

# UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

## OFFA Access Agreement for academic year 2012/13

### 1. Background

The University of Warwick published an updated statement of its strategy in March 2011 (<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/insite/strategy>) and this included accessibility as one of our institution's core values stating that "Warwick was the first research-led University in the UK to give priority to widening participation and life-long learning and believes that accessibility remains critical to its developing mission." This Access Agreement outlines how we will maintain our focus on fair access and widening participation in the context of the changing higher education landscape.

### 2. Fee Levels for 2012 entry

- 2.1. The University will charge all Home/EU full-time undergraduate students £9,000 for the 2012/13 academic year with the exception of 2+2, foundation degree and part-time students whose fees will be £6,000. The fees for Home/EU PGCE students have not yet been agreed for the 2012/13 academic year and will be set once further information on PGCE student financial support arrangements is available from the UK Government. The University's planned Home/EU full-time undergraduate intake for the 2012/13 academic year is 2,984 students of which 60 are likely to be 2+2 students.
- 2.2. A maximum of 50% of the standard fee will be payable during periods of intercalated/mandatory study away from the University, with the exception of students on the Erasmus programme, who currently pay no fees for their full year period of study abroad where Erasmus arrangements apply (noting that these are yet to be confirmed for 2012 entry). The fee levels will vary between £1,680 for intercalated periods of work experience and £4,500 for sandwich study years in 2012.
- 2.3. Home/EU full-time undergraduate students already studying at the University who are continuing on their current course of study will pay fees of £3,375 in the 2011/12 academic year with the exception of 2+2 students who will pay £1,345. Part-time Home/EU students who are continuing on their current course of study will pay fees of £410 per 30 CAT module in the 2011/12 academic year. Fees for the remainder of the students' course of study will rise in subsequent years in line with any permitted real term fee increases as determined by the UK Government on an annual basis.
- 2.4. Students who applied to the University in 2011/12 but deferred their entry to 2012/13 will be subject to the fee arrangements set out in 2.1 above. Students who begin a course before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 but then transfer after that date ( in 2012/13 or subsequent academic years) to a different course at the same or a different institution will be subject to the fee arrangements in 2.3 above as long as their mode of study remains the same.
- 2.5. Students who have started their undergraduate course at the University prior to the 2012/13 academic year but have been temporarily withdrawn from their programme of study and are returning to the University to continue with their course in the 2012/13 academic year will be subject to the fee arrangements for continuing students set out in 2.3 above for the remainder of their existing course.

- 2.6. Applicants entering the University in the 2011/12 academic year must meet all the conditions of their offer of admission by 31 August 2011. If all the conditions are not met by 31 August 2011, applicants may have to start their course in the 2012/13 academic year and will then be subject to the 2012/13 fee arrangements.  
Responsibility for ensuring that the University is aware that all the conditions of their offer have been met prior to 31 August 2011 rests with the applicant.
- 2.7. Fees for part-time courses run through the Centre for Lifelong Learning will be no more than £6,000 for the 2012/13 academic year pro rata to the number of modules and the relevant CATS points for the individual student's course of study.
- 2.8. Fees for all full-time and part-time Home/EU undergraduate students and PGCE students will rise in subsequent years of a student's course in line with any permitted inflationary uplift as determined by the UK Government on an annual basis.
- 2.9. Fee waivers of up to £2,000 for the 2012/13 academic year will be available to students whose family income is less than £25,001pa as determined by the Student Loans Company (SLC) for student support and these are covered in more detail in Section 5.

### 3. Additional Access expenditure

- 3.1. The University has conducted an analysis of its performance against three key access benchmarks. We have compared our performance against these measures with a comparator group comprising the ten most highly selective UK universities in terms of the grade point average of applicants (Warwick has the 9<sup>th</sup> highest average GPA). Within this comparator group Warwick has the highest proportion of state school educated students, the second highest proportion of students from the lowest socio-economic groups and the third highest proportion of students from low participation neighbourhoods. We believe that this demonstrates that the University's access performance is strong in the context of its position as one of the most academically selective institutions in the country. Benchmarking our absolute performance against the sector as a whole places Warwick below the third quartile for the proportions of these three target groups (Annex 1 compares the University's performance against the sector as a whole and plots our performance against the sector median showing upper and lower quartiles). Our performance against current HEFCE benchmarks is summarised in the table below.

| Target   | Benchmark | Performance at 2008 |
|--|-----------|---------------------|
| Raise the number of young FT entrants from the lowest socio economic groups to reach our HESA location adjusted benchmark by 2008-09 | 20.8%     | 19% (17.4% 2007)    |
| Raise the number of young FT entrants from low participation neighbourhoods to the location adjusted benchmark by 2008-09            | 5.5%      | 5.5% (4.6% 2007)    |
| Increase the number of FT UG entrants from currently under-represented ethnic groups:  |           |                     |
| Black Caribbean  | 0.8%      | 0.6%                |
| Black African  | 1.7%      | 2.0%                |
| Pakistani  | 1.1%      | 1.3%                |
| Bangladeshi  | 0.6%      | 0.2%                |

| Target   | Benchmark | Performance at 2008 |
|--|-----------|---------------------|
| Increase the number of mature Home/EU learners registered on FT and PT routes combined.  | 17.1%     | 18%                 |
| Increase the proportion of entrants to Warwick from those candidates with category 2,3 and 4 disabilities and to increase in real terms in this category to 20 students by 2009/10 | 20        | 23                  |

The University currently meets its retention benchmarks and hence investments targeted to improve retention are limited to the financial support arrangements described in section 5 below.

- 3.2. In its 2010/11 Access Agreement the University committed to an investment of £520,000 to support its Widening Participation aspirations. Being mindful of the need to invest additional resource in our access and outreach programmes in the light of increasing fee levels we will increase our level of investment to £1.0 million by 2012 and to £1.5 million by 2015. We will seek to target this funding on programmes which address: the need to continue and further enhance our existing collaborative activity; the sector-wide widening participation agenda; and the need to ensure that the University is able to achieve its own ambitious access targets.
- 3.3. There will be some additional expenditure on outreach activity during financial year 2011/12 which should be counted against our commitments from 2012. In order to continue programmes currently funded through Aimhigher the University will commit £100,000 during 2011/12 to enable the continuation of activity in the local area. We also propose to make new staff appointments to provide additional support in the following areas: the provision of advice on fees and funding; the development and delivery of new outreach activity; and the use of contextual data in admissions. An additional £200,000 will be committed to fund these new posts and associated costs during 2011/12.
- 3.4. The importance of the Centre for Lifelong Learning in the university's range of outreach activity is reflected in the proposed lower fee (£6,000) for our 2+2, part-time and Foundation Degree programmes which make a significant contribution to increasing the number of mature entrants, particularly those from lower socio-economic groups.

#### 4. Additional Access Measures

- 4.1. The University already works closely with local partners on outreach programmes. Local outreach work will be enhanced through the introduction of a new sustained programme for groups of learners from schools in low participation areas who will receive detailed and focused information, advice and guidance, and academic support in order to enable them to maximise their chances of gaining entry to the most competitive institutions. We will build on the existing Pathways to Law programme, which combines work experience and networking opportunities with advice and guidance, by working to develop similar programmes focussing on other professional courses. The University will also build on the success of existing teaching fellow appointments in the physical sciences and mathematics, whose remit is to work within academic departments to develop subject specific outreach activities with schools, by making further appointments to support outreach in other academic areas. The International Gateway for Gifted and Talented Youth (IGGY)

will offer free membership and access to its resources for eligible students from low participation neighbourhoods helping to raise their aspirations through on-line resources and networking events. We will continue to build on our successful 2+2 programmes, delivered in partnership with local colleges, seeking to extend the range of courses that we offer through this route.

- 4.2. The University is keen to explore the ways in which contextual data can be used to inform and support its access and widening participation aims, and will be appointing a member of staff to conduct research in this area. Initial work will focus on the ways in which contextual data can be used to support the targeting of outreach activity, the impact of contextual data on the admissions process, and the tracking of students with whom we have worked through our outreach events. The University has a strong track record of retention of students from all backgrounds and hence will be focusing its resources on measures to promote access and widening participation in the first instance, but contextual data will be included in subsequent monitoring of retention and student performance and action will be taken to improve retention in future access agreements should issues be identified.
- 4.3. A summary of current and proposed outreach work is provided in Annex 2.

## 5. Financial Support For students

- 5.1. The University is seeking to ensure that, wherever possible, financial barriers to taking up the opportunity to come to Warwick are overcome by offering a substantial package of financial support to our students at the point of entry and throughout their academic careers. The financial support package includes both fee waivers and a bursary for students from low income families. The University is committed to matching the National Scholarship Programme (NSP) and will ensure that students who qualify for the NSP will continue to receive an equivalent level of support throughout their period of study.
- 5.2. Students who are already studying at the University are entitled to the support package available during their year of entry for the remainder of their course and are subject to the entitlement criteria relevant to that support package. Full details of our existing support packages for full-time Undergraduate and PGCE students are available on our website at <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/academicoffice/funding/undergraduate>. The University anticipates spending around £2.7 million of its own funding on the support available for continuing students in the 2012/13 academic year.
- 5.3. The University has been informed that its provisional allocation to support the NSP will be £435,000 for the 2012/13 academic year and will be more than matching this contribution to ensure that all students whose family income is less than £25,001 will receive a full award. The University plans to spend in excess of £500,000 of its own funds on fee waiver support to Home/EU undergraduate students during 2012/13 academic year and expects that more than 15% of our Home/EU undergraduate entrants will receive an award.
- 5.4. The University will offer support in the form of fee waivers and bursaries to all full-time Home/EU undergraduate students who meet the criteria set out below for each year of their course of study. A maximum fee waiver of £2,000 per annum will be payable to full-time Home/EU students starting their course in the 2012/13 academic year who:

- a) Are studying for their first undergraduate degree;
  - b) Are in receipt of a tuition fee loan from the UK Government for the relevant academic year;
  - c) Have a family income of less than £25,001 (as determined by the Student Loans Company (SLC) for student support;
  - d) Have completed sixth form education in England within the state school sector or at a Further Education College (or on a full fee paying means-tested bursary at an Independent School or college in England);
  - e) Are not entitled to any other statutory fee support in the form of either a grant or fee waiver for their course.
- 5.5. The University will offer support in the form of fee waivers to part-time Home/EU undergraduate students who meet the criteria set out below for each year of their course of study. A maximum fee waiver of £3,000, pro rata to the number of modules and the relevant CATS points for the individual student's course of study, per annum will be payable to part-time Home/EU students starting their course in the 2012/13 academic year who:
- a) Are studying for their first undergraduate degree;
  - b) Are in receipt of a tuition fee loan from the UK Government for the relevant academic year;
  - c) Are in receipt, or whose partner, spouse or civil partner, is in receipt of means tested benefits from the UK Government ( a full list of the relevant benefits will be available on the University's website and will be updated each year in line with changes in UK Government benefit arrangements);
  - d) Are not entitled to any other statutory fee support in the form of either a grant or fee waiver for their course.
- 5.6. All fee waivers will be known as **Warwick National Scholarships** and will be deducted from the fee payable to the University once the student enrolls on their course for the 2012/13 academic year and can satisfy the above criteria. This will enable the student to reduce the level of fee loan they take from the SLC. Students who become eligible for the fee waiver during the 2012/13 academic year will have their fees (and their fee loan) reduced at the point at which they are determined to be eligible for the award. Students whose family income is reassessed during the 2012/13 academic year after a fee waiver has been awarded and who no longer meet the criteria of the award, will not have the award withdrawn during that academic year. Any reassessment of income will only be applied the next time fees are due. No other eligibility criteria will be applied beyond securing and retaining a place at the University.
- 5.7. For students meeting the conditions set out in 5.4 above a pro rata fee waiver will be awarded during periods of intercalated/mandatory study away from the University. The fee waiver will be apportioned based on the overall fee due for that academic year of study. If no fees are payable, then the fee waiver award will also be nil.
- 5.8. The University will offer a bursary to full-time Home/EU undergraduate students who meet the criteria set out below for each year of their course of study. Bursary support is non-repayable, intended to help with course related costs and is in addition to any maintenance support received from the UK Government. A **Warwick Bursary** of up to £2,500 per annum will be payable to full-time Home/EU students starting their course in the 2012/13 academic year who:
- a) Are studying for their first undergraduate degree;

- b) Are in receipt of maintenance grant support from the UK Government for the relevant academic year;
  - c) Have a family income of less than £42,601 (as determined by the Student Loans Company (SLC) for student support;
  - d) Have completed sixth form education in England within the state school sector or at a Further Education College (or on a full fee paying means-tested bursary at an Independent School or college in England).
- 5.9. Students who meet the criteria set out in 5.8 above and whose family income is less than £25,001 will receive a Warwick Bursary of £2,500pa. Students who meet the criteria set out in 5.8 above and whose family income is greater than £25,000 but less than £36,001 will receive a Warwick Bursary of £1,500pa. Students who meet the criteria set out in 5.8 above and whose family income is greater than £36,001 but less than £42,601 will receive a Warwick Bursary of £500.
- 5.10. The University intends to spend over £1million of its own funds on bursary support to Home/EU undergraduate students starting their course of study during the 2012/13 academic year and anticipates that more than 26% of our Home/EU undergraduate entrants will qualify for an award.
- 5.11. No further eligibility criteria will be applied beyond securing and retaining a place at the University. Bursary support will be paid directly to students via BACS on a termly basis by the Student Loans Company (SLC) on behalf of the University. Students will not need to apply for the bursary. Entitlement for the bursary will be determined as part of the student's application to the SLC for student maintenance support from the UK Government. Students and their parents will need to agree to data sharing as part of that application process in order that their entitlement to the Warwick Bursary can be assessed.
- 5.12. Students whose family income is reassessed during the 2012/13 academic year after a Warwick Bursary has been awarded and who no longer meet the criteria of the award, will not receive any further payments of the award during that academic year. Amounts already paid to the student prior to the date of the re-assessment will not be reclaimed. Students who become eligible for the Warwick Bursary during the 2012/13 academic year will be entitled to the full award. Any instalments due prior to their entitlement being determined will be paid as an initial payment during the term in which the student is first entitled to the award. Subsequent termly payments will then be made as normal during the academic year.
- 5.13. The aim of the Warwick Bursary is to ensure that students from low income families are not deterred from entering higher education or completing their chosen course of study due to insufficient funding to pay for the academic programme costs associated with their course of study. A bursary will be available for **each year** of a student's course in which the student meets the eligibility criteria. Warwick Bursaries will be paid in full for intercalated years or during mandatory periods of study away from the University where a student meets the eligibility criteria in that period. In excess of 70% of the support offered by the University to new entrants in the 2012/13 academic year is targeted at students with a residual family income of less than £25,000. Our analysis of entrants also shows that there are a significant number of students from the lowest socio economic classes whose family income falls between £25,001 and £42,601 and that is why we have targeted a proportion of

bursary support at this group.

## 6. Targets and Milestones

6.1. By comparing its intake against HESA location-adjusted performance benchmarks, the University has identified a small number of target groups that are currently under-represented in our student population and will aim over a seven year period to increase the numbers of entrants from these groups. In order to establish a suitably challenging target, Warwick plans to work towards the current sector third quartile level (noting that the numbers below are calculated by applying sector third quartile intake percentages to our projected student population, and thus, given the uncertainty surrounding the recruitment of students of all types, and uncertainty regarding the possible imposition of further limits on student numbers, these will be reviewed on an annual basis):

- a) Raise the number of full-time young entrants to the university from state schools from the 09/10 level of 1,880 to 2,040 by 2020;
- b) Raise the number of full-time young entrants to the university from the lowest socio-economic groups from 400 in 2009 to 530 by 2020;
- c) Raise the number of full-time young entrants to the university from low participation neighbourhoods from 140 in 2009 to 170 by 2020.
- d) In addition, the University is seeking to increase the proportion of mature UK learners registered on full-time and part-time programmes from 15% (current 3 year average) to 20% by 2019. This would represent an increase of about 150 in the annual intake of mature entrants.
- e) Access Targets with interim milestones are set out in more detail in Annex 3.

6.2. The University will ensure that the loss of Aimhigher funding does not have a negative impact on local students' access to outreach activity and, together with local partners, will continue to work with the same number of secondary schools and colleges in Coventry and Warwickshire as at present (32) during the transitional years of 2011/12 and 2012/13. We will then seek to increase the number of schools that we work with to 40 by 2016/17. The University also recognises the importance of targeting activity at younger children and aims to deliver specific Higher Education focussed activity to children from 10 local primary schools in 2012/13 and to increase this to 16 by 2016/17. Nationally, we would like to maintain delivery of activity to learners from the 113 schools and colleges we are planning to work with during 2010/11 until 2012/13, and plan to have increased this number to 150 schools by 2016/17.

## 7. Provision of Information

7.1. The provision of clear and accessible information, advice and guidance (IAG) is a key component of the University's approach to outreach. The University will ensure that information regarding fee levels and funding is available to applicants at the earliest stage possible. We intend that fee levels will be printed in our prospectus (although this has not been possible for 2012 entry), in our online prospective applicant web pages and in offer letters. Additionally, course fee information will be available via UCAS course search and this information will be highlighted in workshops and open days.

- 7.2. IAG on student funding provision, including statutory support and support offered directly by the University, will be available on the University website, at University open days, departmental open days and other recruitment events, including those intended for students from under-represented groups such as part-time and mature students.
- 7.3. A new post within our student funding team will provide a source of IAG and financial outreach to local schools, colleges and interested groups, to replace services previously offered by Aimhigher and Connexions. The University will maintain the support it has located in the student funding team in order to provide individual assistance to prospective and current students, their families and supporters. IAG on a one to one basis will be offered by telephone, email and an online enquiry service.
- 7.4. IAG relating both to nationally available financial support, and to Warwick's fees and support is embedded in many outreach activities, and we will develop a series of case studies to help prospective students to establish the level financial aid they are likely to receive.
- 7.5. A dedicated widening participation website has recently been developed and will be populated with the details of aspiration and attainment raising events. Networks of contacts to replace those maintained through Aimhigher are currently being established, and the University has invested in membership of the Higher Education Liaison Officers Association for the widening participation team, opening up Midlands regional and national networks through which advice and information can be shared.