



Institution:
Durham University

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Bursaries:
The Durham Grant Scheme
Maximum Grants = £1,000 (2010-11 academic year)
Grant scheme will recycle 12 % of the income from additional tuition fees
(2010-11 academic year)

Additional Access Measures funded through the Access Agreement:
Year 10 Summer School
Enhancing Year 11 HEFCE Summer School
Compact scheme
Supporting the County Durham Academy Schools Project
Events for teachers, advisers and parents
Staff to engage in widening access activities and disseminate student financial support information

Expenditure from Tuition Fee Income:
23% of additional tuition fee income to be spent on bursaries and access
(2010-11 academic year)

DURHAM UNIVERSITY
Access Agreement for 2010 entry onwards

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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 (£3,290 per year in 2010-11) 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 (£3,290 per year in 2010-11) 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 (£1,645 per year in 2010-11) 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 installments on or around 1 November, 1 February and 1 May. Durham Grants will be paid to PGCE students in one installment 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 25 June 2010 for the 2009-10 academic year, 24 June 2011 for the 2010-11 academic year and 22 June 2012 for the 2011-12 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 2010-11 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 Income²	Durham Grant Value
UG Less than £25,000	£1,000
PGCE Less than £25,000	£329

- 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 access and are committed to continuing our delivery of well-targeted and high quality outreach activities with a focus on enhancing applications to Durham University from a diverse range of backgrounds and ages. For instance, the Foundation Centre focuses on opportunities for LPN, mature, and non-traditionally qualified students to acquire further skills and knowledge necessary for successful undergraduate degree level study. 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, 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
 - Parents, guardians and other opinion leaders
 - CfBT Educational Trust
 - Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA)
 - The Brightside Trust
 - Aimhigher Area Partnerships in the North-East and elsewhere
 - The Open College Network (through the Foundation Centre)
- 3.3 Policy in respect of widening access 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 to the University and for the allocation of 'additionality' funds within the Access Agreement. All of these activities are now integrated and form a coherent progression

² This is tied to the banding for maximum statutory support, currently £25,000, which may be subject to change.

route to support students from year 9 into higher education which recognises the importance of sustained contact and linked activity. The Foundation Centre provides a direct progression route into Durham degrees for LPN, mature, and non-traditionally qualified students by enabling them to gain the necessary qualifications to compete for entry. 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 with a focus on working with students from state school and NS-SEC 4-8 backgrounds who do not traditionally apply to Durham.

- 3.4 Outreach activities are enhanced in several important respects by employing additional tuition fee income: a solid infrastructure of staff working towards the aims of widening access, 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, as well as enhanced provision for our annual HEFCE funded Year 11 summer school, and in continuing widening access and outreach events including school and college visits and work with LPN, mature, and non-traditionally qualified students. Durham University is the lead sponsor in DEEP (Durham Excellence in Education Partnership) which has been selected to sponsor two Academy Schools in Consett and Durham City. The University will be providing some funding for this County Durham Academy Schools Project from additional tuition fee income in 2009-10 and 2010-11.
- 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/. The University recognises the need to involve teachers and parents in supporting higher education progression through specially designed interactions such as conferences and celebration events. 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 access.
- 3.6 The University's provision of post-entry support for all students 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 enhancing our outreach activities we will ensure that we continue to attract applicants 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 access and recruitment activities, the admissions process and student financial support.
- 4.2 A compact scheme, school and college visits, campus tours, open days, summer schools, the Mature Students Spring/Summer 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 and through a dedicated section of the University web-site.

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 wishes to recruit students able to develop both academically and personally within an environment that is attractive to and supportive of a 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 a student's development and 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 Access is an integral part of the University Undergraduate Admissions Strategy.
- 6.5 We closely monitor our admissions process to ensure that barriers do not exist for applicants of any type of background. At each 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 applicants and consequently registered students from NS-SEC 4-8 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 reversing a year-on-year decline in applications and consequently recruitment 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 undertook a fundamental review of undergraduate admissions during the 2007-08 academic year, which resulted in changes to the 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 access 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 access 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.

Access Agreement Appendix 1 – Institutional milestones

Target Group	Year 1 students per academic year					
	2007/8 actual	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-14
	%	%	%	%	%	%
NS-SEC 4-8	14.3	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0
State Schools	60.5	61.0	61.5	62.0	62.5	63.0

Key:

NS-SEC 4-8 Full-time registered students from National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) 4-8 as a proportion of all applicants whose parental occupation has been disclosed (does not count blank, unclassified or unknown records).

State Schools Young (<21 yrs) full-time registered students from state schools or colleges. The tables do not include students whose school type does not conform to the UCAS categorisations of UK schools (i.e. mainly non-UK applicants).

% Percentage of all students being reported on

Appendix 2 – Summary of Expenditure from Additional Tuition Fee Income

	2008/9	2009/0	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
	Actual	Predicted	Predicted	Predicted	Predicted
Total spend per year on grants	£3,819,108	£3,330,621	£2,354,438	£1,939,491	£1,747,632
Additional income from fees	£17,049,690	£19,188,540	£19,479,886	£19,199,041	£19,700,636
Spend on grants as % additional. income from fees	22%	17%	12%	10%	9%

Total spend per year on grants	£3,819,108	£3,330,621	£2,354,438	£1,939,491	£1,747,632
Total spend per year on 'additionality'	£200,322	£1,850,285	£2,125,936	£2,476,288	£2,783,514
Combined spend	£3,921,429	£5,180,906	£4,480,374	£4,415,779	£4,531,146
Combined spend as % of additional income from fees	23%	27%	23%	23%	23%

To Note:

1. 'Additionality' refers to spend on supporting widening access activities within the University and the administrative support of the Durham Grant Scheme
2. Additional income from fees and total spent per year on grants presume a yearly inflation rate of 2.44% and meeting predicted numbers of undergraduate students