



King's College London

Access Agreement 2012-13

- King's College London proposes to charge £9,000 per year home/EU fees for all of its undergraduate programmes from 2012, subject to annual review in line with inflationary increases.
- In line with OFFA guidelines, in the first instance the College proposes to reinvest 30% of its additional fee income towards its widening participation and fair access responsibilities.
- King's College London has strong traditions of academic innovation in support of the widening participation and fair access agenda and the College believes that this Access Agreement will enable it to build upon its achievements.
- The central themes of the College's widening participation and fair access approach are:
 - **Access to the professions** building upon the success of the Extended Medical Degree Programme and plans to extend into other disciplines.
 - **Partnership and progression** whereby the College builds close partnerships with schools, colleges, other HEIs, charities and the King's College London Students' Union.
 - **STEM** subjects.
 - **Supporting students** to benefit fully from their education at King's.
- King's College London is one of England's four oldest and one of its most prestigious higher education institutions: a multi-faculty research-led university institution based in the heart of London.
- It has nearly 24,000 students (of whom c.15,000 are undergraduate students) and over 5,000 employees.
- It is ranked as one of the world's top 25 universities and offers an intellectually rigorous environment supported by welcoming and caring traditions.
- The College's widening participation and fair access plans include both increased financial support and investment in academic innovation, outreach, partnership and retention.
- Where part-time study programmes are available the College will offer financial support on a pro rata basis so that flexible learners are not disadvantaged.

We expect our investment to be allocated as follows:

Table 1 Additional Fee income investment summary

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1. King's myBursaries	£2,560,000	£1,644,000	£577,000
2. King's myScholarships	£144,000	£72,000	
3. National Scholarship Programme	£348,000	£696,000	£1,044,000
4. King's STEM Enterprise Scholarships	£300,000	£600,000	£900,000
5. King's Living Bursaries	£900,000	£1,800,000	£2,700,000
6. King's Student Fund	£100,000	£200,000	£300,000
7. Access to Professions fee waivers and other academic initiatives	£765,000	£1,035,000	£1,120,000
8. Outreach, Partnership & Retention	£1,000,000	£1,200,000	£1,359,000
Total	£6,117,000	£7,247,000	£8,000,000
% of additional income	28%	30%	30%

Key Outreach and Access Themes

- Historically about 95% of the College's investment in WP/Access has been in financial support to our students once they are enrolled. Evidence from OFFA has indicated that financial support is often of limited influence in widening participation and accordingly we will increase the proportion of our investment spent on outreach and access measures.
- Under the previous Access Agreements, the College undertook significant outreach and access activities with external funding from Aim Higher and the South East London Lifelong Learning Network. By 2014-15 we expect our investment in WP/Access to be split approximately 80-85% on financial support and 15- 20% on outreach, partnership and progression activities. The latter will include investment in early years work. The investment at steady state¹ in outreach and access is summarised below:

Table 2 Summary of investment in support of key outreach and access themes

Investment in 2014-15	£k
Partnership development and projects	200
Academic initiatives and programme innovation	544
Student mentoring/volunteering	110
Gifted and Talented events (e.g. summer schools)	65
Additional management information, monitoring, reporting and administration	440
Total Estimate	1,359

- A number of the College's **key strategic partners** are summarised in the Appendix to this document. The College is in the process of agreeing new partnerships and aims to grow the network between now and 2014-15. A number of the partnerships are distinctive because they are based on alumni links.
- Academic innovation is at the heart of the College's approach. Programmes will be developed around the theme of **access to the professions**, building upon the success of the College's existing Extended Medical Degree Programme, which King's intends to continue. Work is progressing on Dental access programmes and is under active consideration for other professions. Up to 85 students (rising to a maximum of 115 by 2014-15) registering on these programmes will have a first year fee waiver, subject to means testing.
- Reflecting the College ethos of 'in the service of society', outreach activity embedded within the College **staff community** is extensive: by focusing this activity further more can be achieved.
- King's has already done a great deal to diversify its student profile. The College expects the **student community** will play a key role in promoting the widening participation and fair access agenda, through activities such as volunteering and student mentoring.

¹ King's College London anticipates reaching steady state between 2014-15 and 2016-17

- King's can also use the evidence base from its existing events programme and plans to embed the **gifted and talented** activities that have generated the greatest impact upon admissions outcomes.
- We have assumed investment to increase our capacity to **monitor and report** our performance effectively and to provide an evidence based feedback in the annual assessment of our investment in widening access.
- In due course we aim to develop more sophisticated **performance and outcome data** for the students who are admitted as a result of the additional outreach activity.
- We intend to develop an **evidence-based evaluation** of our strategy and interventions, drawing upon the strong research capability of the College.

Additional Access and Retention Measures

- Academic support ranging from the personal tutor system to Students' Union initiatives and in-session support from the English Language Centre is intended to ensure that every student who gains entry to King's is capable of completing their programme.
- The College records reasons for withdrawal and is able to monitor variance between different programmes of study. In 2009, only 5 home students claimed finance as the main reason for withdrawal. However, our access agreement proposes an additional investment in hardship funding on the basis that we believe financial hardship might impact on other personal issues experienced by students who withdraw.
- Academic leadership comes from each of the College's nine academic Schools developing unique widening participation and fair access statements which identify key initiatives based on the varied academic portfolio and student profiles of the different Schools. These distinctive offerings will also enable new partnerships to support the academic agenda.
- King's College London is unusual in its peer group in its development of progression agreements. The College led a Lifelong Learning Network and has embedded several progression agreements with the intention of working with its network of local colleges and schools and continuing to build new pathways to admissions.
- Partnership takes the form of a variety of strategic partners who will work with King's in support of the widening participation and fair access strategy.

Financial support available to students

- The existing King's **my Bursary** and **my Scholarship** schemes will be phased out as the students graduate: in the meantime the commitments to current award holders will be fully honoured.
- Existing King's students who started in 2006-7 or 2007-8 will be awarded a King's **myBursary** to match 50% of their total maintenance grant (up to a maximum of £1,350). Existing students who started in 2008-9 or later will be awarded a King's **my Bursary**, also based on their maintenance grant, as follows:

Table 3 King's MyBursary allocations

Maintenance Grant	King's myBursary
£2,200 - £3,250	£1,350
£1,500 - £2,199	£1,050
£700 - £1,499	£350
£50 - £699	£100

- All King's students starting full-time undergraduate study after 2006-7 will be automatically eligible to be considered for a King's *myScholarship*. 40 new scholarships are available each year, running at an existing steady state of 120 in total. These will be phased out from 2012 as students graduate. King's *myScholarship* awards are each worth £1,800 and will be awarded by each of the College's School Board of Examiners who will select those students who both:
 - o excelled in their studies during the year and
 - o contributed to the student life of their department, School or the College

Table 4 Summary of financial support assumptions for new students from 2012-13

Household Income	National Scholarship Programme	King's STEM Enterprise Scholarship	King's Living Bursary	King's Student Fund ²	Access to Professions Fee waiver
£0 - £25,000	£6,000 ³ fee waiver for first year	£9,000 fee waiver <i>plus</i> £1,000 cash bursary Yrs 1-3	£1,000 for each eligible year of study	means-tested discretionary award £100 - £3,000	£9,000 fee waiver for first year
£25,001 - £42,600			£500 for each eligible year of study	means-tested discretionary award £100 - £3,000	£9,000 fee waiver for first year
Total available in 2012-13	116 students	Maximum 30 scholarships pa	-	-	Maximum 85 scholarships
Total available in 2012-13	£696,000	£300,000	£900,000	£100,000	£765,000

² The King's Student Fund will act as a hardship fund.

³ The National Scholarship Programme fee waiver of £6,000 will be funded by both the government and King's College London to the value of £3,000 each.

Table 5 Summary of means testing assumptions

Household Income	£0 - £25,000	£25,000 - £42,600	£42,601+
National Scholarship Programme	☑	☒	☒
King's STEM Enterprise Scholarship	☑	☒	☒
King's Living Bursary	☑	☑	☒
Access to Professions fee waiver	☑	☑	☒
King's Student Fund	☑	☑	☑

- The College will participate in the **National Scholarship Programme** from 2012-13 with a matched £3,000 fee waiver which will be means tested. This provides each successful applicant with a combined £6,000 fee waiver in the first year of their studies. Funds will be offset against each successful applicant's tuition fees in year one of their programme. Should the student subsequently withdraw, the pro-rated excess will be retained and re-distributed as NSPs in the subsequent academic year.
- The *National Scholarship Programme* is set to run until at least 2014-15, and the College is committed to participating in the programme for the duration of the current Education (Student Support) Regulations. The commitments set out by the College for participation in the scheme relate directly to the current structure of the programme as established by HEFCE. As such, any alterations in the way the scheme is structured for years subsequent to 2012-13 may require equivalent adjustments on the part of the College, and these will be set out in subsequent Access Agreement submissions to OFFA.
- Students qualifying for the NSP will be ineligible for the *STEM Enterprise Scholarship*, but will be eligible for a *King's Living Bursary*, worth £1,000.
- The criteria listed below relate to eligibility for the NSP, but meeting these criteria alone will not automatically select a student as a successful recipient for the NSP, as these are limited in number to 116 in 2012-13 (provisional allocation by BIS, to be finalised in July 2011), and additional selection criteria will, of necessity, be applied.
- In order to be eligible to apply for the King's NSP, students must:
 - have an assessed household income of £25,000 or less;
 - be in receipt of a maximum maintenance grant (£3,250);
 - be undertaking their first undergraduate degree programme;
 - have 'firmly' accepted an offer of a place at King's;
 - be an English UK domiciled undergraduate student;
 - not be directly continuing from one programme to another (for example from foundation degree or HND on to the final year of an honours degree)⁴;
 - not be in receipt of any other sponsorship for tuition fees;
 - not be NHS-funded in year one;
 - priority will be given to students from partnership schools and colleges;
 - additional selection criteria will be applied, where necessary.

⁴ The NSP is aimed at new entrants to higher education. As such, entrants onto foundation degree or HND programmes would be able to apply for an award, but those topping up awards, even should the top-up occur at a different institution, would not be considered new entrants to higher education for this purpose.

- The College wishes to support the UK's knowledge economy agenda by encouraging access to STEM subject undergraduate study through a **STEM Enterprise Scholarship**. A number of these scholarships will be set aside for students from partnership schools and colleges. To this end, we have devised a scheme whereby up to 30 students a year meeting the criteria below will be eligible for a King's *STEM Enterprise scholarship*.
- *STEM Enterprise scholarships* will comprise a £9,000 fee waiver and a £1,000 cash bursary, totalling £10,000 of support for each academic year up to a maximum of 3 years. Successful applicants will not be eligible for a *King's Living Bursary* as there is already a bursary element to the financial aid package being offered to these students.
- Students must be:
 - studying a STEM subject (science, technology, engineering and maths);
 - have an assessed household income of £25,000 pa or less;
 - in receipt of the maximum maintenance grant (£3,250);
 - be undertaking their first undergraduate degree programme;
 - have 'firmly' accepted an offer of a place at King's on an eligible programme;
 - not be NHS-funded in years 1-3 of their programme;
 - priority will be given to students from partnership schools and colleges;
 - additional selection criteria will be applied, where necessary.
- Eligible programmes are defined on the College website and the list will be regularly reviewed and published at <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/content/1/c6/06/91/77/KCLSTEMcourses2010.pdf>. This url will be updated.
- The **Access to Professions** will offer first year fee waivers of £9,000 to students who:
 - have 'firmly' accepted an offer of a place at King's on an eligible programme (Access to Professions programmes);
 - are undertaking their first undergraduate degree programme;
 - have been means tested and students are in receipt of a maintenance grant;
 - priority will be given to students from partnership schools and colleges;
 - additional selection criteria will be applied, where necessary.
- A total of 85 fee waivers will be available in 2012-13, rising to 115 by 2014-15. Award of these will be subject to the availability of suitably qualified applicants.
- The **King's Living Bursary** continues the living costs support that the College began with the '*myBursary*' scheme. The *King's myBursary* scheme has proved invaluable to students who have received it in the past, and has played an important part in student retention. It has allowed students to reduce their dependence on expensive alternative sources of funds such as credit cards, private bank loans and overdrafts as well as allowing them to commit themselves more fully to their studies, by reducing part-time work hours, and improving both completion and achievement levels.
- For these reasons, the College is keen to continue to offer a supplemental bursary scheme for 2012 onwards. Students will be able to offset their bursaries against accommodation or tuition fees, allowing them to reduce student loan borrowing, should they so choose.
- The *King's Living Bursary* will be based on assessed household income and eligibility for maintenance grant, which students must be in receipt of, in order to qualify for a bursary. These will be awarded as follows:

Table 6 King's Living Bursary allocation

Household Income	Maintenance Grant	King's Living Bursary
£0 - £25,000	£3,250	£1,000
£25,001 - £42,600	£50 - £3,249	£500

- The College anticipates expenditure to be in the region of £900k in 2012, increasing each year to a steady state from 2014-15⁵ of approximately £2,700,000.
- Awards will be paid in two instalments during the academic year, dependent on continued attendance and satisfactory academic progress.
- The College also proposes to launch the **King's Student Fund** to support continued high levels of retention.
- Currently financial hardship is rarely given as a reason for non completion of study at King's which the College attributes to robust student support practices – both pastoral and financial. Reviewing and piloting new approaches to hardship funding is an attempt to continue this trend in a new fee regime.
- The College recognises that a wide spectrum of financial concerns and pressures face students throughout the entirety of their studies. For many students, remaining on track to completion can only be achieved with extra financial assistance with the costs of living and the costs of study.
- Although statutory support is available to many students in the form of student loans and maintenance grants, the combined available packages rarely meet the full costs of living in London whilst studying full-time.
- The College is particularly concerned with those students who are currently defined as 'middle income' household bracket, as these are the cohorts who are often squeezed by minimal statutory support and little or no discretionary support, and whose households are not always able to assist students financially with their living costs.
- The College is additionally concerned that mature students with dependent children, students with extra disability-related costs, care leavers and those studying part-time are often most vulnerable to financial pressures and in need of extra help. This is of particular concern going forward as the future availability of supplementary statutory grants for eligible students (e.g. childcare grants) is not assured. The *King's Student Fund* is intended as a source of extra financial assistance for students in these categories.
- Whilst HEFCE allocates an Access to Learning Fund to HEIs, and has signalled that this will still exist in 2012, the assessment criteria are stringent and the fund is often unable to assist students to the extent of their need, as it faces significant budgetary cuts year on year.
- To this end, the College intends to provide additional hardship funds (The King's Student Fund) that will assist those students in financial need who are unable to access additional help from other sources. The fund will initially be set up at £100,000 for 2012-13, growing to a steady state⁶ of £400,000 by 2015-16.

⁵ King's College London anticipates reaching steady state between 2014-15 and 2016-17

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- This fund will be open to all new undergraduate home students starting their programme in 2012 or later. Applications will be means tested and awards will range from £100-£3,000 and can be used to offset College expenses or contribute to the costs of study, travel and living.

Benchmarks and Milestones

- Hitherto our access record has been measured according to HESA data and our performance has been on or close to several of the location adjusted benchmarks.
- We propose to continue to evaluate our work using some of the data published by HESA as these are extremely useful as a national measure and reporting enables us to evaluate our performance in comparison with our immediate peer group (King's and three other London Russell Group universities).
- Therefore the College's new milestones use some HESA benchmark categories but also some from other sources. The table below identifies those measures considered to be the most important in terms of the College's progress in widening access and participation: although the measures are broadly finalised there is more work to be done in terms of testing the rigour of data methodology and the milestones applied to those measures.

Table 7 widening participation categories and measures

WP Category	Baseline data % of intake – average 07-09	Applications Milestone 2017 (%)	Actual Intake/ Milestone 2017 (%)	Target Milestone Increase on Baseline Data
Social EC Groups 4-7	17%	N/A	18%	6%
Low Participation Neighbourhoods	3.0%	N/A	3.5%	15%
State educated	75%	N/A	77.5%	7%
Numbers of pupils from local partner state schools, colleges and academies	50	250	100	n/a
Ethnic minority (students describing themselves as non white)	42%	N/A	44%	5%
Progression from year 1	92%	N/A	94%	2%

- The College intends to use other nationally recognised widening participation targeting measures, such as Free School Meals. However, at the time of submitting the 2012 Access Agreement we note inconsistencies in reporting this data due to the fact that some of our student numbers are Department of Health funded and therefore full data sets are currently unavailable.
- We also intend to introduce institution-specific measures supported by more detailed milestones for academic programmes and departments.

- Over the past three years the College has recorded a reduction in withdrawals from 338 in 2007-8 to 270 in 2009-10.
- Overall progression and retention rates across the College have been historically good but there are a small number of programmes where our retention rate is less than we would wish and we plan specific interventions to deliver improvements.

Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

- The Vice Principal (Education) reporting to the Principal and, through him, to the Council, has overall responsibility for the College's widening participation and fair access strategy and delivery.
- In devising the Access Agreement the Vice Principal (Education) worked intensively with a working group including representation from King's College London Students' Union.
- Once the Access Agreement has been accepted it is intended that, in line with the College's normal governance processes, a scrutiny panel of the College's Education Committee will be responsible for monitoring the Agreement.
- The use of applications, admissions and retention data is intended to track outcomes throughout the student life-cycle.

Provision of Information to Prospective Students

- King's College London has a strong record for providing timely and accurate information to potential candidates through a variety of sources including print, online, school visits, open days and university recruitment fairs.
- The College's responsibility to provide appropriate information is also included in the Student Charter which will be launched in 2011 and thereafter updated and available on the College and Students' Union websites.
- King's College London interactive online prospectus received an industry award when launched and provides exhaustive information on entrance requirements as well as student profiles.
- Information about funding is available online and from 2012 we also hope to make this available via a smartphone app.
- King's College London has developed an admissions portal which enables applicants to 'track' the progress of their applications thus providing greater transparency as proposed in the Schwartz Report.
- An additional open day for potential applicants will be arranged prior to the opening of UCAS 2012 entry, assuming the Access Agreement is approved in July 2011.
- The College also works with its partnership network (see Appendix) to deliver additional information and guidance. For example the Russell Group and Realising Opportunities consortium, in which we participate, have both produced guides. We will also work with London Citizens to provide face to face guidance on finances in the new fees regime.

- 2012 print prospectus first edition has been printed but a further edition will provide information on student finance when details of the approved scheme can be published.

Appendix

King's College London Access Agreement Partners

(This list will be updated annually)

- Partnership working is at the heart of King's College London's approach to widening participation and fair access. The list of partners is not exhaustive and we will continue to announce new partnerships during the lifetime of this Agreement
- **King's College London Students' Union (KCLSU)** is a pioneering Union with charitable status working with the College to enhance the student experience. KCLSU would like to develop its volunteering, skills and employability remit to benefit King's students through engagement with widening participation
- King's College London is part of a key national initiative, **Realising Opportunities (RO)**, a unique collaboration of 12 research intensive universities working together to promote fair access and social mobility of students from under-represented groups. The RO programme provides support for students through interventions designed to raise aspirations and enable them to demonstrate their potential for success at a research intensive university. These interventions are offered both at their local participating university, and nationally, so that the student can tailor the programme to meet their own needs and interests. The RO Strategy Group has unanimously agreed that the 12 participating institutions will each commit £35,000 to the scheme in 2012-13. This commitment will ensure that the momentum of the programme is maintained, will enable the recruitment of a third cohort of students, and will build up the evidence base for evaluating the impact of the project
- King's College London's local widening participation and fair access network will continue to be **Aim Higher Aspire**, a collaboration of 4 universities, local boroughs, schools and colleges working together to raise aspiration and attainment among groups that are under-represented in higher education. The partnership annually reaches over 11,000 young learners across South East London but formally ends in July 2011. We will be working together with 90 schools and colleges to ensure that the local relationships built up in the last decade can continue in the longer term. If enough schools and colleges subscribe, a schools and colleges partnership network will be established during autumn 2011. King's envisages continuing to play a part in such a network. To that end, King's is already making detailed plans to co-ordinate local schools liaison together with Goldsmiths, Greenwich and London South Bank universities.
- King's College London has also been a member of the Aimhigher West, Central and North London and will consider continuing this association via **the AccessHE initiative**
- King's has a long-standing collaboration with **the Harris Federation of South London Schools**. The partnership works across different age groups in schools throughout the federation with the objective of increasing the number of pupils who will successfully apply to King's
- King's has forged a new link with the **Helena Kennedy Foundation** and will work with them to learn best practice on hardship metrics and also support for students in the university environment.

- ***IntoUniversity***, a charitable organisation working extensively with children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in London to raise aspiration and attainment in education, and King's have already done some widening participation work in partnership. We will now develop this partnership further and more formally to focus on a growing relationship between the College and our South London cluster of IntoUniversity centres
- King's College's School of Arts & Humanities has become a member of ***London Citizens***. London Citizens is a grassroots charity working with local people for local people. It is an alliance of 150 schools, universities, and faith and community groups across London who work together for social, economic and environmental justice. King's is working on information and guidance as well as outreach initiatives with London Citizens.
- ***Racing towards Excellence*** 'outperformance' techniques will feature in King's local outreach programming and also retention and employability for current students.
- King's College London is one of the partner universities of ***St Paul's Way Trust School*** and will work alongside Queen Mary University of London, the Institute of Education and University of East London to support the school improvement programme.

April 2011

