



**Bath Spa University  
Access Agreement.  
2007 - 08 to 2010 - 11**

## **1. Introduction**

This Access Agreement sets out how Bath Spa University will safeguard and promote fair access for students. It builds upon a history of successful development of widening participation at the University.

Key aspects of the information required for this Access Agreement are embedded and integrated into the University Widening Participation Strategy 2005/06- 2010/11. This is attached as Appendix One.

## **2. Aims**

1. To increase the participation rates of under-represented groups.
2. To promote fair access, particularly for students from low-income groups.
3. To ensure that students are fully prepared so that they benefit from and succeed in Higher Education.
4. To support retention and employability
5. To achieve approval by OFFA so that higher tuition fees can be charged.

## **3. Scope**

This agreement covers all students on full-time (FT) undergraduate courses, including those on franchised courses at FE Colleges. The Bursaries and Scholarships described apply wherever the maximum variable fee is charged.

## **4. Franchised courses**

All our full-time, undergraduate franchised courses are covered by this agreement. All our FE partners will be brought into these arrangements, as they are already involved in the Wessex Consortium (the University arrangements for regional HE/FE franchised awards) and Aimhigher. We will work actively with the HE managers in FE Colleges to deliver widening participation (WP) activities to the students and partner schools and employers.

## **5. Fee Limits**

We intend to charge £3,070 with effect from 2007/08 for all FT UG and PGCE courses increasing with inflation annually. Analysis of the proportion of current fees paid by the Student Loans Company (SLC) shows that some 50% of all undergraduate fees at BSU are paid by the SLC by way of fee remission.

## **6. Bursaries and other financial support for students**

Full-time Undergraduate and PGCE Courses

The bursaries will be based on family income and will be worth up to £1,175 pa. Students with a family income below £16,290 will receive a full bursary. Students with a family income of £38,330 or over will not receive a bursary. Students with a family income of

between these two figures will receive a proportion of the full bursary, based on a sliding scale.

No student that is eligible for the full new Maintenance Grant will receive less than £305. Students with a family income of less than £38,330 will receive a bursary of at least £100. The maximum Bursary will be increased in line with inflation.

We will also introduce scholarships for specific subjects. These will not be means-tested and will vary year-to-year. They will be worth £1,000 pa, to benefit able students wishing to study at undergraduate level in a number of specialist, mainly science-based subjects. The costs of these scholarships are likely to be at least an additional £330,000 pa, by 2008/09. We estimate that some £165,000 will be awarded to low income and other under-represented groups.

#### Total Value of Bursaries and Scholarships

The total value of the bursaries for FT undergraduate and PGCE students will, we estimate, amount to 23% of the total additional income. Allowing for the extra administrative costs and the scholarships, we estimate that the total payments to students would represent 28% of the total additional income in 2007/08.

## **7. Provision of information to students**

The following information will be made available to all students.

(The What)

The costs associated with study.

- The level of tuition fees
- Accommodation cost
- Living cost
- Any additional study costs including studio costs, books, specialist equipment etc

The financial support available to students.

- State support
- University bursaries
- University scholarships
- Access to Learning Fund
- Disabled Students Allowance – ( if applicable)
- Other, as may be available

The costs and support above will made available to students on a yearly basis and also as an aggregate for the duration of courses.

(The How)

A wide variety of channels and opportunities will be used to ensure that students have good information upon which to make decisions. These will include:

- The University Prospectus

- The University Website, which will include a readily available cost and support ‘ready reckoner’
- Information packs for all applicants to the University, including Compact Disc with budgeting information/ready reckoner
- Electronic message boards in key areas e.g. Student’s Union, refectories, libraries
- An in-house student financial planning service
- Open days
- Campus visit days
- School liaison visits
- Widening participation staff from the University visiting schools, colleges, workplaces and community groups
- Employer forums for Sectors Skills Councils, Chambers of Commerce, Open days for employers, employees and trade unions

(The Where)

The University will make full use of its facilities and networks to ensure that information for students is available in broad and diverse ‘locations’.

- The University Prospectus
- The University Website
- Outreach activity on our campuses
- Outreach activity in schools, colleges and workplaces
- Local/Regional/National newspapers
- Local events magazines
- Specialist magazines/journals relevant to the target groups and the University’s courses
- Local community groups and support networks e.g. Black Family’s Support Group
- Regional television and radio
- Connexions and Choices (information, advice and guidance organisations)

(The When)

Information will be made available, in particular, to prospective and registered students at the following key times:

- During Outreach activity events
- When an offer is made to an applicant
- When an offer is accepted
- During registration
- During induction
- During first semester tutorial meetings

(The Whom)

Information will be made available to:

- All prospective students
- All existing students
- Significant others who are involved in decision making with students. This will include parents, partners, teachers/lecturers, employers, careers services

We will particularly target under-represented groups. These will include:

- Students from local schools / colleges from a widening participation background
- Disabled students
- Students from low income families
- Students from low participation neighbourhoods
- Mature students with no HE and from low participation neighbourhood

## 8. Outreach work

The Widening Participation Strategy for the University includes the activities that will be implemented by the University's Access Agreement along with those funded through the HEFCE premium funding and Aimhigher. Details of these are provided in the attached 'Widening Participation Strategy- including Access Agreement (OFFA) Outreach Work 2005-06 to 2010-2011' in Table A.

The University has established a firm foundation and high reputation for widening participation. In addition to activity undertaken with premium funding the University is an active participant in regional Aimhigher. Further significant outreach work activity will be supported by additional Access Agreement investment. These activities are new, or extensions of existing schemes.

The level of additional Access Agreement investment is provided in the table below along with other sources of funding available to the University for outreach work.

Table One - Sources of Funding

<b>Funding Strands - £s</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-7</b>	<b>2007-8</b>	<b>2008-9</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>
HEFCE Premium Funding	119,631	235,703	235,703	235,703	235,703	235,703
Aimhigher	150,820	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000	
Access Agreement – Outreach and other Activities	0	30,000	60,000	90,000	100,000	100,000

### Notes.

1. Base for funding levels is 2006-07. No projections for inflation or any other uplift.
2. Funding streams for HEFCE Premium Funding and Aimhigher assumed at current levels.

## 9. Milestones

Table Two – Targets related to Performance Indicators

	<b>2002/03 data</b>	<b>Benchmark – location adjusted</b>	<b>2010/11 Targets</b>
Young full time undergraduate entrants from state schools/colleges.	95.4%	90.5%	96%
Young full time undergraduate entrants from SEC classes 4,5,6 & 7	28.8%	29.4%	31%
Young full time undergraduate entrants from low participation neighbourhoods.	11.9%	11.6%	13%
Mature full time entrants with no previous HE and from low participation neighbourhoods.	15.3%	11.8%	16%
Students in receipt of a Disabled Students Allowance	5.8%	3.7%	6%

In addition, Table A in the “Widening Participation Strategy – including Access Agreement (OFFA) Outreach Work 2005/06 to 2010/11” (Appendix One) describes milestones related to the student life cycle.

## 10. Institutional monitoring arrangements

### Activities

Progress towards achieving the activities shown in the Widening Participation Strategy will be monitored by an Deputy Vice Chancellor. See also Section 6 of the Widening Participation Strategy for a more detailed description of monitoring and evaluation procedures.

### Data

An annual analysis of the relevant HEFCE and additional internal performance indicators will be made by the Widening Participation Officer.

### Annual Report

An annual report on progress will be made to the Board of Governors.