

ACCESS AGREEMENT 2013/14

Introduction

The University of Roehampton is committed to widening participation and ensuring fair access to higher education. With a strong history of attracting students from a wide range of social and cultural traditions, Roehampton has already achieved considerable success in recruiting large numbers of students from diverse backgrounds and under-represented groups, and is committed to their success as evidenced by its strong record in retention and employment.

The most current benchmark data (2010-11) indicates that:

1. 96.4% of young, full-time first degree entrants to Roehampton come from state schools and colleges, substantially above the national average of 88.7%;
2. The proportion of young, full-time first degree entrants from the NS socioeconomic groups classification 4, 5, 6 or 7 at Roehampton is 35.4%, substantially above the national average of 30%;
3. 25% of full-time first degree entrants are mature students, with the majority having no previous experience of higher education;
4. The University has been particularly successful at attracting BME students:
Roehampton has twice the average proportion of BME students (37% of students who declare their ethnicity are from BME backgrounds, compared to the national average of 18%);
5. The University's non-continuation rate is 7.7% (representing those no longer in HE), which is superior to the national average (8.6%).

In 2010 over 50% of the first year intake qualified for a full maintenance grant (having a household income below £25k).

Fee limits, tuition fees above £6k

Roehampton is a distinctive university with a strong sense of collegiality and a commitment to social justice. Through its strong dedication to its students, and given their diverse backgrounds, the University has been very successful in building the social capital and increasing the life chances of its students. A Roehampton degree therefore offers substantial value to graduates while at the same time benefitting society at large.

The University is committed to keeping fee levels as low as reasonably possible so as to promote access. However, the University is also conscious of the need to cover costs, to manage the uncertain HE environment, and to invest in the quality of the teaching and learning of its students. The University is expecting to lose more than 95% of its HEFCE teaching funding by 2014 and must in future be entirely reliant on tuition fees. At the same time we are taking significant steps to reduce costs and drive up other income. Between 2010 and 2012, staff and other costs have been reduced by over 15%. As well as managing the sustainability of the University, we are looking to provide students with high levels of support to enable them to secure a successful and fulfilling career. At the same time we aim to set a fee that is fair and reasonable, as well as transparent and easily understood.

Consulting Roehampton students on the new fees structure in the Access Agreement

The University undertook a great deal of work in preparation for the introduction of higher fees in 2012. In addition to extensive discussions at Senate, Council and Student Senate, we consulted widely among staff, and engaged a leading consultancy firm to conduct extensive market research among more than 1500 current students, enquirers, applicants and their parents. In addition, we were able to draw on the emerging findings of an externally sponsored research project, looking at the attitudes of 16-18 year olds in one of the poorest parts of our city, undertaken by researchers in our Department of Social Sciences.

In 2011 the University introduced the Student Partnership – a unique approach to engaging our student body in the running of the University. Part of establishing the partnership was the creation of Student Senate where 30 students meet with the University's senior team on an agenda jointly prepared by the Vice Chancellor and the Student Union President. Proposals for fees and scholarships are debated in this group to ensure the University receives guidance and support from the student body.

Based on this extensive research, and given that the majority of our students are from under-represented groups, the University has concluded that the best way to continue its success in widening participation is to focus on keeping fee levels as low as possible, rather than to redistribute a high proportion of fees paid by some students to others. It is understood from previous experience and from recent guidance that bursaries have been an ineffective tool for widening participation. Having considered the guidance from OFFA, and in light of its retention record and diversity profile, the University decided to redistribute over 12% of additional fee income over the £6,000 threshold to OFFA countable groups. More will be redistributed in years one and two of the new scheme, as existing mandatory bursary commitments are seen through.

Given its mission and the nature of its student population, the University is committed to delivering value for money in how it prices its degrees. In order to maintain and develop the quality of its current offer, Roehampton intends to charge fees across two bands:

- Band A - £8,500; fee for honours degrees for 2013-14
- Band B - £7,500; fee for foundation degrees for 2013-14

We intend to charge a lower level of fee for Foundation Degrees as a way of encouraging access. Fee levels may rise annually in line with RPI.

To maintain an average fee of £8,250 so as to ensure that the University can recover places removed from its core student number the University will make available two new types of tuition fee waiver scholarships.

The first will support progression to the University from local institutions and will be awarded by the institutions themselves. This is in recognition that as the University's entry standards continue to rise we need to establish support for our traditional partner colleges and schools to maintain our commitment to widening participation.

Additionally, we will make available bursaries of £3,000 available for male BA Primary Education students who are in receipt of a full maintenance grant. The bursary will be paid to the student at a rate of £1,000 a year, at the start of each academic year on successful re-enrolment. We will not be making financial support available to PGCE students.

Further, we will make available tuition fee waiver scholarships to underpin our increasing investment in sport and in particular to support elite athletes by creating an environment in which they can still study.

Under the new scheme the vast majority of our fee waivers therefore will go to OFFA countable groups.

We are committed to offer £2000 cash bursary per year to every student entering in 2013-14 with grades at ABB+, as defined by HEFCE.

Equality and diversity

The University of Roehampton believes that its admissions policies, together with its outreach and retention activities, fees and financial support are fair and are aligned with its obligations under the Equality Act 2010, as borne out by data returned to HESA in 2010-11. This is kept under review. Care leavers are a group of students that the University has recently worked more closely with to promote access to HE, and to support to succeed at Roehampton. Achievement of the Buttle UK Quality Mark is testament to the University's commitment to this group of students.

Outreach

The University has developed a strong widening access programme. As part of its Strategic Plan, in 2006 the University adopted the goal of reaching every student in the Roehampton ward, which has one of the lowest participation rates in the country. This goal has now been achieved, in large measure through Aimhigher activities with partner institutions. The University is continuing that work and is now committed to funding these and further outreach activities from additional fee income, which will surpass the existing level of investment.

Outreach activities are kept under review to ensure focus remains on key target groups; new activities are developed where appropriate. In particular, since achieving the Buttle UK Quality Mark for Care Leavers in HE in 2011, the University is placing greater emphasis on attracting applications from Care Leavers. This is a dichotomous approach, through intra-University effort, and through working collaboratively with key

partners: Aimhigher London South Limited, Buttle UK and schools and colleges. The University is a subscription member of Aimhigher London South Limited and Buttle UK.

Similarly, we are now developing outreach to address another target group: males studying ITT at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Details of this outreach are included below.

Detailed information of Roehampton's access measures can be found in the University's WPSA 2010, with updated information in the Widening Participation Interim Statement 2012, but a brief overview is included below. Much of the access work focuses on a number of key areas through partnerships and outreach initiatives with schools and FE colleges particularly in south and west London – the University's home region:

- **Roehampton Student Ambassador Scheme:** trained students work in schools and on campus with groups of school children and young people on various activities.
- **Shadow a Student:** school and college students 'shadow' Roehampton students for a day and encounter different HE teaching methods in 'live' sessions, as well as study and social activities.
- **Subject Masterclasses:** these are designed to enhance understanding in GCSE subjects.
- **Activities for Gifted & Talented Students:** these include masterclasses in various areas such as modern languages, English, psychology, philosophy and creative writing.
- **Taster & Progression Days:** these are run in response to school requests and specifically for schools in our region that are identified as having low progression rates to HE.
- **Student Finance sessions and Student Life Q&A sessions:** with current undergraduates.
- **Academic Mentoring:** in-school sessions in various subject areas; Roehampton undergraduates work with secondary schools in the region to offer academic support to pre-GCSE students.
- **Year 12 and Year 13 Induction Days:** on-campus whole year group days to introduce students to and prepare them for university life.
- **Primary School Students' Campus Visits:** initial visits with generic information and activities.
- **Activities for Primary School groups:** age-appropriate activities designed by the University of Liverpool.
- **Mock Interview sessions:** confidence building sessions.
- **Community Sport activities:** working with local community and sports clubs.
- **Disability Support:** The University of Roehampton has full Access Centre Status. The Centre undertakes assessments for DSA and ensures that students with disabilities are assisted to participate in and complete HE programmes successfully.
- **Disability outreach:** Working both independently, and collaboratively with Aimhigher London South Limited, other HEIs, schools and colleges, we engage in activities to promote HE to students with disabilities.
- **Care Leavers and Looked-After Young People:** The University of Roehampton has achieved the Buttle UK Quality Mark for Care Leavers in HE. We are committed to raising the aspirations and achievement of Care Leavers, to increasing the applications by Care Leavers to Roehampton, and to the support and retention of Care Leavers at Roehampton. Working collaboratively with Aimhigher London South Limited, Buttle UK, schools, colleges, local authorities and others with responsibility for Care Leavers and Looked-After Young People, the University undertakes a range of activities to promote access to, and support at, HE to these groups of students.
- **Male students into ITT (UG):** In 2011-12 we had a new entrant intake for males studying undergraduate ITT of 15%. Recognising the need to encourage more male students into Primary

Education, we aim to increase our percentage of male UG ITT students by 1% for each year until 2015/16. We will undertake a range of activities involving more male ITT students/alumni as positive role models in school/college outreach, with particular emphasis on boys' groups/classes; and our Education staff will talk at schools, colleges and HE Fairs promoting teaching as a career for men. Consistent with our aim to increase the percentage of male students studying ITT at Roehampton, we will endeavour to increase and include male ITT students in all of our outreach activities (and retention) wherever possible.

- **Progression Agreements:** Designed to help maintain a balance of students with traditional and non-traditional qualifications within our student body. We are working with FE colleges to better understand the perceptions of their BTEC students towards HE in the current climate, and we will develop progression agreements with them designed to support their transition to HE.
- **Partnerships with schools:** The University of Roehampton is committed to working closely with schools and colleges to foster collaborations that engender good practice, opportunities for inter-institution staff development, and the provision of sound information, advice and guidance to potential university students. The University has established a Secondary Schools and University Partnership group and has signed Memoranda of Understanding with participating schools – more details can be found in the Roehampton University WPSA 2010.

Retention

The University has made significant improvements in its student retention. The latest figures show that the University's non-continuation rate is better than the national average. This is a significant achievement, particularly considering its relatively high proportion of non-traditional students. It is a clear indication of how studying at Roehampton is a path to improved social capital and a worthwhile qualification. Furthermore, the University will continue to allocate substantial funds to enhance the learning experience through investment in staff and the learning environment. One mechanism for improving non-continuation rates includes a thriving peer mentor system in place for students across all subject areas. Others include access to extensive academic and pastoral support, including the personal tutor system, Academic Learning Advisers, and Student Welfare Officers.

Within these measures, the University will particularly strive to engage existing male ITT students to act as peer mentors for new male entrants to ITT in order to continue to improve retention rates for that group. ITT students, as with all students at the University of Roehampton, are made aware of the variety of academic and pastoral support available and are encouraged to take this up as needed. The value placed on this support was rated as good or higher by 93% of PGCE Secondary students in an exit survey conducted in June 2011.

Additionally, the University is exploring ways of working to support access to and retention on the four SCITT programmes that it currently supports.

Employability

The University is committed to supporting its students to succeed on their courses and then move on to a fulfilling career. Roehampton intends to build on its already strong record in employability. Out of our 2010-11 graduates, 91.4% were in employment or further study six months after graduation. We have this year

created a new Student Development Office to enhance the support provided to students in developing their employability skills, bringing together the employment and careers service, placements, student entrepreneurship, volunteering and wider activities like extracurricular sports. In addition the University will be offering more opportunities for students to study abroad for a semester and is also looking at increasing opportunities for students to be employed on campus so as to provide both income and work experience.

National Scholarship Programme

The University has been allocated 166 scholarships for 2013-14. We wish to keep our scheme simple and transparent: a complex system of selection would only add to the confusion inherent in the new funding system, as well as incur high administration costs, which we do not believe is an appropriate use of student fee income. We therefore welcome the Secretary of State's announcement that 'the programme will remain flexible in its initial years'. To keep in line with our financial model we will need to spread our contribution equally over two years – the recipients' second and third years of study. This also encourages retention and helps students at each stage of their studies. We will distribute the scholarships based on a combination of household income and prior attainment, which supports our strategy to encourage aspiration among under-represented groups. In doing so we will acknowledge attainment through achievement at A level as well as other qualifications.

The University will allocate the National Scholarship Programme recipients a £1,000 cash bursary during their studies with the remainder of the award allocated as tuition fee waivers. The cash bursary will be made up of £300 in years 1 and 2 of their studies and £400 in their final year. Tuition fee waivers will be £2,700 in year 1, £1,200 in year 2 and £1,100 in year 3.

Awards will be made to the top 166 new entrants in year 1 by their tariff score that are in receipt of a full maintenance grant.

Targets and Milestones

The University is committed to:

- Consistently out-performing the national average on a range of widening participation indicators: ethnicity, state school attendance, percentage of students from socioeconomic groups 4,5,6 and 7
- Consistently meeting the national average rate for non-continuation
- Consistently meeting the national average rate for employment.

Targets and milestones will be developed to reflect these priorities. Details are included in the attached template.

1. Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

The University will be monitoring annually the composition of its full-time home undergraduate population, using a range of internal and external WP indicators. Monitoring will be undertaken by the University

Planning Office, and data will be regularly viewed by the appropriate individuals and committees across the University.

2. Provision of information to prospective students

Full details of the levels of financial support available to prospective students of Roehampton University will be published in a variety of formats. These will include:

- Marketing and promotional literature
- Prospectuses
- Web-based information

Information presented for prospective students will be clear, concise and enable them to make informed choices based on accurate financial information. The University has brought in digital and marketing specialists to help re-design promotional material and especially using digital communities to help achieve this goal.

Government allocation of NSP funding will be matched in full. The government allocation will provide the basis for a student bursary in year one (£300) with the rest being allocated in fee waivers. Our contribution being paid in subsequent years of the course £300 in year 2 and £400 in year 3, applied pro-rata with the rest being allocated in fee waivers. This method encourages retention and helps students at each stage of their studies.

Table 6b - Other milestones and targets

Alongside applicant and entrant targets, we encourage you to provide targets around your outreach work (including collaborative outreach work where appropriate) or other initiatives to illustrate your progress towards increasing access. These should be measurable outcomes based targets and should focus on the number of pupils reached by a particular activity/programme, or number of schools worked with, and what the outcomes were, rather than simply recording the nature/number of activities.

Please select milestone/target type from the drop down menu	Description (500 characters maximum)	Is this a collaborative target?	Baseline year	Baseline data	Yearly milestones/targets (numeric where possible, however you may use text)					Commentary on your milestones/targets or textual description where numerical description is not appropriate (500 characters maximum)	If you have made any changes to the prefilled data around your milestones/targets, or included additional milestones/targets, please indicate why here.
					2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17		
Outreach / WP activity (collaborative - please give details in the next column)	Targeted to reach young people in the care system. Working with Aimhigher London South Limited to provide academic, IAG and support outreach to Looked-After Young People and Care Leavers in local authority and foster care.	Yes	2012-13		We aim to reach more LAYP and CLs each year as the uptake of our outreach sessions increases, with a concomitant rise in the numbers seeing the information on our website and other publications. We will monitor the number of 'hits' to the Care Leavers page of the our website and in subsequent years will report numbers and set yearly milestone based on those.	Activities as in previous years, which will be kept under review. We will monitor the number of 'hits' to the Care Leavers page of the our website and in subsequent years will report numbers and set yearly milestone based on those.	Activities as in previous years, which will be kept under review. We will monitor the number of 'hits' to the Care Leavers page of the our website and in subsequent years will report numbers and set yearly milestone based on those.	Activities as in previous years, which will be kept under review. We will monitor the number of 'hits' to the Care Leavers page of the our website and in subsequent years will report numbers and set yearly milestone based on those.	Activities as in previous years, which will be kept under review. We will monitor the number of 'hits' to the Care Leavers page of the our website and in subsequent years will report numbers and set yearly milestone based on those.	Having achieved the Buttle UK Quality Mark, recognising our commitment to attracting care leavers to HE and supporting them to achieve success as students, we will reach more care leavers and looked-after young people with IAG through outreach and web presence, and for those at the University we will publicise the support available at Roehampton through similar means. This work will involve collaboration with local authority staff, residential care home staff and foster care managers.	Looked-after children and care leavers are under-represented at HE, as recognised by HEFCE. For this reason, and as part of our commitment to these groups shown through Roehampton's achievement of the Buttle UK Quality Mark, this activity is being funded.
Outreach / WP activity (other - please give details in the next column)	Developing and enhancing relationships with local authority (LA) contacts to promote HE to young people in care. The first activity is a visit in May 2012 for LA contacts to the university. Contacts will meet academic staff, student support and welfare staff, Student Union staff, and outreach staff with a view to providing them with updated information about university and the support and opportunities available to students, with an emphasis on students from the care system.	No	2011-12	5 LA contacts attended	We invited LA contacts, with responsibility for CLs and LAYP, from all 33 London Boroughs. 5 attended this year. We hope to increase these numbers year on year.	8 LA contacts to attend campus - based information activity. Therefore, it is expected that an increased number of CLs and LAYP will be made aware of the support available to them at Roehampton.	10 LA contacts to attend campus - based information activity. Therefore, it is expected that an increased number of CLs and LAYP will be made aware of the support available to them at	13 LA contacts to attend campus - based information activity. Therefore, it is expected that an increased number of CLs and LAYP will be made aware of the support available to them at	15 LA contacts to attend campus - based information activity. Therefore, it is expected that an increased number of CLs and LAYP will be made aware of the support available to them at	This activity has the same general goal as the activity above, i.e. to facilitate improved communications with care leavers and to promote access to and support at Roehampton for this group of students. As a result of these activities, we would expect to see an increase in care leavers (as declared on the UCAS application form) applying to Roehampton.	Looked-after children and care leavers are under-represented at HE, as recognised by HEFCE. For this reason, and as part of our commitment to these groups shown through Roehampton's achievement of the Buttle UK Quality Mark, this activity is being funded.

Outreach / WP activity (other - please give details in the next column)	Working to develop relationships with care managers of residential homes for young people and foster care managers, to promote HE to looked-after young people.	No			We will identify and develop relationships and activities with care managers, maintaining these relationships and adding new ones as appropriate. It is not possible to estimate numbers accurately given that the existence of such institutions is not within our control.	We will identify and develop relationships and activities with care managers, maintaining these relationships and adding new ones as appropriate. It is not possible to estimate numbers accurately given that the existence of such institutions is not within our control.	We will identify and develop relationships and activities with care managers, maintaining these relationships and adding new ones as appropriate. It is not possible to estimate numbers accurately given that the existence of such institutions is not within our control.	We will identify and develop relationships and activities with care managers, maintaining these relationships and adding new ones as appropriate. It is not possible to estimate numbers accurately given that the existence of such institutions is not within our control.	We will identify and develop relationships and activities with care managers, maintaining these relationships and adding new ones as appropriate. It is not possible to estimate numbers accurately given that the existence of such institutions is not within our control.	We will identify and develop relationships and activities with care managers, maintaining these relationships and adding new ones as appropriate. It is not possible to estimate numbers accurately given that the existence of such institutions is not within our control.	This activity has the same general goal as the activity above, i.e. to facilitate improved communications with care leavers and to promote access to and support at Roehampton for this group of students. As a result of these activities, we would expect to see an increase in care leavers (as declared on the UCAS application form) applying to Roehampton.	Looked-after children and care leavers are under-represented at HE, as recognised by HEFCE. For this reason, and as part of our commitment to these groups shown through Roehampton's achievement of the Buttle UK Quality Mark, this activity is being funded.
Outreach / WP activity (other - please give details in the next column)	We will continue to support outreach in order to raise aspirations of those in our local community. Currently, this work includes: a project developed by the University of Liverpool specifically for use with primary school children (Professor Fluffy); sport and dance outreach both on- and off-campus with a variety of age groups; HE taster sessions and campus visits with local secondary schools; and participation HE and careers fairs with local schools and colleges.	No	2011-12	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	School-age children in the Roehampton ward, via work with schools and community groups.	
Outreach / WP activity (other - please give details in the next column)	Participation in Looked After Children (KS3) events to encourage achievement raising and aspiration to HE. Events co-ordinated by Aimhigher London South Limited.	Yes			60	60	60	60	60	60		under-represented at HE, as recognised by HEFCE. For this reason, and as part of our commitment to these groups shown through Roehampton's achievement of the Buttle UK Quality Mark, this activity is being funded.
Outreach / WP activity (collaborative - please give details in the next column)	Participation in Looked After Children (post-16) events to encourage achievement raising and aspiration to HE. Events co-ordinated by Aimhigher London South Limited.	Yes			40	40	40	40	40	40		under-represented at HE, as recognised by HEFCE. For this reason, and as part of our commitment to these groups shown through Roehampton's achievement of the Buttle UK Quality Mark, this activity is being funded.
Outreach / WP activity (collaborative - please give details in the next column)	Aspirations Conference, co-ordinated by Aimhigher London South Limited. With other HEIs.	Yes			150	150	160	160	160	160		This activity is complementary to Roehampton's WP commitment to reach under-represented groups.
Outreach / WP activity (collaborative - please give details in the next column)	Participation in Year 12 Conference for students with SpLD (Specific Learning Difficulties).	Yes			55	55	60	60	60	60		Roehampton has long been involved in collaborative projects with Aimhigher to support students with specific learning difficulties. This is an extension of that involvement which the University remains committed to.
Outreach / WP activity (collaborative - please give details in the next column)	Participation in Vocational Progression Conference for Year 12 L3 Learners (BTEC). Co-ordinated by Aimhigher London South Limited.	Yes			85	85	85	85	85	85		This activity is being funded as it is complementary to Roehampton's commitment to working with BTEC learners to encourage aspiration to HE and to support their transition.
Outreach / WP activity (collaborative - please give details in the next column)	Participation in Year 13 'Applying to HE' Conference - co-ordinated by Aimhigher London South Limited.	Yes			160	160	160	160	160	160		Roehampton's WP commitment to reach under-represented groups. The University feels that the opportunity to provide IAG to students at such a crucial age is vital, hence this activity is being undertaken/funded.

