

LIVERPOOL HOPE UNVIERSITY

ACCESS AGREEMENT 2012

(2nd revision and resubmitted to OFFA, 24th June 2011)

Liverpool Hope University's founding Colleges were created in the 19th Century to widen access to higher education and the University has continued to do so throughout its history.

The measures within this Access Agreement set out how the University intends to continue to offer opportunities to those appropriately qualified applicants who wish to succeed in higher education irrespective of their gender, financial situation, family background, previous school, disability or ethnicity. Applicants will be selected on academic merit and this Access Agreement sets out measures to ensure that under-represented groups are not deterred from applying to Liverpool Hope University.

Equally important are the measures within this Access Agreement which will ensure that retention of students is maintained at a high level and that students are prepared for postgraduate study or graduate-level employment.

Liverpool Hope University remains committed to high aspiration and high achievement.

1. Fee limits and fee income over £6000

- 1.1 For new entrants to full time undergraduate programmes (excluding Initial Teacher Training courses) for the academic year 2012-13, Liverpool Hope University will charge Home and EU students a tuition fee of £8250.
- 1.2 This fee will rise in line with any inflationary increase authorised by the Secretary of State for future years of study.
- 1.3 It is estimated that 1450 full time undergraduate students will be admitted under the terms of this Access Agreement.

2. Expenditure on additional access and retention measures

- 2.1 Liverpool Hope University has an excellent record in widening participation and has consistently exceeded its benchmarks in all categories of the HESA Performance Indicators.
- 2.2 Liverpool Hope University has improved its retention rates significantly in recent years and exceeds its benchmarks in the HESA Performance Indicators
- 2.3 In assessing Liverpool Hope University's record on access and retention, the following tables (derived from HESA PIs) demonstrate the University's consistently high performance in widening participation and its significantly improved performance in retention.

Participation of under-represented groups in higher education: young full-time first degree entrants 2009/10

From state schools

	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07
Hope	98.6	98.3	97.7	98.1
Location adjusted benchmark	96.0	96.3	94.1	96.0
Significant difference				
Cohort	1130	1035	1137	1165

From low participation neighbourhoods

	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07
Hope	17.9	19.6	18.6	20.6
Location adjusted benchmark	15.9	16.3	15.5	15.1
Significant difference		+	+	+
Cohort	1130	1035	1137	1165

Age-adjusted NS-SEC Social Classes 4-7 (2008/09 was a different methodology)

	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07
Hope	36.9	45.8	40.1	41.4
Location adjusted benchmark	36.7	40.6	37.8	38.2
Significant difference		+		
Cohort	1130	1035	1137	1165

Participation of students in higher education who are in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) 2009/10

	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07
Hope	7.9%	8%	7.5%	6.7%
Benchmark	5.8%	5.5%	5.3%	5.1%
Significant difference				
Cohort	4220	4165	4087	4240

Non-continuation following year of entry: full-time first degree entrants 2008/09

Percent no longer in HE

	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07
Hope	8.1	8.4	11.9	12.1
Benchmark	9.0	10.0	10.4	10.7
Significant difference				
Cohort	1490	1560	1567	1625

Projected outcomes 2008/09

Neither award nor transfer projected

	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07
Hope	11.1	8.6	14.7	25.6
Benchmark	14.6	14.9	17.2	18.1
Significant difference	+	+		-
Cohort	1520	1615	1596	1690

2.4 Liverpool Hope University estimates that it will allocate 10% of its *additional* fee income over £6000 on *additional* access and retention measures.

2.5 The additional fee income allocated to access, retention and student success measures significantly underplays the overall contribution already made by Liverpool Hope University to access, retention and student success.

2.6 The University reported to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) that for the academic year 2009/10, its actual expenditure on widening participation commitments was £17,803,290 (34% of turnover). The University's Widening Participation premium from HEFCE for 2011/12 is £2,177,207.

2.7 *In addition*, the University allocated £3,038,658 of its additional fee income in 2009/10 to widening participation and outreach, as reported to OFFA.

2.8 Despite the reduction in government funding, the University will continue to commit sums of this magnitude to widening access and participation, outreach, retention and student success in addition to the 10% of the additional fee income over £6000.

2.9 Therefore, the amount of additional income allocated to additional measures as outlined in the following section will be £326,250.

3. Additional Access Measures

Liverpool Hope University will focus its additional access measures in four areas:-

3.1 Faith Schools outreach. As Liverpool Hope University has developed its strategy for student recruitment to move from being a sub-regional provider to a national provider, it has, in

keeping with its distinctive ecumenical mission and foundation, targeted faith schools in cities across England whose pupil intake reflects many of the widening participation target groups. These conurbations include London, Birmingham, Manchester, Tyne and Wearside, the East Midlands, West Riding and South Wales This additional income will be used to expand this programme.

3.2 Summer Universities – the University will offer a range of faith-based Summer Universities to local and national Yr 12 pupils to provide a taster of the higher education experience.

3.3 Accelerated part-time degrees in the Network of Hope to provide opportunities which has been a successful Widening Participation project for over ten years. Given funding changes to higher education, the full-time model is no longer sustainable and part-time degrees to be completed over four years will continue to attract disadvantaged groups.

3.4 Specific targeting of individual pupils and schools through Compact style provision as part of a STARS and TASTE programme will encourage aspirations and raise achievements to facilitate entry to Hope especially (via TASTE) to courses which will lead to the professions such as Law, Accountancy and Teaching

4. Financial support for students

4.1 Liverpool Hope University participates in the National Scholarship Programme and has been allocated 65 scholarships of £3000 each by the government for 2012/13 entrants.

4.2 This total of £195,000 will be matched by the University

4.3 Eligibility for the NSP will be published on the University's website at <http://www.hope.ac.uk/general-information/prospective-students-2012.html> before 1st September 2011.

In broad terms, only students with a residual household income of less than £15000 per annum will be eligible to apply and applicants will also have to meet eligibility criteria related to UCAS tariff points and be normally resident in certain low participation postcodes.

4.4 All those in receipt of the National Scholarship will receive a credit of £3000 to their account in University Halls of Residence in the first year (it will be a condition of the receipt of a scholarship that they reside in University Halls of Residence and this is not transferable for any other service or cash payment)

4.5 All those in receipt of the National Scholarship will receive a cash bursary of £1000 upon registration for their third year of study

4.6 All those in receipt of the National Scholarship will receive £1000 credit with the University towards institutional services in each of the second and third years. Institutional services might include a contribution towards the cost of halls of residence, credit for

printing, travel card, campus catering, “stipulated course requirements” such as fieldtrip costs.

4.7 Detail of the institutional services and application procedure will be published on the University’s website before 1st September 2011.

5. Targets and milestones

5.1 Given Liverpool Hope University’s historical success in widening participation and recent improvements in retention, the expenditure and activities set out in this Access Agreement aim to maintain that performance above the HESA benchmarks. However, in order to demonstrate this more clearly, detailed below are absolute targets expressed as a range within which the University would aim to remain. The four categories of applicants/students which the University has identified are students from state schools, students in categories 4 to 7 of SEC (Socio Economic Classification), students from low participation neighbourhoods (POLAR 2 Category 1) and those in receipt of DSA (Disability Support Allowance)

5.1.1. Participation of under-represented groups in higher education: young full-time first degree entrants

The University will aim to remain within the following ranges

5.1.1.1 From state schools : - 96 to 99%

5.1.1.2 Age-adjusted NS-SEC Social Classes 4-7:- 36.5 to 38%

5.1.1.3 From low participation neighbourhoods:- 16 to 19%

5.1.1.4 in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA):- 6-9%

5.1.2 On retention, the University will aim to remain within the following ranges, whilst continuing to beat its benchmarks

5.1.2.1 Non-continuation following year of entry: full-time first degree entrants (Table T3b in the HESA PIs) 7.5 to 9.5%

5.1.2.2 Projected outcomes (neither award nor transfer projected) (Table T5) 9 to 12%

5.2 Whilst HESA provides Performance Indicators on intakes for those categories, Liverpool Hope University will in addition measure itself against retention, progression and final outcome (award).

Additionally, at the end of each academic year, the University will measure the retention and progression rates of these students along with final degree outcomes. The aim of the University will be to continue to ensure that retention, progression and degree outcomes, for the widening participation students, are comparable to non widening participation students.

The University will use the 2010/11 end of year retention, progression and degree outcomes as its baseline data for ensuring consistency and improvement over the period 2012/13 to 2016/17.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

- 6.1 Liverpool Hope University will ensure that robust mechanisms are in place to identify and track the record of students who enter the University in one of the categories identified in §5.2.
- 6.2 This will be overseen by the Student Retention Group, reporting to the Academic Leaders Committee every two months and annually to Senate and University Council.
- 6.3 The Dean of Students will take executive responsibility for the delivery of the Access Agreement and will chair the Student Retention Group.
- 6.4 Students are represented on the Student Retention Group and more formally at Senate and University Council
- 6.5 Evaluation will be undertaken by a sub-group of the Student Retention Group

7. Provision of information to prospective students

- 7.1 Liverpool Hope University will publish its full Access Agreement on its institutional website and will provide details of its financial support package to UCAS and the Student Loans Company in order for applicants to make informed judgements.
- 7.2 All applicants will be issued with clear details of financial support available.
- 7.3 Liverpool Hope University will publish on its institutional website performance against the targets and milestones within this Access Agreement.

Annex A: Access agreements for 2012-13: OFFA template for mainstream ITT providers (HEIs and FECs)

Name of institution	LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY
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Please complete this template, and the Excel return at Annex B, and return to us using the HEFCE extranet by 30 March 2012.

Where your arrangements are the same as for other courses, we would encourage you to cross-refer to your main agreement wherever possible, rather than seeking to replicate information from that main document here.

Part one: Introduction to your agreement

A. Your current position in relation to access and, where appropriate, retention

Please use this section to set out any specific issues or aims for your access agreement work in respect of ITT that aren't already set out in your existing agreement for 2012-13. This section doesn't have to be long; however, it will help us to understand what your access agreement is setting out to achieve in respect of ITT. You may wish to consider whether there are separate issues for undergraduate and postgraduate ITT.

You may also wish to cross-refer to the issues or aims stated in your main agreement, if appropriate.

As per paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 in the University's existing agreement for 2012-13, the University has consistently outperformed its benchmarks in all categories of The Widening Participation HESA Performance Indicators and has recently improved its retention performance and has exceeded its benchmarks for the past three years.

In respect of ITT, the Access Agreement will serve to maintain that outstanding record.

Part two: Fee limits, spend on access and financial support for ITT trainees

B. Fees you are proposing to charge for your ITT courses

Your access agreement should set out the tuition fees you intend to charge new entrants to a) undergraduate and b) postgraduate ITT in 2012-13. There is no requirement or expectation that your fee for undergraduate or postgraduate ITT should be the same as for your other courses – this is a matter for you to decide.

All entrants to undergraduate ITT (i.e. the BA QTS) will be charged £8250 in 2012/13.

All entrants to postgraduate ITT (i.e. PGCE Primary and Secondary) will be charged £9000 in 2012/13.

C. Amounts of additional fee income to be spent on access measures

Taking into account any new access agreement investment relating to ITT, as well as your existing agreement, what is your estimated spend on access measures as a proportion of your income over £6,000 per fee?

As a broad guideline, for undergraduate ITT, our starting expectation is the same as that set out in our original guidance on how to produce an access agreement for 2012-13 (see OFFA 2011/01, paragraph 39). For postgraduate ITT, we would expect you to recycle a minimum of around 10 per cent of your fee income over £6,000 on access or retention measures. (Note: we will be taking a holistic view when considering whether your proposed spend is in line with our expectations. In other words, we do not necessarily require you to ring-fence set amounts for undergraduate or postgraduate initial teacher training. You simply need to make sure that the overall levels of spend – including ITT – are in line with our expectations.)

As per paragraph 2.8 of the existing Access Agreement, the University will commit 10% of the additional ITT fee income over £6000 to widening access and participation, retention and student success.

D. Financial support for trainees

In this section you should set out:

- what you plan to spend on targeted fee waivers, bursaries and in-kind support for a) undergraduate and b) postgraduate trainees in 2012-13*
- the amounts of support and the eligibility criteria for new entrants.*

You may wish to state whether the financial support for these trainees is the same or differs from your existing agreement.

As per its original Access Agreement, the University will invest its additional fee income on outreach and retention activities rather than bursaries or fee waivers. Undergraduate ITT students will be eligible for the National Scholarship Programme.

Part three: outreach and retention

E. Outreach and retention work

If you are proposing to introduce additional outreach or retention work in respect of ITT, over and above the outreach/retention work you have committed to in your existing 2012-13 access agreement, please include details here.

Alternatively, please indicate where your outreach or retention work in respect of ITT is already covered by your main agreement.

For the purposes of an access agreement, outreach work includes any activity that involves raising aspirations and attainment among potential applicants from under-represented groups and encouraging them to apply to higher education. This includes outreach directed at young or mature students aspiring to full or part-time study. We particularly encourage sustained, co-ordinated activities that work with pupils and other potential applicants over a number of years.

By retention, we mean the additional (new) retention measures you commit to put in place to improve student retention and success (ensuring that trainees from under-represented groups access the full benefits of higher education).

The additional fee income from ITT students will be used to expand the measures already identified in the original Access Agreement. The measures will be effective in attracting and retaining ITT students at undergraduate level and encouraging progression at postgraduate level. The University's excellent record in widening access and retaining students will be strengthened through this additional income.

Faith Schools outreach. Liverpool Hope University's strategy to target faith schools in cities across England whose pupil intake reflects many of the widening participation target groups links to the University's objective to provide teachers for schools, particularly faith schools. These conurbations include London, Birmingham, Manchester, Tyne and Wear, the East Midlands, West Riding and South Wales. This additional income will be used to expand this programme.

Summer Universities – the University will offer a range of faith-based Summer Universities to local and national Yr 12 pupils to provide a taster of the higher education experience and as one of our premium courses, ITT provision will be a key element of these Summer Universities.

Compact style provision/taster courses will be expanded to encourage aspirations and raise achievements to facilitate entry to Hope especially (via TASTE) to courses which will lead to the professions such as Teaching.

Part four: Targets, milestones and monitoring

F. Targets and milestones

You may choose to develop specific additional targets and milestones which assess your performance in ITT over time – particularly if ITT trainees make up a significant proportion of your overall student body.

Alternatively, you may have targets and milestones in your existing 2012-13 access agreement which you now also wish to apply to undergraduate and/or postgraduate ITT trainees.

These targets may be statistical – based on how representative your entrants are and/or your retention performance – and might include annual or interim milestones to help you monitor whether you are making progress.

You may wish to include criteria around the numbers of trainees in receipt of a full or partial maintenance grant, as financial data will need to be collected to determine bursary support and the data will also be accessible through the Student Loans Company for HEBSS subscribers. You may also wish to consider the TDA guidance at Annex C which gives information on specific groups that are underrepresented in the teaching profession.

In this section, please state whether you intend to develop additional targets and milestones, or the extent to which you intend to use targets and milestones in your existing agreement which you now wish to extend to apply to undergraduate and/or postgraduate ITT trainees. Where you have new or amended milestones and targets, you should set these out in your Excel template (Annex B) at Table 6.

The milestones and targets in the original Access Agreement apply to ITT students.

G. Your monitoring arrangements

In your existing 2012-13 access agreement, you set out how you intended to monitor your fulfilment of your agreement. If you wish to add anything further, following the inclusion of ITT in your agreement, you may do so here.

No additional information

Part five: Information to students

H. Provision of information to trainees

As set out in our initial guidance for 2012-13 access agreements (OFFA 2011/01), you must publish clear, accessible and timely information for applicants and trainees on the fees you will charge and any

Annex A

financial support you will offer. This information should make it clear exactly what level of financial support you are offering trainees in each year of their studies. As well as providing clear and up-to-date information through your own information channels (websites, prospectuses etc), you also committed to provide such timely information to UCAS and SLC as they reasonably require to populate their applicant-facing web services. We will assume that this commitment extends to GTTR, where appropriate.

If you wish to add anything further, following the inclusion of ITT in your agreement, you may do so here.

Nothing additional