

University of Nottingham

Access agreement for 2012 entry

Introduction

The University of Nottingham has a long tradition of raising aspiration and supporting achievement by working with young people, teachers, schools and colleges across Nottingham, the East Midlands and beyond. Despite unprecedented cuts to our teaching income from 2010 through 2015, we are determined to address the needs and challenges of some of the most deprived young people in our country. Our existing strengths across a variety of interventions and partnerships will equip us well to deliver against new targets and we want to accelerate and expand our activities, building on the momentum we have already gained.

The University of Nottingham has made excellent progress in widening participation over the last six years. We are pleased to report that 22.9% of UK students entering the University in September 2009 were from low-income backgrounds, up from 17% in 2004.¹ This represents a rise of six percentage points in five years. Interim figures for the 2010 intake indicate that a further rise is likely. This success informs our strategy for the future, at the heart of which lies the continuation of our current approach but with a greater focus on longer-term local initiatives aimed at delivering major improvements in educational attainment and progression to higher education in the more disadvantaged parts of our region. This work will be supported by additional funds from a range of sources. Additional fees income will allow us to enhance the financial, academic and professional support we provide our own students, ensuring that a University of Nottingham education provides all our students with fair and equal opportunity to succeed during their time here and subsequently within society.

A. Overview of our success to date

Our centrally organised **widening participation outreach** has expanded in recent years to provide over 22,000 opportunities annually to potential students to learn more about higher education. We work with over 100 secondary schools and colleges, most within a 25-mile radius, offering activities for every group from year 7 to mature students on Access courses. Activities include, for example, awareness raising visits to the campus and year 9 GCSE options sessions, personal statement workshops and taster days. Our academic enrichment work involves individual learners from across the East Midlands and the UK in summer schools, masterclasses, revision sessions, mentoring and other activities supporting progression to selective universities.

This work is yielding results. Students from local widening participation schools and colleges now comprise 10% of our intake, up from 4% in 2002. Of those students who participate in our summer schools, 96.4% apply to selective universities and 38.8% successfully take up places there.²

The University has taken a leading role in regional and national WP collaboration: we were the lead partner in the East Midlands Excellence Hub 2006-2010 and hosted the inaugural Russell Group teachers' conference in May 2009.

The **Nottingham University Samworth Academy** (NUSA) opened in September 2009 in one of the city's most deprived areas, moving into new buildings a year later. As co-

¹ 'Low income' for this purpose is defined as residual household incomes under £23,660 for 2009 entry.

² Selective universities were defined for the analysis as members of the Russell Group or 94 Group of universities.

sponsor, the University's contribution is closely tailored to NUSA's development plan. We have made a major contribution through our active involvement in governance, continuing professional development for staff, enrichment of the Academy's chosen specialism of Health and Science, and support for key target areas of NUSA's Development Plan, including a rapid emergence from National Challenge. This special partnership provides us with the opportunity to design, pilot and test innovative collaborations that can be replicated elsewhere, to support research around the process of school improvement, and to challenge the barriers to engagement with higher education. The University continues to engage families, employers and community partners, with support from a range of our staff and students. There is now strong evidence of attitudinal change amongst pupils, with improved attendance, and enrolments at the Academy have risen.

The University's Community Partnerships Team has continued to provide, as part of a broader community engagement agenda, **support to local primary schools**. Involving several hundred staff and students annually, activities promote and support educational aspirations and attainment and an interest in education. They include support for those with English as an additional language, support for literacy and numeracy, and subject-specific activities to enrich the school curriculum.

Staff and students across the University contribute generously to widening participation outreach. Engagement initiated by the University's academic Schools continues to grow, increasingly in the form of formal projects, some with external funding and curriculum links. These include, for example, Open Air Laboratories (OPAL), Routes into Languages and the Further Maths Centre. Staff also contribute to outreach organised by the Widening Participation Team: well over 100 (mostly academics) provide masterclasses, academic sessions for summer schools and other activities. Following an audit, the total input by staff in academic Schools has been valued by the University's Finance Department at over £400,000 per year. Engagement by students also continues strongly, with 218 students participating in formal schemes such as Student Associates, Undergraduate Ambassadors and Aimhigher Student Associates. A further 200 students support widening participation activities as Student Ambassadors. The University's Schools and Colleges Engagement Framework and associated central staff support this breadth of engagement.

For 2006 entry, the University introduced a **bursary** system that was successful from the outset. Designed to be fair, clear and easy to access, our core bursaries have enjoyed an increasingly high uptake (in 2009-10 the uptake rate was 99.1% of eligible students) and the scheme has been commended by OFFA as an example of good practice. Additional bursaries to support and encourage students with specific circumstances and backgrounds (for example care leavers and students with dependents) have resulted in increased enrolments of these students.

The University's **widening participation admissions policy**, first piloted in 2001, is now well established. Since 2006 we have augmented the contextual information available to admissions staff by including performance information about schools in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, as well as England. When assessing applications, admissions staff take this school performance information into consideration alongside the personal statement and reference and socio-economic information derived from the home postcode. We explain this policy and process to prospective applicants on our website.³

Year 0 Foundation courses are an important tool in facilitating entry to some of the University of Nottingham's most selective courses. Since 2005, over 100 students from under-represented backgrounds have entered the Certificate in Health Science, a joint

³ At www.nottingham.ac.uk, select 'undergraduate study', then 'Applying.'

initiative with the University of Lincoln, with on average 85% successfully progressing to Medicine, Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine and other health-related courses at the University of Nottingham. The Certificate received national recognition through the THES Widening Participation Initiative of the Year Award in 2006. This initiative has laid the foundations for the development of subject-specific Year 0 courses within the University of Nottingham itself, with the first intakes for Veterinary Medicine in September 2011 and for Medicine in 2012.

B. Arrangements for 2012 entry

1. Fee limits and fee income above £6,000

The University of Nottingham will charge home students **£9,000** pa for all full-time HEFCE-funded undergraduate degree courses.⁴ Our estimated total fee income above £6,000 will be £15.1m from 2012 entrants, with £22.6m of additional fees income from undergraduate students who entered under current arrangements from 2006 to 2011.

2. Expenditure on additional access measures

The University of Nottingham's total expenditure on access and widening participation in 2012 will be £11.1m. This represents:

- 31.2% of additional fees income from the 2012 entry cohort
- 27.7% of additional fees income from previous cohorts.⁵

3. Additional access measures

a. Outreach

We will maintain in full our **current outreach** provision, as described in section A, thus continuing to provide a core of over 540 activities a year for young people from year 7 through to mature learners. This continuation requires the University to replace approximately £65,000 per year of Aimhigher funding. The University will also seek to replace at least partial reductions in the Hefce widening participation premium and funds for schemes placing undergraduates in classrooms as necessary.

The University of Nottingham's commitment to **additional outreach** is evident in our launching *Nottingham Potential* in January 2011, ahead of the increase in additional fees income. This major new outreach programme will expand our current output from 22,000 opportunities annually to 37,000 in 2012-13 and nearly 50,000 by 2015-2016.⁶ Nottingham Potential provides ongoing academic and pastoral support to young people from the age of eight to 18. Education Centres located within the city's most educationally and socially disadvantaged communities will provide after-school homework support as well as a base for aspiration raising and academic enrichment activities. Please see Appendix 1 for an overview.

We will continue current **collaboration** with Nottingham Trent University on joint activities, including events for teachers, families, looked after children and young people with disabilities. We also aim to continue to collaborate on schemes to place our respective undergraduates in local schools as classroom assistants and student mentors. As noted above, we have allocated additional funds to replace partially some external funding for these schemes.

⁴ This is the fee for students entering in 2012. The fee for students entering in 2013 and in subsequent years will be subject to an inflationary increase. Arrangements for TDA-funded ITT courses have yet to be confirmed.

⁵ We are maintaining this investment despite the Government's decision to make significant cuts in both annual teaching grants and capital grants. The University of Nottingham is faced with a £12m cut in funding from central government in 2011-12, following a reduction of £4m in the current financial year (2010-11).

⁶ Numbers are subject to confirmation following completion of detailed planning.

We are in the process of developing a collaborative agreement with the University of Derby. This will focus initially on ensuring that our respective outreach provision is complementary. We are planning staff development so that outreach staff can refer as appropriate to opportunities and provision at both universities. We are likely to develop some joint outreach provision, for example a healthcare professions insight day for Year 10 students. This will enable work with a larger pool of potential applicants, combining our efforts and building on the experience of both Universities to raise aspirations in the region.

Other planned collaborations include:

- Management of Excellence Hub funding for activities across the East Midlands for high-achieving young people
- Active contribution to planning the next joint Russell Group teachers' conference and other activities.
- Active contribution to EMCLASS, the East Midlands universities' network for looked after children and care leavers

In addition, we are beginning discussions with the University of Birmingham about collaboration in widening participation outreach and Foundation pathways, and with other East Midlands universities about contributing funds to a joint post to provide and analyse data.

b. Admissions and special entry pathways

We will continue to improve our systems to provide contextual information about applicants and augment this with further contextual information from UCAS. Our widening participation admissions policy is well established across the University. In addition, applicants who are eligible for inclusion in our new *Nottingham Potential* outreach programme will be guaranteed a conditional offer if they complete the programme and apply to the University of Nottingham.

The School of Veterinary Medicine and Science will admit the first intake to its new widening participation foundation year 0 in September 2011. Entry requirements are lower than those required for direct entry. This course complements the existing year 0 for Veterinary Medicine, which attracts a high proportion of students with Access and vocational qualifications. The year 0 for Healthcare Science also attracts a high proportion of such students and will be used as a basis for the new Medicine year 0, beginning in 2012. The Faculties of Engineering and Science run year 0 courses for a range of students, with the Engineering course particularly attractive to widening participation students. A new pre-entry bridging course is facilitating the entry of students without the normal mathematics requirements.

c. Student retention and success

The University has the ongoing aim of maintaining continuation rates for students from low participation neighbourhoods at over 94%. In past years, the University has exceeded this target with rates of 96.8%, 97.6%, 94.4% and 95.7% for the years 2003-04 to 2006-07. Data for 2007-08 indicate a drop to 93.0%, a matter for concern and which the University is seeking to address. All students will benefit from the overall reconfiguration of pastoral support, both within our residential accommodation and the academic personal tutoring system within our Schools. We have set our bursary levels high enough to lessen the need to work part-time, as we are aware of evidence that bursaries aid student retention. Widening participation students entering the University from the *Nottingham Potential* scheme will have access to specialised pastoral care through an enhanced induction and academic support programme.

The University is aware of its role in promoting social mobility and access to the professions, through ensuring both a diverse intake to our courses and a student experience of the highest quality. We are specifically aware of the need for students from low-income non-professional family backgrounds to develop greater awareness of the formal steps necessary for successful progression to the professions as well as informal networks and the 'soft skills' valued by employers.⁷

The University's Centre for Career Development (CCD) will thus progressively augment its current support for all students by developing additional measures specifically to support students from low-income and non-professional family backgrounds, both while at University and in preparation for their future careers. This includes CCD staff contributing to outreach activities through tailored sessions for local school pupils and teachers, with a focus on access to the professions; helping *Nottingham Potential* students and other bursary holders to find term-time and holiday employment through our Unitemps agency; specific skills development pathways through the Nottingham Advantage Award;⁸ and using alumni as mentors and to broker work placements and internships which will equip students with the networks and experience to compete in the employment marketplace. These developments will be supported in 2012-13 by modest additional funding, which we aim to increase in subsequent years.

d. Financial support

The bursary arrangements in place at the University of Nottingham from 2006 to 2011 have been commended by OFFA and there is good evidence that they have been successful in terms of attracting low-income students to the University.⁹ We are aware of evidence that prospective students and their families are concerned about overall levels of debt, particularly living costs, and we are therefore placing more emphasis on bursaries than on fee waivers.¹⁰ We will refine the model of our current **core bursaries** to target larger sums of financial support at those students from families with the lowest residual income to help minimise their overall debt. In 2012 well over one-third of UK undergraduate students are likely to be eligible for a core bursary. We will reassess students' bursary entitlement annually.

⁷ Stuart, M; Lido, C; Morgan, J. and May, S. (2009) 'Student Diversity, Extra Curricular Activities and Perceptions of Graduate Outcomes.' Higher Education Academy. http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/detail/publications/Stuart_Final

⁸ The Nottingham Advantage Award is the University's employability award which accredits student learning derived from co- and extra-curricular activity.

⁹ A survey of 2006 entrants indicated that 80% of those eligible for a bursary were influenced by our bursary provision to choose Nottingham. While a survey of the 2008 intake indicated that this had dropped to 30%, the continuing rise in the proportion of low-income student entering the University of Nottingham suggests that bursaries continue to have a positive impact on choice. Sir Martin Harris' finding that bursaries do not influence student choice is based largely on the lack of progress on average across the Russell Group, despite these universities' offering higher bursaries.

¹⁰ Sources include unpublished research by the University of Bristol, drawing on focus groups with 120 students; a HELOA 'Meet your market' event in January 2011; and anecdotal evidence from staff across the University involved in admissions or recruitment.

Table 1: Core bursaries at the University of Nottingham for 2012 entry

Income bands	Award level
<£15,000	£3,000
£15,001 - £25,000	£2,000
£25,001 - £35,000	£1,000
£35,001 - £42,600	£750

The University will continue to provide **additional bursaries** for students from particular backgrounds or circumstances with the aim of ensuring that financial support is targeted towards those who need it most. Whilst the categories of need are broadly similar to pre-2012 arrangements, we have simplified the scheme to make it more transparent for applicants. As before, we have designed criteria for bursaries so that most prospective students know their likely entitlements at an early stage in the application process.

Nottingham Potential guaranteed bursaries provide an additional £1,000 a year for students who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- entering via an Access route or with vocational qualifications and with a residual household income figure of up to £42,600
- students with children or adult dependants and with a residual household income figure up to £42,600
- students who have been in the care of a local authority (that is, who have been looked after as children)
- students who have fulfilled specified conditions through participation in the University's widening participation outreach activities (for example, Nottingham Potential and our summer schools).

At the University of Nottingham we will provide means-tested bursaries to well over one-third of our full-time UK undergraduate students, at a total estimated cost of about £4.2m for the 2012 cohort and £5.0m for previous cohorts.¹¹

The University aims to participate in the **National Scholarships Programme** by providing full fee waivers for two groups of students:

- those enrolled on one of the University's year 0 courses (60-70 eligible students)¹²
- students who have been in local authority care for at least three months (5-10 students for 2012 entry).

The University will maintain a partial fee waiver of £3,000 a year for care leavers throughout their first undergraduate degree.

We will also provide a limited number of National Scholarships Programme awards (about 150) to students from the East Midlands. These will take the form of:

- a partial fee waiver of £3,000
- a cash bursary of £1,000
- an accommodation discount (or discount on other services) of £500.

The University of Nottingham is committed to supporting **part-time students** from a low-income background. We plan to make our core bursary arrangements available on a pro-rata basis to low-income students studying part-time and will confirm details, once OFFA has published the relevant guidance.

¹¹ These figures include charges for HECS and interest as well as a contribution to staffing for bursary administration.

¹² These Year 0 courses facilitate progression to Engineering, Healthcare Science, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and most courses in the Faculty of Science.

e. Other collaboration

In addition to our continuing work with NUSA, the University has submitted a Statement of Intent as one of the co-lead sponsors to develop a University Technical College in Nottingham. The UTC will provide high quality technical and vocational education and training to 14-19 year-olds. Local, regional and national employers will contribute to the design, development and delivery of the curriculum. The University's contribution will harness the significant expertise and specialist facilities of our Faculty of Engineering and Centre for Sustainable Energy Technologies.

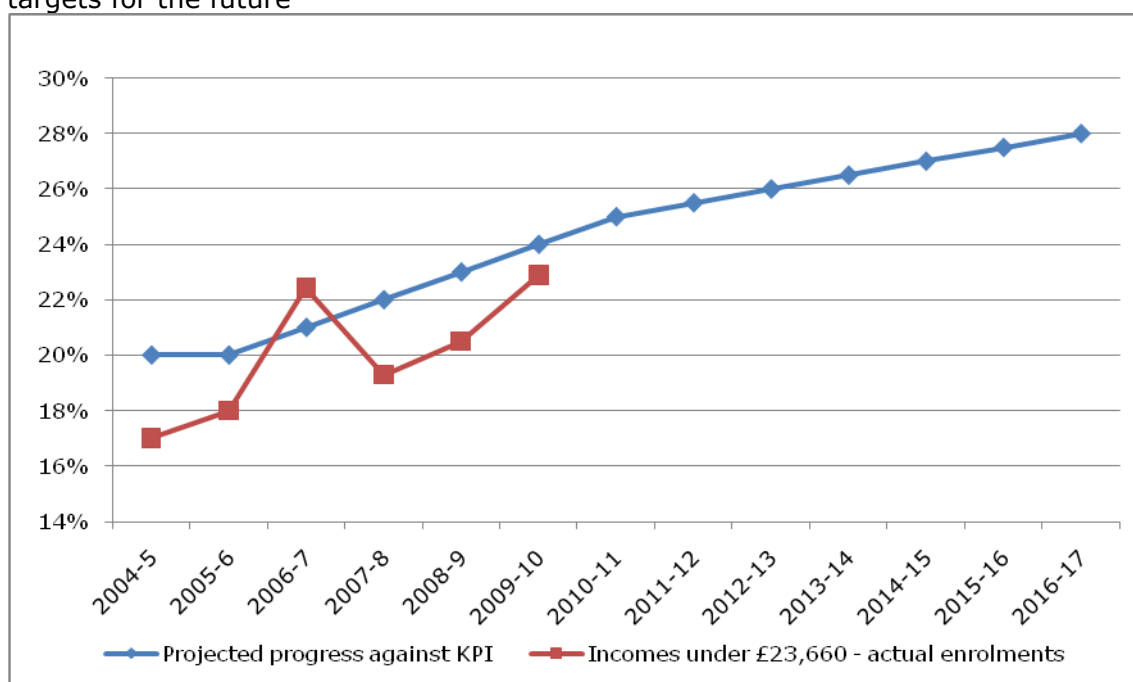
The University will also be working with Broxtowe Borough Council in developing the DH Lawrence Heritage Centre, Durban House, and safeguarding its future. Durban House attracts visitors from all over the world, but the focus of current proposals is on supporting the University's outreach activities with local schools in an area of social deprivation. Other joint opportunities include summer schools, creative writing links, short courses, lectures, events and exhibitions using material from the University archive. Durban House may develop into one of the *Nottingham Potential* centres.

4. Assessment of progress; future targets and milestones

a. Key widening participation performance indicator

The University of Nottingham has made excellent progress to date in recruiting more students from low-income backgrounds. In 2004 we set ourselves the challenging target of increasing our proportion of low-income students by five percentage points in six years. Despite starting from a lower base - 17% in 2004 - than our original calculations had indicated, we have managed to raise the proportion of low-income students by six percentage points in five years. In September 2009, 22.9% of UK undergraduate entrants were from low-income backgrounds. **We aim to increase the proportion of low-income students to 28% by the 2016 intake.** The graph below illustrates our progress to date and our anticipated progress in future years.

Figure 1: Low-income students as a proportion of all UK entrants: progress to date and targets for the future



We will continue to use this definition of 'low income' as our key performance indicator for widening participation, as this provides a convenient and accurate means of measuring progress each year. By setting the income threshold at the inflation-adjusted equivalent of qualifying for full fee remission under the pre-2006 fees system (£23,660 for 2009 entry), we can generate consistent trend data over a number of years and three fees systems.¹³

The University of Nottingham has made pleasing progress against the Hefce widening participation performance indicators since 2005. While interim figures for the 2009 intake indicate a levelling off, we have risen closer to the Russell Group average. We aim to increase the proportion of our intake coming from low participation neighbourhoods to 7% by 2016.

b. Impact targets for outreach, admissions and bursary administration

We have made good progress against most targets and have set ourselves stretching targets for the next five years. The enrolment of summer school 'graduates' on our own courses has levelled off in recent years, largely because pressure on places means that entry has become significantly more competitive. However approximately equivalent numbers of our summer school graduates progress to courses at other selective universities. The numbers of summer school graduates applying, receiving offers and accepting offers from us continue to grow.

Target	Progress to 2009-10
At least 40% of students enrolled on our summer school support programmes will enrol at a selective university, rising to 45% by 2016.	39% - data currently available for one year only.
At least 20% of students enrolled on our summer school support programmes will enrol at the University of Nottingham, rising to 25% by 2016.	17% average over the last 3 years - the proportion has fallen with increased competition for places.
The number of students entering the University annually from local WP partner schools will rise to 800 by 2016.	In September 2009, 600 students from local WP partner schools entered the University. This number has more than doubled between 2000 and 2009.
Of the students from local WP partner schools entering the University, the proportion from deprived backgrounds will rise from 46% in 2009 to 56% by 2016.	This proportion is more than twice the proportion of the University's total UK UG intake (19% in September 2009).

¹³ The University of Nottingham has used the proportion of low-income students as its key performance indicator for the widening participation strategy and access agreement since September 2006. We chose this indicator for a number of reasons.

- Convenience: we have interim figures on students' income profile by March. These figures allow us to monitor progress within each current year and help inform planning for the next academic year.
- Accuracy: 'residual household income' is calculated by the Government for an individual student and is therefore one of the most accurate measures of wealth and relative advantage available. The new transfer of information between the SLC and HMRC will enhance accuracy.
- Stability: the methodology used by the Government for calculating residual household income has remained stable in recent years.

Increase WP students' UF to registration rate to at least equal that of non-WP applicants. ('UF' means applicants with a confirmed place. ¹⁴)	For 09 entry, WP UF students' registration rate was 2.3 percentage points less than that of non-WP students. This rate has risen over the last three years by 8.4 percentage points and is now much closer to the rate for non-WP students.
Staff, processes and systems in place to ensure the efficient processing of student financial information and the provision of financial support.	97% of students surveyed thought the length of time between submitting their details for assessment and receiving a decision was 'very satisfactory' (51%) or 'satisfactory' (46%). 82% found the process of obtaining a bursary to be easy. ¹⁵
Achieve a bursary take-up rate of at least 98% of eligible students.	The take-up rate in 2009-10 was 99.1%.
Maintain and further develop current proactive provision of financial information, including the Budget Management Advantage Award and Money Doctors.	Strong provision, commended by OFFA.

c. Monitoring and evaluation

The University of Nottingham routinely gathers a range of data to monitor and evaluate its WP activities and policies. Unless otherwise stated, these data are gathered on an annual basis and have been gathered at least since 2006 and in one case since 1999.

Monitoring and evaluation cover the following areas.

- i. Quality of outreach experience
 - a) Monitoring uptake of all outreach activities by targeted learners (against targets as listed in our Widening Participation outreach plan; this includes uptake of 'menus' of outreach activities with local partner WP schools and colleges)
 - b) Gathering qualitative feedback on menu sessions, masterclasses, summer schools and support activities
 - c) Commissioning Aimhigher evaluation of specified masterclasses (2009-10 only; we are in discussion with other universities about continuing a joint data service after the end of Aimhigher funding)
- ii. Impact of outreach activity
 - a) Menu sessions: tracking numbers & proportions of WP & non-WP applicants, offers, accepts, UFs from partner *cf* non-partner schools and colleges (this capacity was developed in 2009-10)
 - b) Masterclass and summer school programmes: tracking participants' applications, offers, accepts, UFs and registrations to the University of Nottingham for participants in programmes
 - c) Summer school programmes: tracking via UCAS participants' applications, offers, accepts, UFs to all and selective universities (data are currently available only for the 2007 cohort; analysis of the 2008 and 2009 cohorts is in progress)

¹⁴ 'UF' is the acronym of 'unconditional firm'. This refers to an applicant who has achieved the examination grades necessary to meet the terms of his or her offer of a place on a course at the University of Nottingham.

¹⁵ These results are from a survey carried out in Spring term 2009.

- iii. Impact of the University of Nottingham's broader WP programme on intake
 - a) Tracking overall WP and non-WP applications, offers, accepts, UFs, registrations (this capacity was developed in 2009-10 and is currently available only at the University level; from 2011 this will be available at faculty, school & course level)
 - b) Tracking entry by low-income students (University, faculty & school level)
 - c) Tracking entry by students from deprived areas (University, faculty & school level using Mosaic; 2010 completers only)
- iv. Impact of the University of Nottingham's broader WP programme on the student experience
 - a) Monitoring non-continuation rates for students from low-participation neighbourhoods (University level only, using HESA figures)
 - b) Tracking degree outcomes for students from deprived areas (University level only, using Mosaic)

d. Responsibility for monitoring and evaluation

The University's Management Board is responsible for monitoring compliance with the access agreement and progress towards key milestones. Responsibility for monitoring and evaluating component parts is as follows:

- The Widening Participation Team has overall responsibility for collating WP-related data (from its own records, Admissions and the University's Planning and Management Information Division) and producing reports.
- The Widening Participation Team regularly evaluates the quality of outreach experience and the impact of outreach activity and uses this to inform planning.
- Widening Participation and Admissions staff jointly review admissions-related data (iii.a) to evaluate the impact of policy and processes.
- The University's Management Board reviews university-level data on entry by WP students (iii.b and iii.c) and the student experience (iv).
- Academic Schools review School-level data on entry by WP students (iii.b and iii.c) as part of the School planning process.

e. Provision of information to prospective students

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 information on fees and costs is provided via an enhanced on-line prospectus. The University provides estimates of any additional course-specific costs (for example, specialist clothing and equipment or field trips). The University's Student 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 with a central Financial Support Team, based within our Student Services Centres, 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 service to prospective and registered students. The addition of a third Student Services Centre at the Sutton Bonington Campus in 2010 reflects the University's commitment to improving services to students and has resulted in an increased uptake of services and advice.

Appendix 1: Nottingham Potential

The University of Nottingham has developed detailed plans for the Nottingham Potential programme, which will increase our outreach significantly, especially our work with primary and lower-secondary students. Supported by external funding, the University aims to invest up to £5.3m over six years of this project. We will work in partnership with the award-winning London-based charity IntoUniversity. Key features of the Nottingham Potential outreach programme are as follow.

- i. A physical presence at the heart of the communities that we seek to serve. In close consultation with community partners, three *Nottingham Potential* centres will be opened over the course of 2012-14 and staffed in order to work closely with young people and their families.
- ii. Primary and secondary students attend *Nottingham Potential* centres for Academic Support. This comprises after-school help with homework, literacy and numeracy from trained tutors and, for secondary students, one-to-one support with choosing subjects, coursework, exam preparation, careers advice and applying for university.
- iii. The FOCUS Programme works with whole primary school classes to support and enhance the school curriculum and introduce the concept of higher education.
- iv. Secondary Schools and Colleges have access to Focus Workshops and Academic Enrichment. *Focus* will provide pre-16 pupils with academic tasters as well as more intensive information and advice about the steps needed to progress to university. At sixth-form level, students can participate in the Academic Enrichment Programme, which includes summer schools, mentoring and other support, while the *Focus* programme supports leadership skills and career planning. They also have access to a range of master-classes, support with exam revision and more.
- v. Nottingham Teacher Fellowships will provide teachers with the opportunity to lead a project involving students and the local community.
- vi. A parents' programme provides campus visits and information sessions.
- vii. Mentoring and other support from University of Nottingham students.
- viii. The targeted admissions pathway provides personalised advice, a supported admissions process and a guaranteed conditional offer.

Appendix 2: 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 and given it the Trust's Quality Mark; more recently the Trust confirmed that the University has made good progress in implementing the Plan. Measures to support care leavers include an additional bursary, targeted outreach in collaboration with other HE providers and the local authorities, and additional support services both pre-entry and for the duration of study. The University continues to seek improvements in implementing the Plan.

As noted in section 3d, the University will provide significant additional financial assistance to care leavers (some through the National Scholarships Programme) in the form of:

- A full fee waiver in the first year
- A partial fee waiver of £3,000 a year in subsequent years of undergraduate study
- A Nottingham Potential bursary of £1,000 a year, in addition to the Core Bursary of up to £3,000 a year.

