



THE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
University of London

ACCESS AGREEMENT 2006/2011

The School of Pharmacy, University of London was named by the *Times Higher Education Supplement* as one of the "Access Elite" universities in the UK because of its combination of competitive entry requirements and its ability to attract and retain undergraduate students from disadvantaged and under-represented groups. For many years the School has attracted a very diverse undergraduate student population in terms of ethnicity, social and economic background and age. The School is committed to maintaining this diversity and encouraging young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to aspire to a professional career in pharmacy.

The School offers one undergraduate degree programme, the Master of Pharmacy (MPharm), which is accredited by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. This Access Agreement will apply to all home and EU students entering the MPharm programme in 2006 and thereafter.

TUITION FEE LEVELS

1. The School of Pharmacy will charge tuition fees of £3,000 for all home and EU students who start the first year of the MPharm programme in autumn 2006. The only exception will be for gap year students who deferred their place before 1 August 2005 and will start in autumn 2006.
2. The cost of tuition fees will rise each year thereafter in line with inflation based on the maximum charge allowed by the Government.

INVESTMENT OF ADDITIONAL INCOME

3. The School expects to retain a minimum of £200,000 of its additional fee income from each new cohort in order to invest in staff and teaching & research facilities. This will be a minimum of £800,000 (plus inflationary rises) in 2009/2010, when students on all four years of the MPharm course will be paying the new tuition fees.
4. The School will commit the remainder of its additional fee income up to a maximum of 25% to create a bursary scheme to assist home/EU students resident in the UK from low income backgrounds. In 2006/7 this is a commitment of £50,000 (or 20%) based on a projected enrolment of 140 first year home/EU students. In subsequent years the home/EU intake will be approximately 155 students, so the proportion of funds invested in the bursary scheme is expected to be closer to 25%. The funds will rise year on year in line with inflationary increases in tuition fees.

5. The following table illustrates how the additional income of £1,800 per student in 2006/7 and subsequent years (assuming 3% inflationary increases) will be invested:

Based on enrolment of 140-155 new home/EU students per year.	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Total estimated additional income	252,000	546,930	859,329	1,189,980	1,256,068
Estimated amount to be retained by School to invest in staff and facilities	200,000	410,198	644,497	892,485	942,051
Estimated amount to be spent on student bursaries	52,000	136,733	214,832	297,495	314,017

BURSARY SCHEME

6. The School will establish a Bursary Scheme to assist students who meet the academic requirements for entry to the MPharm but who might be deterred from applying due to financial need.
7. The Basic Bursary will be a means-tested grant to new home/EU students based on their eligibility for a full or partial state support.
8. There will be a Supplementary Bursary for students eligible for full or partial state support who achieve academic excellence in their A levels. To qualify for the Supplementary Bursary, students must achieve an A grade in A level Chemistry as well as an A grade in either A level Biology, Maths or Physics at the first attempt (ie studied over 1 or 2 years) .
9. In 2006/7 grants from the Bursary Scheme will be:

Criteria	Basic Bursary <i>based on need</i>	Supplementary Bursary <i>based on academic performance</i>
Students who qualify for full state support	£500	£500
Students who qualify for at least 75% but less than 100% of state support	£400	£400
Students who qualify for at least 50% but less than 75% of state support	£300	£300
Students who qualify for at least 25% but less than 50% of state support	£200	£200
Students who qualify for up to 25% of state support	£100	£100

10. Students who receive an award from the Bursary Scheme in their first year of the course will be awarded the same amount (ie Basic Bursary plus, if relevant, a Supplementary Bursary) plus any inflationary rises during the second, third and fourth years of the degree course. The School will consider increasing the amount of the award above inflationary rises if any student's financial situation changes significantly. Students who repeat part or all of a year in order to resit failed exams or coursework will be charged tuition fees at half the prescribed basic rate of tuition fees pro rata (ie £300 for one semester or £600 for two semesters, subject to inflationary rises) and will therefore not normally receive a bursary grant during the repeated year. However, students who repeat a year "from scratch" (ie re-start a year) and are charged the £3,000 tuition fees for that year will be eligible in the normal way for the Bursary Scheme.
11. The Bursary Scheme will be administered by the Registrar's Office. Awards will be confirmed by the School's Access to Learning Fund and Bursary Committee. There will be an appeals procedure if students feel they have been awarded a bursary which is lower than that for which they are eligible.
12. Students will receive their grant in accordance with the payment procedures set out in the model bursary scheme as devised by Universities UK/Standing Conference of Principals advisory group.
13. All grants made by the School of Pharmacy under its Bursary Scheme will be to support students' living expenses. This is to enable students with financial need to reduce their reliance on part-time jobs during term time, overdrafts, and student loans for living expenses during the course itself.
14. The Bursary Scheme will not provide grants towards tuition fees, since students will be able to take out student loans to cover the full cost. The vast majority of graduates from the MPharm degree secure immediate employment as a pre-registration pharmacist and then as a professional pharmacist. Even those students with the most severe financial need during their studies will be able to begin re-payment of the tuition fee loans within one or two years of graduation, when their salaries are expected to be in excess of £20,000 per year.

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

15. The School will publish details of the Bursary Scheme in its prospectus and on the website. The School will also include general information in the offer and joining instruction packs sent to prospective students so that they can plan their budgets. The information will be sufficiently detailed so that students can know what level of fee they are being charged for the duration of the course (subject to inflationary rises and the fee cap set by the Government) and estimate the amount of bursary for which they will be eligible based on their projected residual family income.

16. Registry staff will provide advice to prospective students on eligibility criteria for the Bursary Scheme and on application procedures for state support.
17. Students awarded a bursary will be notified by individual letter within 21 days of when the School receives confirmation of their level of state support.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

18. In addition to the Bursary Scheme, the School will annually commit £10,000 of its own resources to convert the part-time Outreach Officers post into a full-time post. The Outreach Officer coordinates the School's programme of widening participation activities. New activities will be targeted at Year 9 and older pupils in deprived areas of London in order to encourage them to pursue science subjects at A level. The aim will be to establish direct links with at least 10 schools in such boroughs as Camden, Islington, Lambeth and Southwark. The School will publish a rolling Outreach Plan each year.
19. The School will also publish a new A5 colour brochure aimed at GCSE pupils, which will be sent to Aim Higher Coordinators in Local Education Authorities in greater London boroughs and to GCSE science teachers at targeted schools. The brochure will set out the details of the Bursary Scheme and the attractions of the pharmacy profession (both in terms of patient care and a well paid career). It will encourage young people to choose A levels in Chemistry and another science subject in order to prepare for entry to the MPharm.

TARGETS

20. The School's overall objective will be to sustain its position as an institution which draws well from under-represented groups. The School will measure itself against the Performance Indicators published annually by HEFCE. Specifically, it will set targets to ensure that:
 - a. The number of young full-time first degree entrants from state schools/colleges, Social Class IIIM, IV & V, and low participation neighbourhoods does not decline significantly (ie by more than 5%**) from the previous year.
 - b. Where the School is below its location adjusted benchmark for these statistics, the School shows improvement over a 3 year period beginning in 2006/7.
 - c. The percentage of students on full and partial state support meets or exceeds the national average of 50%.

** Because of the small numbers involved, a change of 1% represents a single student. By looking at significant changes only, this will reduce the impact which a very small group of students could make in a single year.

21. If the School does not meet the targets set out above, the School will commit an extra £10,000 to the bursary scheme in the following year.

MONITORING

22. The Access Agreement, Outreach Plan and Bursary Scheme will be monitored by the Admissions Group on an on-going basis; there will be a standing item on the agenda of each meeting. The Chair of the Admissions Group together with the Outreach Officer will make an annual report to the Academic Standards Committee and Academic Board regarding the achievement of targets and recommendations for the following year.

CONTACT PERSON

23. The contact for the Bursary Scheme is:

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