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Durham University

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Bursaries:
The Durham Grant Scheme
Maximum Grants = £1,300 (2009-10 academic year)
Grant scheme will recycle 22% of the income from additional tuition fees (2009-10 academic year)

Additional Access Measures:
Year 10 Summer School
“Supported Progression” compact scheme
Additional staff to engage in outreach activities and disseminate student financial support information

Additional Expenditure from Tuition Fee Income:
27% of additional tuition fee income to be spent on bursaries and access (2009-10 academic year)

DURHAM UNIVERSITY
Access Agreement

Contents

Section	Page
1 - Tuition Fee Levels	2
2 - Bursaries and Other Financial Support for Students	2
3 - Outreach Activities Funded Through Additional Fee Income	3
4 - Provision of Financial Support Information	4
5 - Summary of Expenditure	5
6 - Institutional Milestones	5
7 - Monitoring Compliance	6

Appendices

Appendix 1 – **Summary of Institutional Milestones**

Appendix 2 – **Summary of Expenditure from Additional Tuition Fee Income**

1. Tuition Fee Levels

- 1.1 The University will charge tuition fees at the maximum allowable rate (£3,145 per year in 2008/9) for all full-time home UK/EU students on full-time undergraduate programmes including the Foundation year.
- 1.2 The University will charge tuition fees at the maximum allowable rate (£3,145 per year in 2008/9) for all home UK/EU students on full-time PGCE programmes.
- 1.3 Tuition fees for students on a year abroad or placement year will be charged at half the normal fee (£1,570, in 2008/9) in accordance with the Statutory Instrument relating to tuition fee levels.
- 1.4 Undergraduate tuition fee levels will increase each year in line with inflation and as agreed by Parliament, in line with the provisions of the HE Act.

2. Bursaries and Other Financial Support for Students

- 2.1 The University will continue to operate its Durham Grant Scheme. The Durham Grant Scheme provides financial support that exceeds the minimum requirement for statutory bursaries.
- 2.2 All UK-domiciled, home, full-time undergraduate students studying towards an undergraduate degree and PGCE students will be eligible to receive a Durham Grant. The scheme will be available to all such students on the basis of the means testing carried out by Student Finance Direct¹ and passed to the University by the Student Loans Company.
- 2.3 Durham Grants will be paid to undergraduate students in three instalments on or around 1 November, 1 February and 1 May. Durham Grants will be paid to PGCE students in one instalment on or around 1 November. Entitlement to an award will be based on financial information provided by Local Authorities and Student Finance Direct through the Student Loans Company. Students' entitlement will be re-assessed at the start of each year of their programme of study.
- 2.4 Durham Grants will only be awarded up until the last day of the Easter term of any academic year. These dates are 26 June 2009 for the 2008/9 academic year, 25 June 2010 for the 2009/10 academic year and 22 June 2011 for the 2010/1 academic year. Any students who apply after that date will not be entitled to an award for that year. The application process that must be completed by this date includes a student consenting to share household income information collected by the Student Loans Company with the University.
- 2.5 Entitlement to Durham Grants in 2009-10 will follow the income bandings below.

¹ For students who live in England. For students living outside England please refer to www.studentfinancedirect.co.uk/portal/page?_pageid=53,1259984&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL for the appropriate agency.

Household Income	Durham Grant Value
UG Less than £25,000	£1,300
PGCE Less than £25,000	£319

- 2.6 Students in receipt of the Durham Grant will also receive information and guidance in a variety of formats to ensure that they use their Durham Grant to make the most of their time at University.
- 2.7 Students who find themselves in unexpected need of financial support will be supported through the Access to Learning Fund. The Access to Learning Fund is integrated with and managed by staff in the Student Financial Support Office (see section 4.1) and delivered by pastoral staff in the University's colleges. This ensures that the distribution of money from the Access to Learning Fund is monitored and carefully controlled by clear central guidance, whilst being fully integrated within the University's wider student support structure based within the colleges.

3. Outreach Activities Funded Through Additional Fee Income

- 3.1 We endorse fully the principles of widening participation and are committed to continuing our delivery of well-targeted and high quality outreach activities with a focus on recruiting students to Durham University from a diverse range of backgrounds and ages. For instance, the Foundation Centre focuses on LPN, mature, and non-traditionally qualified students. We believe further that the activities organised by Durham University play an important role in extending educational opportunities to those from non-traditional backgrounds at a national as well as a local and regional level, although our main focus is on the local and regional level with the specific target of increasing applications to Durham.
- 3.2 To further this objective, the University is working with key partners, which include:
- Local, regional and national staff in schools and colleges
 - Gifted and Talented Co-ordinators in schools and colleges
 - CfBT Educational Trust
 - The Open University
 - Aimhigher Area Partnerships in the North-East and elsewhere
 - The Open College Network (through the Foundation Centre)
- 3.3 Policy in respect of widening participation is monitored and developed by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) through the University Executive Committee, Senate, the Learning and Teaching Committee and staff in the Student Recruitment and Admissions Office (see section 7). The Student Recruitment and Admissions Office is responsible for the implementation and delivery of measures to promote access within the University. All of these activities are now integrated and form a coherent progression route to support students from year 9 into higher education. The Foundation Centre provides a direct progression route into Durham degrees for LPN, mature, and non-traditionally qualified students. All new activities developed using funds made available by the additional tuition fee income will complement existing activities and be integrated into this overall structure.

- 3.4 Outreach activities are enhanced in four important respects by employing additional tuition fee income: 'Supported Progression' (a compact scheme with local schools involving regular targeted contact with students from Year 10 onwards), dissemination of financial information to applicants and prospective applicants (see section 4), a residential summer school for students in year 10 about to enter year 11 to help towards an increase in progression from study at level 2 to level 3, and in continuing widening participation and outreach events including school and college visits and work with LPN, mature, and non-traditionally qualified students.
- 3.5 Durham University provides a range of other established activities to engage with students, schools and colleges, details of which can be found on the University's website at www.dur.ac.uk/undergraduate/schools/. In addition many departments and colleges, as well as many individual members of staff, have developed schemes and maintain links with local and national schools that support the University's strategic objectives of widening participation. The Foundation Centre runs 4 day taster sessions (Mature Students Spring/Summer Programme - MSSP) at Easter and in the summer for LPN, mature, and non-traditionally qualified students. It has also established an Access Network and has run (with assistance from the Student Recruitment and Admissions Office) an Access Conference and Forum to support progression from Access to University.
- 3.6 The University's provision of post-entry support is both well developed and highly successful at enabling a wide range of students to complete their studies successfully. This can be seen clearly in the University's very high completion rate of over 96%. The University is very good at ensuring the progression of all students from entry through to graduation, including progression from Foundation Year. By developing the Durham Grant Scheme and enhancing our outreach activities we will ensure that we continue to recruit students from a diversity of backgrounds and enable them to complete their studies successfully.

4 Provision of Financial Support Information

- 4.1 Responsibility for the provision of student financial support and information to prospective and current students of the University lies with the Head of the Student Financial Support Office. There is close integration of schools liaison, widening participation and recruitment activities, the admissions process and student financial support.
- 4.2 "Supported Progression", school and college visits, campus tours, open days, summer schools, the MSSP programme and the University's role as Excellence Hub in the North-East for Young Gifted and Talented students are the main events which disseminate student financial support information to all prospective applicants (including those who may not be thinking of applying to Durham). Information is also available through a dedicated section of the University web-site and in the prospectus. Financial information is disseminated to teachers and other key advisers (such as the Connexions service) through our Teachers' and Advisers' Conferences.
- 4.3 Information is provided to applicants through the University's on-line Applicant Enquiries Service in addition to written details concerning the Durham Grant

Scheme and other aspects of student finance being sent to each eligible candidate. Written details concerning the Durham Grant Scheme are sent to any student issued an offer by the University.

- 4.4 Information on the cost of studying at Durham University, on the financial support available from the University and on money management is provided to prospective students and applicants to the University through the Student Recruitment and Admissions Office's schools liaison, access and recruitment activities, and by targeting applicants at relevant points in the admissions cycle, including the publication of a Freshers Guide to Student Finance.

5 Summary of Expenditure

- 5.1 A summary of estimated expenditure is included in Appendix 2.

6 Institutional Milestones

- 6.1 Durham University is committed to recruiting high-quality students by identifying merit and potential and ensuring that its admissions process is fair and transparent to all regardless of background.
- 6.2 Durham University is interested in recruiting students able to develop both academically and personally within an environment that is attractive to and supportive of an increasingly diverse and international student population. We therefore also value the non-academic attributes of applicants, recognising the importance of merit and potential in these areas as important contributors to University and College life.
- 6.3 We are committed to increasing the diversity of the student body while maintaining high entry standards for all our students.
- 6.4 Widening Participation is an integral part of the University Undergraduate Admissions Strategy.
- 6.5 We monitor closely the diversity of our student body and our admissions process more generally to ensure that barriers do not exist for applicants of any type of background. At any one stage in the assessment process, all applicants will be given an equal opportunity to demonstrate their skills, achievements and potential.
- 6.6 The University is successful in meeting or exceeding many of its HESA benchmarks; however progress is needed in increasing the numbers of registered students from low social classes and state school backgrounds. Therefore institutional milestones are set within this Access Agreement for these two target groups. These are challenging given the downward trends experienced in recent years. To achieve the milestones will require stopping an established year-on-year decline and then increasing representation from these target groups within a highly competitive admissions environment where fewer offers are required every year to fill available places and increasingly sophisticated tools are needed to differentiate between applicants with identical academic profiles.

- 6.7 The University has undertaken a fundamental review of undergraduate admissions during the 2007-08 academic year, which has resulted in changes to the 2009 Access Agreement, a revised Undergraduate Admissions Policy and a revised Undergraduate Admissions Strategy.

7 Monitoring Compliance

- 7.1 The University's Learning and Teaching Committee, chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching), is responsible for all matters concerning undergraduate admissions including widening participation and outreach activities. The Learning and Teaching Committee reports directly to the University Senate. In addition, the University Executive Committee takes a close interest in the University's widening participation strategy. The Director of the Student Recruitment and Admissions Office will report on an annual basis to both the University Executive Committee and the Learning and Teaching Committee.