

UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD

Office for Fair Access – Access Agreement 2007-2012

1. Introduction

Salford University is an enterprising institution offering a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes supported by high quality research and academic enterprise. It was established in 1896 as the Royal Technical Institute to provide advanced training and education to develop a skilled workforce for the world-renowned industries of the region. Since its inception the institution has provided educational opportunities that have enhanced the employability of local people, especially those who would not otherwise have had the opportunity of higher education. Throughout its history of close engagement with the local community the University has specialised in education for capability, and its programmes are still closely linked to the major employment sectors locally.

The University has a diverse intake and has participation rates which exceed HEFCE benchmarks. We are eleventh nationally for the recruitment of mature students.

2. Scope of Agreement and Fee Limits

This Access Agreement relates to all undergraduate programmes for which the University receives income from HEFCE. There will be a common tuition fee which it is expected will be increased annually in line with inflation increases announced by the Government.

The common tuition fee will not apply to:

- full time UK/EU programmes run as part of an NHS contract;
- placement years or semesters undertaken as part of an undergraduate programme commenced in 2006/2007;
- exchange years and semesters supported through ERASMUS;
- international students (separate tuition fees apply for these students).

For the session 2011/12 the level of the common tuition fee is £3375 per annum or £1687.50 per semester.

3. Bursaries and Scholarships

In addition to the support offered by the Government through grants, the University will offer the following bursaries and scholarships to students who entered the University in 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11:

Statutory Bursary:

£384 per annum payable to all students entitled to a full HEMG.

This bursary is paid in addition to any other bursary.

Discretionary bursaries:

- Vice Chancellor's Scholarship:
£1000 payable to all who reach the entry standard of grades AAB at A Level;
- Subject Bursary:
£1000 for entrants to specified programmes in Modern Languages, Physics and Engineering who meet the programme and general entry requirements;
- Salford Community Bursary:
£500 for all students with a Salford postcode at the time of application who receive an HEMG (pro rata for partial HEMG);
- Global Placement Bursary:
£1000 for two semesters spent overseas or £500 for one semester spent overseas;
- Advantage Bursary:
£1000 for the first year for students who are the first in their family to go to University and are in receipt of the full HEMG. 20 bursaries are available. This bursary is paid in addition to any other bursary.

Continuing students who started under the student support arrangements that existed between 2006/07 and 2007/08 will continue to receive bursaries and scholarships under that scheme.

The University is conducting a review of its bursaries and scholarships package during the first semester of 2010/11 to ensure that support is as effective as it should be in this changing environment. In this context and in anticipation of HEFCE's findings with regard to the impact of bursaries, during the academic year 2009/2010 the University worked on developing compact agreements to support disadvantaged learners at level 3 in partner Further Education Colleges to progress to and succeed in Higher Education.

Therefore in addition to the support offered by the Government through grants, the University will as a minimum offer the following bursary to students who enter the University in 2011-12:

Statutory bursary:

£338 per annum payable to all students entitled to a full HEMG.

The bursaries and scholarships scheme is reviewed annually.

In addition to bursaries and scholarships, the University offers several special prizes based on a range of criteria. These prizes are independent of bursaries and scholarships and may be awarded in addition to them.

4. Additional Student Support

In addition to the bursaries, scholarships and prizes the University offers a range of services to support the success of students from all backgrounds. This includes the development of the Student Life Directorate based in a single location and dedicated to supporting the whole of the student journey through:

- general and financial advice for students to foster good financial management and to provide information about funding opportunities;
- administration of Access to Learning Fund and other student support funds on the basis of objective criteria to direct support to those students in most need (including meeting the needs of Looked After Children);
- comprehensive Careers and Employability service that includes careers consultation, information, advice and guidance;
- opportunities brokered through a Student and Graduate Futures team who help students to find appropriate term time and vacation work experience (paid and unpaid), placements, access to enterprise skills and opportunities, and ultimately graduate employment. All developed to support their studies and enhance their employability;
- competitively priced student accommodation within walking distance of the University;
- support for disabled students, including student support plans, equipment loan and financial help (including with the costs of dyslexia assessment);
- reactive and proactive health and wellbeing services, including crisis response, and a programme of activities to support students to manage their own wellbeing;
- individual and group study skills support including the enhancement of mathematical and academic writing skills;
- significant investment in new teaching and learning facilities to provide a high quality learning environment;
- induction, mentoring, Personal Development Planning (PDP), the development of the Salford Student Life Award, Achievement Coaches and other initiatives to enhance performance and to ensure success.

5. Outreach Activities

In order to raise aspirations within the local area (traditionally one of below average educational attainment), and to encourage local disadvantaged groups to consider the advantages of higher education the following outreach activities are well-established:

- close liaison with the University's 50 top feeder institutions;
- working with providers of Access programmes (the University has the highest number of Access course entrants in the sector);
- playing a key role in Greater Manchester Aimhigher activities;
- running the Salford Young People's University;
- arranging events for parents, careers advisors and teachers;
- compact agreements with Further Education Colleges to support progression to and transition into Higher Education.

6. Provision of Information to Students

It is vital that prospective and current students have access to relevant information on which to make an informed decision about their studies. The University is committed to providing information, in a clear and accessible form, about programmes of study, the financial aspects of study and the support available. The main means by which the University will provide information are as follows:

Enquiry stage

Detailed information about programmes, costs, facilities and all aspects of student life is provided via the Undergraduate Prospectus, with personalised content using EMT Connect and related web material. This is supplemented by more specific information online about accommodation, costs and support arrangements for those considering making an application and *Money Matters*, a publication giving information on incoming and outgoing financial commitments including advice on budgeting.

Application stage

The University provides applicants with *Apply Yourself*, an on-line application tool that facilitates ease of submission of applications for undergraduate direct (and postgraduate) applications. We also provide specific information and support for students declaring disabilities and ongoing communication and support providing information on fees, living expenses, fee assessments and support arrangements.

Pre-Registration and Registration

We provide a confirmation letter and also a welcome pack online, followed by a Registration letter, online registration instruction leaflet, finance leaflet and *Get Ready* handbook.

Post-registration

Ongoing information is always available through our Student Life Directorate, School Offices and the University of Salford Students' Union (USSU). A full service providing financial advice and support is available through Student Life.

7. Milestones and Monitoring

The University will monitor its success in fulfilling the Access Agreement on the basis of statistical indicators for each of the following categories of student:

For students who entered the University in 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11

- take up of HEMG;
- take up of statutory bursary;
- take up of Salford Community bursary
- take up Vice-Chancellor's scholarships;
- take up of Global Placement Bursary;
- patterns of demand for ALF;
- patterns of demand for disability support funds;
- patterns of recruitment of students from Access Programmes;

For students who enter the University in 2011/12

- take up of HEMG;
- take up of statutory bursary;
- patterns of demand for ALF;
- patterns of demand for disability support funds;
- patterns of recruitment of students from Access Programmes;

and other appropriate statistical indicators according to any new or additional bursaries or activities that may be enhanced or introduced.

The monitoring information will be prepared annually and reviewed by the Registrar and Secretary, and on a three-year cycle by Executive Committee, Senate and Council. It will build on and be incorporated into existing monitoring measures.

Updated November 2010