bursary is normally paid for each year of a student's course, excluding any sandwich year, but students will be asked to confirm, each year, that their financial circumstances have not changed significantly.

Eligibility to receive either the Bournemouth University or the AECC Bursaries is not affected by any other loan, grant, scholarship or bursary received by a student from any source.

### **3.2 Scholarships**

There are a number of Scholarship schemes included in this agreement as it covers any scholarship scheme that Bournemouth University students may be entitled to under the scope of variable fees. Eligibility for a Scholarship scheme will be determined, in the first instance, by where the programme of study is delivered.

The different Scholarships available within the scope of this Access Agreement are:

- BU Scholarships: £1,000 awards to reward academic excellence or outstanding achievements in the area of sports, music or citizenship. Further information on the eligibility criteria, the details of each scholarship and the number available can be found in the BU website: [www.bournemouth.ac.uk/moneymatters](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/moneymatters)
- AECC Scholarships: From 2008/09 academic year AECC offers its own scholarship scheme which comprises of scholarships of £750 to reward academic achievement. Further information on the eligibility criteria and the details the scholarships can be found in the AECC website: [www.aecc.ac.uk](http://www.aecc.ac.uk)

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

Bournemouth University endeavours to provide clear, accurate, comprehensive and timely information to prospective and current students on the terms of our OFFA Agreement and any other related information as may be deemed relevant. The full range of available student support will be made accessible to students and prospective students in a variety of mediums, including the

prospectus, website, via specific publications and through Professional Services and Academic Schools.

The University's fees policy clearly demonstrates our commitment to informing students up front about all the costs included in the fee for the length of their programme and the University will ensure that this information is communicated to students before the start of the programme. This communication will include information on likely annual rises in line with RPI and the minimum level of bursary and will also provide details of the appropriate appeals process.

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

## **5. Outreach activities**

Bournemouth University is committed to Widening Access and has been working on outreach activities for a number of years. Indeed, the University is well known for playing a leading role in regional and national agendas.

At present, we have several mechanisms for widening participation and fair access including:

- AimHigher
- Higher Level Skills Pathfinder Project (HLSPP)
- Extended degree schemes including foundation years
- Involvement in South West Lifelong Learning Network (SWLLN) regional partnerships for progression schemes
- Foundation Degrees in partnership with regional Further Education Colleges

### Aims:

For the period 2007-2012 it is envisaged that BU's outreach activity will build on successful programmes such as Aimhigher and the South West Lifelong Learning Network. The main focus will be on widening access and participation for specific target groups currently under-represented in HE:

- Those from lower socio-economic groups and manual backgrounds
- Those from low participation neighbourhoods
- Those from state schools
- Those on F.E routes and in priority sectors of employment
- First generation HE entrants
- Those young people who have been looked after in the care of local authority
- Those with a disability (including an Additional Learning Need/Special Educational Need)

## **6. Milestones and Monitoring**

Despite the current level of activity, as highlighted above, the University does not yet meet two of our three national benchmark targets for widening participation. Although we exceed our recruitment target for students from state schools, we fail to meet our targets for low participation neighbourhoods and lower socio-economic class.

In the period of the University's current Strategic Plan (2007-2012) the University will be working towards meeting at least two out of the three indicators referred to above. Appropriate key performance indicators have been designed to monitor the achievement of these targets including a set of lead indicators to allow early detection of trends.

The University's Academic Schools will be increasingly accountable for the delivery of the University WP targets and, therefore, annual targets will also be established at School level.

In addition, the University will work closely with our Partner FE Colleges to increase the number of students studying for a Foundation Degree and also, the proportion of those students who progress to Bournemouth University. New Foundation Degree programmes will be developed and validated by Bournemouth University but only in areas where we have academic strength, or can collaborate with others who have the necessary academic strength. A set of indicators will also be established to monitor these developments.

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