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HEFCE
July 2012/13

Outcomes

This document gives the outcomes of OFFA and HEFCE's annual monitoring of access agreements and widening participation strategic assessments for 2010-11.

Access agreement and widening participation strategic assessment monitoring

Outcomes for 2010-11

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OFFA foreword

Setting the report in context

In this monitoring report, our second joint monitoring report with the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), we give the findings of our monitoring of access agreements for 2010-11. I think it's worth giving a brief reminder about what we expected from institutions in 2010-11, when the maximum annual fee chargeable was £3,290, as it was somewhat different to what we expect from 2012-13 when the maximum fee cap rises to £9,000. In 2010-11, our focus was predominantly on inputs rather than outcomes, reflecting both our resources and Ministers' expectations at the time. We did not require institutions to set themselves a target relating to the diversity of their student body, as they must do from 2012-13; they could instead choose to set themselves a target relating to the diversity of their applicant pool only. Also, in 2010-11 we expected that institutions with the furthest to go in securing a diverse student body should spend around 20 per cent of their higher fee income on access measures (we had lower expectations of institutions that already had a diverse student body). From 2012-13 we expect them to spend a greater proportion of their higher fee income on access measures to reflect Ministers' increased expectations while we expect institutions that already have diverse student bodies to focus more on retention.



A new approach to the way we report on targets

Having set this report briefly in context, what then are the significant findings? One key development in our monitoring of 2010-11 agreements is the way we report on targets. This year for the first time we asked universities and colleges to grade their progress against each target they set themselves rather than grade their overall progress. We also asked them to provide data showing their progress against targets for each academic year since 2006-07, so illustrating the trend in their progress rather than just the change in an individual year. We also asked them to provide a 'commentary' setting their access work in context, highlighting any particular challenges they had faced and if they had not made as much progress as wished, explaining the reasons for this. We have published both the commentaries and institutions' assessment of their progress on the OFFA website at www.offa.org.uk/universities-and-colleges/monitoring/2010-11-monitoring-institutions-commentaries. This new approach provides increased transparency and accountability and also gives us more detailed information

and context. This will enable us to have more meaningful dialogue at both institutional and sector level and help us monitor progress more effectively. We regard this as the first step in achieving our objective of providing both greater support and greater challenge to universities and colleges over the coming years.

Overall, we are satisfied that universities and colleges made progress against the targets they set themselves for 2010-11. We are particularly pleased with the progress made against outreach targets. This is because we believe that sustained, targeted outreach is key to sustaining and improving fair access – it's why we have asked for a greater focus on outreach, including collaborative outreach, in access agreements for 2012-13 and future years.

We will now be using the findings from this round of monitoring to inform our ongoing dialogue with all institutions on performance and what works best to widen access and improve student retention and success. We also expect universities and colleges to reflect on and, where necessary, seek to address their current access performance in their future strategy and spend.

Overall expenditure on access measures

Turning now to the levels of expenditure on access measures in 2010-11, overall expenditure more than satisfies our expectations at £424.2 million – 24.4 per cent of higher fee income. This was up from £403.7 million in 2009-10. Institutions predict that their expenditure on access measures will rise significantly from 2012-13, both in cash terms and as a proportion of their higher fee income – rising to £621.0 million in 2015-16, 27.9 per cent of higher fee income.

Increased outreach expenditure

A significant development in 2010-11 expenditure is the increase in outreach expenditure – up 15 per cent to £45.7 million (from £39.6 million in 2009-10). Outreach includes activities such as summer schools and other activities to raise aspirations and attainment or improve retention and success. This increase in expenditure on outreach is a promising development and is hopefully the start of a gradual shift in the balance of expenditure under access agreements, with institutions predicting that spend on outreach activity

will rise gradually to £105.5 million by 2015-16. As I said earlier, we're keen to see more investment in outreach, particularly in collaborative work, and so warmly welcome the increase.

Generous financial support in 2010-11

In respect of expenditure on financial support, universities and colleges invested generously in bursaries and scholarships, spending £378.1 million on supporting students from lower income and other under-represented groups. The vast majority of this money (80.8 per cent) was spent on students from the lowest income group – those in receipt of a full grant. In total, 432,000 students received a bursary or scholarship in 2010-11 and almost three-quarters of these (74.1 per cent) were from the lowest income group, up from 67.3 per cent in 2009-10. Further analysis of these figures by us shows that one of the reasons for the increase is that institutions continued to target financial support more tightly at those that need it most. Bursary take-up is now at around 98 per cent and so not a significant concern for us, although of course we will continue to monitor the situation.

Future monitoring challenges for OFFA

Looking forward, a key challenge for OFFA in our monitoring of access agreements will be to find better ways of understanding and measuring the progress made both by individual institutions and the sector as a whole in widening participation and improving fair access. This will involve having more in-depth conversations with the sector about what works best to improve access, retention and student success so that we can give more meaningful support to institutions in developing their access agreements and also have more evidence-based discussions about their progress. It will also involve considerably more statistical analysis than we have been able to carry out to date.

Our new in-house analytical capacity means we can now scope the work needed to understand and measure progress better as well as analysis that we wish to do in other areas, for example, analysing the relative effectiveness of different methods of financial support under the new student finance arrangements. We are determined to be evidence-based in our approach and will use the results of our

analysis to inform future guidance to universities and contribute to sector-wide evidence of any changes to access under the new fee and support arrangements.

Important that OFFA collaborates with other sector bodies

Although we now have increased resources, we remain a small organisation and it is important that we collaborate with other sector bodies to maximise our effectiveness. We already work closely with HEFCE and this collaboration will continue, particularly as we respond to the recent request from Department for Business, Innovation and Skills Ministers to develop a shared strategy for widening participation and promoting fair access to higher education. We will also continue to work with other sector bodies such as Ucas in further exploring the evidence base around access and retention.

A warm welcome to my successor

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity in this last monitoring report under my directorship, to wish my successor Professor Les Ebdon every success in taking forward OFFA's work. This work is not about imposing targets or interfering in universities' admissions' decisions and certainly not about lowering standards – it's about ensuring that universities and colleges do all that they can reasonably be expected to do to ensure that bright, talented individuals from all backgrounds have the chance to enjoy the life-changing experience of higher education.



Sir Martin Harris

Director, OFFA

HEFCE foreword



This is the second time that HEFCE has reported on the expenditure, range and nature of widening participation activity undertaken by institutions we fund who have more than 100 directly funded full-time equivalent student numbers. This report shows most institutions taking an increasingly mature and evidence-based approach to what they do and why they do it.

In June 2009 we received widening participation strategic assessments (WPSAs) from all institutions we fund. We collect data annually that shows how institutions' commitments and plans are being implemented and the impact they are having. It is this data and the similar data collected by OFFA in respect of access agreements that we jointly report here.

The data continues to demonstrate the considerable commitment being made to widening participation across the higher education system. In 2010-11, the sector as a whole again committed financial resources well in excess of the funding provided by HEFCE specifically for widening participation, and the expenditure committed through access agreements. The returns also demonstrate that institutions have continued to develop their approaches to evaluating widening participation activity, and we urge all institutions to ensure that they collect the robust evidence they need to establish the long-term impact and effectiveness of their approaches to widening participation. Such evidence is increasingly important at local and national levels, to ensure that the resource devoted to widening participation delivers successful outcomes for students and contributes to increased social mobility.

The higher education system has been undergoing significant change since institutions submitted their WPSAs in 2009. As we approach the first year of the new fees and funding regime, HEFCE will continue to monitor the impact on student demand for higher education, in particular demand from students from disadvantaged backgrounds. In recognition of the fact that in many ways 2012-13 will be a transitional year, HEFCE has requested interim widening participation strategic statements for that year, instead of the full strategy documents originally due in 2012. We will request longer-term strategy documents in 2013-14, ensuring that these align with and do not duplicate the access agreements required by OFFA for those institutions intending to charge above the basic fee levels. However, for those institutions without an access

agreement we will need to ensure that their strategy documents are comprehensive enough to enable full articulation of aims, objectives and strategy for widening participation over the medium to longer term.

HEFCE's most recent grant letter from the Secretary of State confirmed that widening participation and retention should remain a priority in how teaching funding is allocated. We have consulted on our proposals for a new Student Opportunity allocation from 2013-14, which will enable all institutions to continue to support students from under-represented or disadvantaged backgrounds throughout the student lifecycle, and thereby maximise the opportunities for students and contribute to greater social mobility.

The years ahead will undoubtedly provide fresh challenges for widening participation but will also provide exciting opportunities. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Minister of State for Universities and Science recently wrote to Martin Harris and me asking HEFCE and OFFA to work together to develop a joint strategy for access and student success. This will allow us to take a fresh look at our approaches to widening participation. Drawing on the evidence both here and internationally, it will enable ourselves and OFFA to deliver policies which should ensure that the considerable investment made in widening participation through student fees and by Government, HEFCE and institutions is used to greatest effect.

Opportunity and choice are two of the key principles underpinning all that we do in HEFCE. Our new role to protect and promote the collective student interest gives added impetus to our efforts to ensure that all students, regardless of their background, have the opportunity to participate and succeed in higher education and go on to enjoy fulfilling careers, whether this is through directly entering the labour market after graduation or through further study and then work.

The work that institutions do through their widening participation activity across the student lifecycle is an essential part of achieving such outcomes for students. Being able to demonstrate the progress

made through this activity, as articulated and reported in relation to WPSAs and access agreements, allows us and the Government to see the contribution institutions continue to make to this important agenda.



Sir Alan Langlands

Chief Executive, HEFCE

Access agreement and widening participation strategic assessment monitoring

Outcomes for 2010-11

Executive summary

Introduction

1. Each year the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) require universities and colleges to report on their progress against their access agreements and widening participation strategic assessments (WPSAs)¹. This report gives the results of that monitoring for 2010-11 access agreements and WPSAs.

2. Topics covered include:

- how much universities and colleges spent under their access agreements with OFFA on measures to improve access to higher education for lower income groups and others that are currently under-represented
- how many students received bursaries
- universities' and colleges' performance against the targets and milestones they set themselves for students from under-represented groups
- institutions' broader widening participation (WP) commitments.

¹ For more information on the terms used in this report, see the glossary (Annex D).

Key findings from OFFA's monitoring of access agreements for 2010-11

Higher fee income

3. In 2010-11 the total fee income generated by universities and colleges above the basic tuition fee of £1,310 per student ('higher fee income') was £1.74 billion, up from £1.60 billion in 2009-10.

4. Factors contributing to this rise include:

- an increase in the total number of students studying under the current variable fee system covered by access agreements – from 875,000 in 2009-10 to 923,000 in 2010-11
- an increase in the maximum fee that institutions were allowed to charge – from £3,225 in 2009-10 to £3,290 in 2010-11.

Expenditure on access agreements

5. Universities and colleges spent a total of £424.2 million (24.4 per cent of their higher fee income) through their access agreements on measures to improve and sustain access to higher education for people from lower income and other under-represented groups ('OFFA-countable' expenditure²), compared to £403.7 million (25.3 per cent of their higher fee income) in 2009-10. This consisted of:

- £378.1 million (21.7 per cent of their higher fee income) on OFFA-countable bursaries and scholarships, up from £363.5 million (22.8 per cent of their higher fee income) in 2009-10
- £45.7 million (2.6 per cent of their higher fee income) on outreach activities, up from £39.6 million (2.5 per cent of their higher fee income) in 2009-10

- £0.4 million (less than 0.1 per cent of higher fee income) of re-allocated funds, compared with £0.6 million (less than 0.1 per cent of higher fee income) in 2009-10.

6. So although OFFA-countable spend on bursaries and scholarships and outreach has increased in cash terms, the figures represent slight decreases as a proportion of higher fee income. This is not a concern to us because institutions have significantly exceeded our expectations of the overall percentage spend. The increase in cash spend demonstrates the higher education sector's continuing commitment to widening participation and improving fair access, and we welcome this.

Bursaries and scholarships

7. A total of 432,000 students from lower income and other under-represented groups (46.8 per cent of all students paying a higher fee) received a bursary or scholarship in 2010-11, an increase from 413,000 (47.1 per cent of all students paying a higher fee) in 2009-10. Of these, 320,000 (74.2 per cent) were from the lowest income group, an increase from 277,000 (67.3 per cent) in 2009-10.

8. Of the £378.1 million spent on bursaries and scholarships, £305.6 million (80.8 per cent) went to students in the lowest income group and in receipt of full state support, up from £273.3 million (75.2 per cent) in 2009-10.

Future expenditure³

9. Between 2006-07 and 2009-10, institutions' overall expenditure under their access agreements was very consistent, ranging between 25.2 and 26.0 per cent. For 2010-11, this has dropped to 24.4 per cent and institutions predict that in 2011-12 it will fall to 22.6 per cent. There are a number of factors behind the predicted reduction in percentage

² Access agreements cover students from lower income and other under-represented groups. Many universities and colleges also provide financial support for other students as well. Similarly, OFFA only counts expenditure on outreach that is additional to that which universities and colleges already invested before 2006, when access agreements were brought in. Universities and colleges also invest in other outreach activity that is not OFFA-countable. Therefore their total expenditure on outreach will be higher than the data reported here.

³ The figures in this section are based on our analysis of 2012-13 access agreements, published in December 2011. See OFFA publication 2011/06, *Updated access agreement data tables for 2012-13*, available at www.offa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Updated-access-agreement-data-tables-for-2012-13-December-2012.pdf. Note that predictions for 2011-12 and beyond exclude those 41 further education colleges with access agreements in 2010-11 that have decided not to charge over the basic fee in 2012-13 and therefore do not require an access agreement.

expenditure, including uncertainties around existing funding streams and the new funding system for 2012-13 at the time plans for 2010-11 and 2011-12 were being developed. These uncertainties will have affected spending plans for a number of institutions.

10. The new funding system from 2012-13 means it is difficult to compare planned expenditure after that date with expenditure under the current system, because of the significant increase in higher fee income. However, higher education institutions predict that their expenditure on access measures will increase substantially in 2012-13 and beyond, with total spend increasing to 27.0 per cent of higher fee income (£522.0 million) in 2012-13, and 27.9 per cent (£621.0 million) in 2015-16.

11. Although institutions plan to increase expenditure on bursaries and scholarships under the new system, this will represent a smaller proportion of total expenditure as universities and colleges shift the balance of their access measures to increase outreach activity. This is in line with guidance from OFFA reflecting evidence from across the sector that sustained, targeted outreach is an effective way to widen access. Higher education institutions plan to spend around 8.3 per cent of higher fee income on outreach and retention activity in 2015-16, compared with 2.5 per cent in 2010-11.

Institutions' progress against their 2010-11 access agreements

12. For the 2010-11 monitoring process, we have changed the way we ask universities and colleges to report progress against the targets and milestones they set themselves⁴. For the first time, we have asked institutions to assess their progress against each target, and to provide data showing their progress against targets and milestones for each academic year, so illustrating the trend in the progress rather than just the change in an individual year. We also asked institutions to provide a 'commentary' which sets their access work in context. We have published these institutional reports

on our website, at www.offa.org.uk/universities-and-colleges/monitoring/2010-11-monitoring-institutions-commentaries.

13. Overall, we are satisfied that institutions made progress against the targets they had set themselves in their 2010-11 access agreements. The information institutions have provided gives us more detail and context so we can monitor progress more effectively and gain greater understanding of the specific situation of each institution. This enables us to see more clearly those areas and institutions where we may need to work more closely, in line with Government guidance that we should both support and challenge universities and colleges on their progress; it also means we can provide greater transparency and accountability by publishing the commentaries.

14. Measuring progress is complex, and understanding institutions' performance on widening participation raises challenges which are discussed in detail in part four of this report. The Government has provided us with additional resource, which we will employ to address this challenge and understand better what performance looks like across the sector and how it can be improved.

15. The information institutions have provided us from this monitoring round about their progress and the context surrounding this is also feeding into our assessment of their 2013-14 access agreements, which were submitted in May 2012 for approval. As part of our ongoing work with institutions, we will be discussing their progress closely and individually with them over the coming months.

Key findings from HEFCE's monitoring of WPSAs for 2010-11

16. In the WPSA sections of the monitoring return, institutions were asked to report on expenditure on widening participation commitments in 2010-11, and to report findings from evaluation of three to five of their most successful WP activities/initiatives/achievements.

⁴ OFFA does not set targets and milestones for individual institutions. Universities and colleges set their own targets and milestones in their access agreements, based on where they need to improve and what the particular institution is trying to achieve. These targets and milestones must be agreed by OFFA, which considers whether they are sufficiently ambitious, represent a balanced view of the institution's performance, and address areas where the institution has furthest to go to improve access. For more information see part four.

17. We asked institutions to report on all of their WP expenditure in 2010-11 across the lifecycle, including, if applicable, additional outreach expenditure under their access agreement, but not expenditure on OFFA-countable bursaries. This was an opportunity for institutions to demonstrate and take credit for the full range of activities in which they invest across the student lifecycle, funded by a range of sources, including HEFCE's WP allocation, Aimhigher funding and non-HEFCE funding sources.

18. The total amount reported as expenditure on WP by the sector as a whole for 2010-11 was £685.2 million. This did not include OFFA-countable bursary expenditure, but did include additional outreach spend under access agreements of £45.7 million, meaning that the total reported spend by all institutions on WP commitments, outside of expenditure from higher fee income under access agreements, was £639.5 million.

19. Funding to support widening participation (HEFCE targeted allocations for widening participation and improving retention, and Aimhigher funding) amounted to approximately £457.9 million in 2010-11. We can therefore see that overall the sector is making a significant investment in WP over and above the funding delivered by HEFCE specifically for widening participation.

20. Institutions report expenditure on WP activity across the student lifecycle – from pre-entry outreach to support for student success and for progression from higher education – but vary widely in where they choose to focus their expenditure. However, across the sector almost two-thirds of expenditure is reported as being spent on current students (please see paragraphs 134-143 for further detail).

21. Institutions were asked to report findings from evaluation of three to five of their most successful WP activities/initiatives/achievements. They were asked to briefly indicate the evidence which they had collected demonstrating each activity's impact, focusing on evidence collected in 2010-11.

22. The monitoring returns submitted show that institutions use a range of methods to evaluate the impact of their WP activities, including: feedback from participants; use of nationally collected and verified data; their own data collection and tracking

processes; and independently commissioned research. In general, the evidence submitted by a number of institutions was stronger on collecting attitudinal feedback around WP outreach activities than on evidence of longer term outcomes and impact.

23. From the information submitted by institutions it appears that generally evaluation, at some level, of widening participation commitments is now taking place. We are encouraging all institutions to put in place processes to ensure that all WP activities are evaluated against their aims and objectives, and to report evidence of longer-term outcomes and impact.

Part one: Introduction

Purpose of this report

24. This report gives the results of OFFA and HEFCE's joint monitoring for 2010-11 of universities' and colleges' access agreements and widening participation strategic assessments (WPSAs)⁵.

25. The report covers areas such as access agreement spend, numbers of bursary holders and institutions' broader widening participation commitments. It shows the progress institutions have made on fair access and widening participation to higher education for students from under-represented groups⁶.

What are access agreements and WPSAs?

26. Access agreements and WPSAs are separate but complementary documents.

- WPSAs, submitted to HEFCE in 2009, set out institutions' overall widening participation aims and objectives alongside a strategic assessment of what they hope to achieve over the subsequent three years. All higher education institutions (HEIs) and further education colleges (FECs) that are directly funded by HEFCE and have 100 HEFCE-funded higher education students (full-time equivalent) or more were required to submit a WPSA.
- Access agreements, submitted annually to OFFA, set out specific commitments and targets to protect and promote fair access to higher education as a condition of charging higher fees. Only institutions charging higher undergraduate fees (i.e. fees above the basic level, which was £1,310 in 2010-11) are required to have an access agreement approved by OFFA.

About access agreements

27. OFFA is responsible for approving and monitoring access agreements. All institutions wishing to charge tuition fees above the basic level must have an approved access agreement. Institutions that only charge up to the basic fee do not need an access agreement.

28. Access agreements set out:

- the fees the institution intends to charge for undergraduate courses and postgraduate teacher training courses (in 2010-11, only full-time courses were included)
- the additional access measures such as bursaries and outreach activities that the institution commits to put in place to sustain or improve access
- the estimated cost of these measures
- targets and milestones chosen by the institution, setting out desired outcomes.

29. Access agreement expenditure covers only the higher fee income universities and colleges targeted at under-represented students or potential students covered by OFFA's remit ('OFFA-countable groups'). Such people include:

- those from lower socio-economic groups and low participation neighbourhoods
- those from low-income backgrounds⁷
- those from some ethnic groups or sub-groups
- those who have been in care
- disabled people.

30. Therefore access agreements only include bursary and scholarship expenditure targeted at OFFA-countable groups, although many institutions also provide, in addition, bursaries and scholarships that are not means-based⁸ or not targeted at these groups⁹.

⁵ Institutions submitted returns in response to a joint request publication, OFFA 2011/05, HEFCE 2011/32, *Access agreements and widening participation strategic assessments: How to complete your monitoring return for 2010-11*.

⁶ For more information on the terminology used in this document, see the glossary (Annex D).

⁷ For assessment purposes, 'lower income' is defined as assessed household income below £50,020, which was the upper threshold for partial state support for new students in 2010-11.

⁸ See Callender, C (2010) *Bursaries and institutional aid in higher education: do they safeguard and promote fair access?* Oxford Review of Education, 36:1, 45-62.

⁹ Untargeted and non-means based bursaries are not included in institutions' spend reported to OFFA.

31. Also, access agreements do not include the full extent of institutions' expenditure on outreach, only that which is additional to the established investment in outreach before 2006, when access agreements were introduced. The total outreach spend is often much larger. In addition, institutions may run activities that are not targeted at the under-represented groups covered by OFFA (such as general recruitment activities), which does not count towards their access agreements.

32. The amount spent on access measures and the balance of spend between outreach and financial support in an access agreement is determined by the individual university or college according to its circumstances, priorities and the current profile of students attending. It can vary significantly between institutions.

Note on state support thresholds

33. In 2008-09 and 2009-10, the Government changed the upper income threshold for students on full and partial state support. The changes are set out in Table 1 below. The change to the threshold for full state support impacts on bursaries and scholarships because universities and colleges that charge higher tuition fees must currently give a minimum bursary to students entitled to receive the full state maintenance grant or special support grant.

34. For the purposes of access agreement monitoring, we asked institutions to report on: students on full state support (i.e. residual household income below £18,360 for 2006-07 and 2007-08 entrants, and up to £25,000 for people who entered

in subsequent years); students on partial state support (up to £50,020, ignoring the increase in state support threshold for 2008-09 entrants); and students from other under-represented groups.

About widening participation strategic assessments

35. In January 2009 HEFCE asked HEIs, and those FECs with more than 100 FTE directly funded higher education students, to submit WPSAs by June 2009¹⁰. The submission of a WPSA was a condition of the continued receipt of the HEFCE widening participation allocation.

36. WPSAs set out:

- the position of WP in institutions' missions
- the organisational and managerial responsibilities for WP
- institutions' overall aims and objectives along with more detailed targets and milestones for the next three years
- the full range of an institution's WP activity and the level of resource committed to WP.

37. In the WPSA section of the 2010-11 joint monitoring return, institutions were asked to: report on all of their WP expenditure in 2010-11 across the student lifecycle, including, if applicable, additional outreach expenditure under their access agreement, but not expenditure on OFFA-countable bursaries; and report findings from evaluation of three to five of their most successful WP activities/initiatives/achievements.

Table 1: State support thresholds for 2010-11 by academic year of entry

Year of entry	Full support threshold (£)	Partial support threshold (£)
2006-07 and 2007-08 starters	18,360	39,333
2008-09 starters	25,000	60,032 (up to 50,020 considered OFFA-countable)
2009-10 and 2010-11 starters	25,000	50,020

¹⁰ HEFCE publication 2009/01, *Request for widening participation strategic assessments*.

38. Because WPSAs set out an institution's overall widening participation strategy, they included all widening participation expenditure across the student lifecycle, whatever the funding source. Access agreements, however, only include expenditure on bursaries and scholarships, and additional outreach activities that have started after the introduction of variable fees in 2006. As a result, the expenditure recorded in an institution's WPSA was often considerably higher than the expenditure recorded in their access agreement, and monitoring returns also reflect this.

39. In April 2012 HEFCE announced¹¹ a change from WPSAs to interim widening participation strategic statements for 2012-13, and that we will request longer-term strategy documents from 2013-14. Monitoring returns from 2012-13 will reflect these changes.

Scope of this monitoring report

40. Institutions must report annually against WPSAs and access agreements. HEFCE and OFFA use a joint system to reduce administrative burden for the many institutions that need to do both.

41. HEFCE provides funding for widening participation which recognises the extra costs for institutions associated with recruiting certain types of student (students from disadvantaged backgrounds currently under-represented in higher education, or disabled students), and with retaining those students who are at a greater risk of not completing their course or programme. This funding takes the form of specific allocations within HEFCE's overall funding for learning and teaching.

42. HEFCE funding for widening access recognises the additional costs that institutions incur in recruiting students from disadvantaged backgrounds. It is calculated based on the numbers of undergraduate entrants at an institution who come from areas with low higher education participation rates. Funding for improving provision for disabled students takes into account the number of students at each institution in receipt of the Disabled Students' Allowance. Funds for improving

retention are designed to help institutions retain students who are more at risk of not completing their course of study, and are delivered as part of HEFCE funding for teaching enhancement and student success. This funding is calculated based on the age and prior educational attainment of new entrants to an institution.

43. The above description applies to HEFCE widening participation funding up until 2012-13, and therefore reflects how funding was allocated in 2010-11, which this report covers. HEFCE funding for widening participation in 2010-11 was delivered as part of a block grant, so institutions made their own decisions on how to use it and there was no requirement for them to mirror HEFCE funding in their internal allocation processes. From 2013-14, HEFCE is proposing to provide a new Student Opportunity Allocation, which will bring together the above streams of funding into one targeted allocation. This will contribute to sustaining national progress in widening participation and help providers offer additional support to their students where needed to achieve successful outcomes.

44. A total of 124 HEIs had access agreements in place in 2010-11, covering institutions' own students as well as those franchised to FECs. There were 60 FECs and 28 school-centred initial teacher training providers (SCITTs) with access agreements in place in 2010-11. OFFA monitors SCITTs separately, so we have not provided any data relating to them in this report¹².

45. WPSA monitoring returns for 2010-11 were received from all HEFCE-funded HEIs, and from all the 81 FECs with more than 100 FTE directly HEFCE-funded higher education student numbers.

46. Of these, seven HEIs (with only postgraduate or part-time provision, which was not regulated by OFFA in 2010-11) and 29 FECs (which did not charge above the basic fee in 2010-11) were not required to submit an access agreement monitoring return.

47. The remaining 175 institutions submitted returns against both their access agreement and WPSA.

¹¹ HEFCE circular letter 11/2012, *Interim widening participation strategic statements for 2012-13*.

¹² Data for SCITTs will be available in autumn 2012.

The future of joint access agreement/WPSA monitoring

48. HEFCE and OFFA will continue to work together to align our requirements of institutions, as we continue to develop our shared strategy on widening participation as requested by Ministers, and will use information from 2010-11 monitoring returns to inform this strategy. Our work will inform any future Government Spending Review discussions.

Part two: Outcomes of OFFA's monitoring of access agreements for 2010-11

OFFA's monitoring requirements

49. There is a legal requirement for institutions with an approved OFFA access agreement to inform us about the extent to which they have met their obligations, and to report on their progress against their objectives and milestones¹³.

50. In OFFA's sections of the joint OFFA/HEFCE monitoring return, we asked institutions to report on:

- higher fee income and number of current system students, by fee amount and cohort
- expenditure on bursaries and scholarships to students from lower income and other under-represented groups, by income band and cohort
- the number of students from lower income and other under-represented groups in receipt of a bursary or scholarship, by income band and cohort
- expenditure on additional outreach activities covered in access agreements
- unspent funds reallocated to subsequent years
- progress against the targets and milestones they had set themselves.

Outcomes of OFFA's monitoring of 2010-11 access agreements for HEIs

51. This section gives the monitoring outcomes for HEIs only. The monitoring outcomes for FECs can be found on page 23.

Higher fee income

52. In 2010-11 the income generated from fees charged above the basic tuition fee of £1,310 was £1.71 billion, up from £1.57 billion in 2009-10. This income is referred to as higher fee income.

53. The vast majority of higher fee income (98.0 per cent) was generated through charging the maximum permitted fee of £3,290, with the remainder generated by charging a fee above the basic fee of £1,310 but below the maximum. In total, all 124 HEIs with access agreements charged the maximum fee for all or some of their courses.

54. As expected, higher fee income increased significantly in 2010-11 compared to 2009-10 because of:

- an increase in the number of students studying under the variable fee system and covered by access agreements, from 875,000 in 2009-10 to 923,000 in 2010-11
- an inflationary increase of 2.04 per cent to the maximum fee (£3,290 in 2010-11, up from £3,225 in 2009-10)
- some increases in fees where these were charged at lower amounts (for example, for sub-degrees).

Overall expenditure

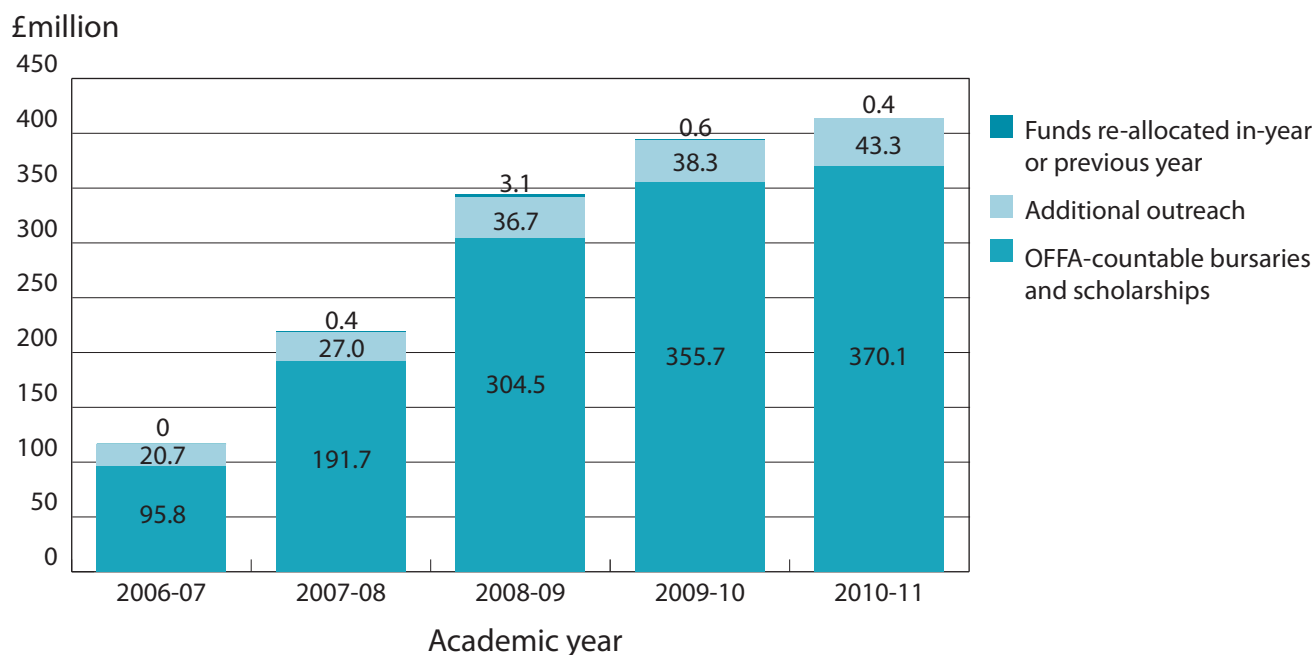
55. Overall expenditure by HEIs on access agreements increased to £413.7 million (from £394.7 million in 2009-10), representing 24.2 per cent of their higher fee income compared to 25.1 per cent in 2009-10 (see Table 2). The proportion of higher fee income

Table 2: Overall expenditure on additional access measures as a proportion of higher fee income: HEIs only

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Expenditure (£million)	116.0	219.1	344.3	394.7	413.7
% higher fee income	25.7	25.0	25.8	25.1	24.2

¹³ For full details of our monitoring requirements, see the joint HEFCE/OFFA guidance published in October 2011, OFFA publication 2011/05, HEFCE publication 2011/32, *Access agreements and widening participation strategic assessments: how to complete your monitoring return for 2010-11*.

Figure 1: Overall expenditure on additional access measures: HEIs only



spent on access measures therefore fell by 0.9 percentage points, although in cash terms it increased by £19.0 million. This small decline in proportional terms is not a cause for concern because institutions have more than met our expectations for spend in cash terms, and at a sector level the percentage spend significantly exceeds our expectation of around 15 per cent. Also, we know from subsequent access agreements that expenditure is set to rise significantly (see part three).

56. Overall expenditure can be disaggregated into three main elements: bursaries and scholarships, additional outreach and re-allocated funds (as shown in Figure 1).

- Spend on bursaries and scholarships was £370.1 million (21.6 per cent as a proportion of higher fee income), compared to £355.7 million (22.6 per cent) in 2009-10. (Bursaries expenditure includes the minimum bursary for entrants on full state support (i.e. those with a residual household income of up to £25,000), which in 2010-11 was £329 per year.)
- Spend on additional outreach was £43.3 million (2.5 per cent as a proportion of higher fee income), compared to £38.3 million (2.4 per cent) in 2009-10.

- Re-allocated funds accounted for less than 0.1 per cent of higher fee income, as in 2009-10.

57. Institutions have more than satisfied our expectations on overall expenditure. Precise levels of investment were not set out in legislation, and we did not specify levels in our guidance for 2010-11 access agreements, to give institutions the freedom to decide – within the broad guidance – what is an appropriate investment for them. When approving 2010-11 access agreements, we considered an overall expenditure level (for both bursaries and additional outreach) of around 20 per cent to be acceptable for those institutions with furthest to go in securing a diverse student body. We felt that this level generated significant expenditure on access measures, while reserving the majority of the higher fee income for institutions.

Expenditure on bursaries and scholarships

58. The design of institutions' bursary schemes, beyond the minimum bursary, is for individual universities and colleges to determine, but it was expected that it would cost institutions – even the most diverse institutions with significant proportions of students receiving the full grant – no more than around 10 per cent of their higher fee income to deliver the minimum bursary. In order to encourage

Table 3: Institutional expenditure on bursaries and scholarships for lower income students and other under-represented groups: HEIs only

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Expenditure (£million)	95.3	191.7	304.5	355.7	370.1
% higher fee income	21.1	21.8	22.8	22.6	21.6

Table 4: Expenditure on bursaries and scholarships by student income group: 2010-11, HEIs only¹⁴

Student income group	£million	%
Students on full state support	299.1	80.8
Students on partial state support up to £50,020	63.0	17.0
Students from other under-represented groups	7.9	2.1
Total	370.1	100

progress on widening participation and fair access across the sector, OFFA expected institutions with further to go in securing a diverse student body to do more than offer the minimum bursary.

59. We are satisfied that institutions have delivered the bursary and scholarship packages agreed with us in their access agreements, and we know of no eligible student who applied through the appropriate channels and failed to receive a bursary.

60. HEIs spent £370.1 million (21.6 per cent of their higher fee income) on OFFA-countable bursaries and scholarships. As Table 3 shows, this represents an increase in cash terms of £14.4 million between 2009-10 and 2010-11, but a decline as a proportion of higher fee income from 22.6 per cent in 2009-10.

61. As Table 3 shows, there had been an increase in expenditure on bursaries and scholarships as a proportion of higher fee income between 2006-07 and 2008-09. This was because of a large improvement in bursary take-up rates from around 80 per cent in 2006-07 to around 96 per cent in 2008-09. In 2006-07 and 2007-08, a significant number of students had failed to claim bursaries (see Box 1 for further information). Following action to improve this situation and a substantial increase in activity by universities and colleges to promote their

bursary schemes and encourage students to take advantage of them, these issues are resolved and the number of bursary holders has increased to very near full take-up. OFFA will continue to monitor these issues, however, during the transition to the new funding arrangements from 2012-13.

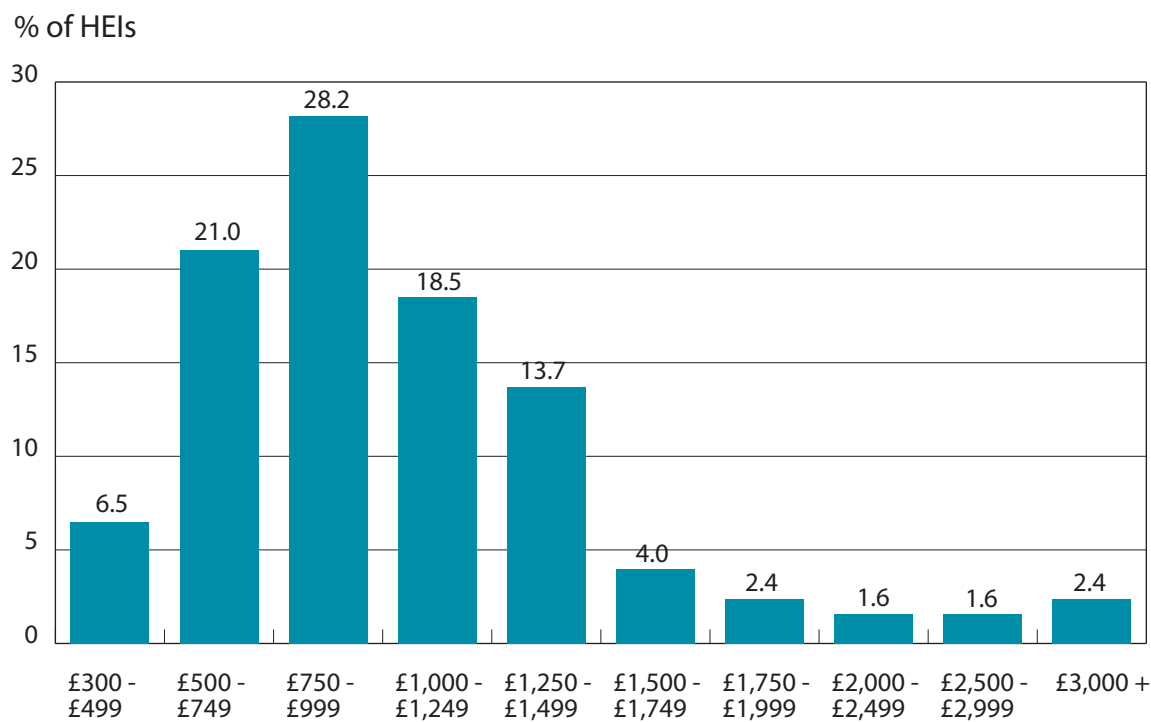
Box 1: Why bursary take-up was previously an issue

In 2006-07 a significant number of students failed to claim the bursary they were entitled to and the take-up rate across the sector for the lowest income group was around 80 per cent. In many cases (we estimate some 12,000 students), this was because the student (and/or their parents) did not consent to share their financial information with their university or college when applying to the Student Loans Company (SLC) for student finance.

Since 2008-09 the SLC has changed its student finance application form so that people now have to tick a box to opt out of sharing their financial information rather than to opt in. Data from the SLC suggests that the overall consent rate across all income groups in 2010-11 was around 98 per cent which has enabled a large increase in bursary take-up.

¹⁴ These numbers are not directly comparable to previous years, as a result of the change in the threshold for full state support for entrants from 2008-09 onwards (see ‘Note on state support thresholds’ on page 14).

Figure 2: Average financial support (bursaries and scholarships) awarded to students on full state support: by the proportion of institutions, HEIs only



62. On average in 2010-11:

- entrants in receipt of full state support received a bursary of £958, compared with £935 in 2009-10
- those from other under-represented groups received an average bursary of £652, compared with £598 in 2009-10.

63. Looking at entrants in all years, around four-fifths (80.8 per cent) of the £370.1 million that HEIs spent on bursaries and scholarships went to students in the lowest income group who were in receipt of full state support, up from 75.2 per cent in 2010-11 (see Table 4).

64. Figure 2 shows the average OFFA-countable financial support received by students (all years) on full state support by the proportion of institutions offering that support. Just over two-thirds of institutions (67.7 per cent) gave financial support averaging between £500 and £1,250, while 12.0 per cent of institutions gave financial support averaging £1,500 or more. The pattern is broadly similar to 2009-10, although in 2010-11 there are a greater proportion of institutions in the £500-£999 range, and fewer in the £1,000-£1,249 range.

Box 2: Why institutions spend different proportions of their fee income on bursaries

The difference in the proportion of higher fee income that individual HEIs spend on OFFA-countable bursaries is the result of several factors, including the number of low income students, the size of bursary offered and each institution's individual priorities on widening participation and recruitment (largely determined by the current make-up of their student body).

For example, an institution that has further to go in widening participation might give larger bursaries to students than one that already has a diverse student body. However, universities with lower bursaries may end up spending similar or higher proportions of their fee income on bursaries and scholarships if many more of their students qualify for the schemes.

Setting their own bursary levels enables institutions to take into account their own individual circumstances and progress in widening

participation when designing their provision. Under the current system, all institutions charging the maximum fee must meet the minimum bursary requirement (£329 in 2010-11) for students on full state support. (There is no minimum bursary requirement from 2012-13 onwards.) Beyond this, we have greater expectations of institutions with the furthest to go in securing a diverse student body than those that are already diverse. However, some already-diverse institutions have chosen to invest significantly more in their access agreements than we expect.

Numbers of bursary holders

65. In 2010-11, HEIs reported 902,000 students on full-time undergraduate and PGCE courses paying higher fees. Of these, 312,000 students received a bursary because they were either in receipt of full state support (34.6 per cent of all HEI students), 99,000 because they were in receipt of partial state support (11.0 per cent of all HEI students), or 10,000 because they were from one of the other under-represented groups covered by OFFA's remit (1.1 per cent of students).

66. Around 421,000 students from lower income and under-represented groups (46.7 per cent of all students) received a bursary or scholarship in 2010-11 (see Table 5). Around 312,000 (74.1 per cent) of these were from the lowest income group and in receipt of full state support, an increase from 67.3 per cent in 2009-10.

67. The main reasons for the increase in the number of bursary holders are:

- the increase in the income threshold for full state support, making a larger proportion of students eligible for a bursary (see 'Note on state support thresholds' on page 14)
- resolution of previous issues with bursary take-up (see paragraph 61 and Box 1).

Expenditure on additional outreach activities

68. Institutions have continued to increase their investment in additional outreach activities, both funded from higher fee income and from other sources. We are satisfied that institutions have achieved, or have made good progress towards, their outreach objectives and have met the commitments set out in their access agreements.

69. The total expenditure on OFFA-countable outreach has increased by £5.0 million (see Figure 3) to £43.3 million, up from £38.3 million in 2009-10 (see Table 6), an increase of 0.1 percentage points as a proportion of higher fee income, approximately following the steady-state trend described in our 2009-10 monitoring outcomes report. However, while the proportion of spend on outreach activities was relatively low in 2010-11, this area is projected to increase from 2012-13, in line with our increasing focus on outreach.

Table 5: Number and proportion of bursary holders from lowest income group*: HEIs only

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Number of bursary holders	70,000	205,000	346,000	402,000	421,000
Number of bursary holders from lowest income group	Data not available	133,000	230,000	271,000	312,000
% of bursary holders	Data not available	64.9	66.5	67.3	74.1

* The threshold for full state support for new entrants increased from £17,910 in 2007-08 to £25,000 in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. For continuing students, the threshold in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 was £18,360.

Table 6: Institutional expenditure on additional outreach, as a proportion of higher fee income: HEIs only

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Expenditure on outreach (£million)	20.7	27.0	36.7	38.3	43.3
% higher fee income	4.6	3.1	2.8	2.4	2.5

70. The increase in outreach spend is a welcome development, because research has shown that well-targeted outreach is key to sustained improvement in fair access to higher education¹⁵.

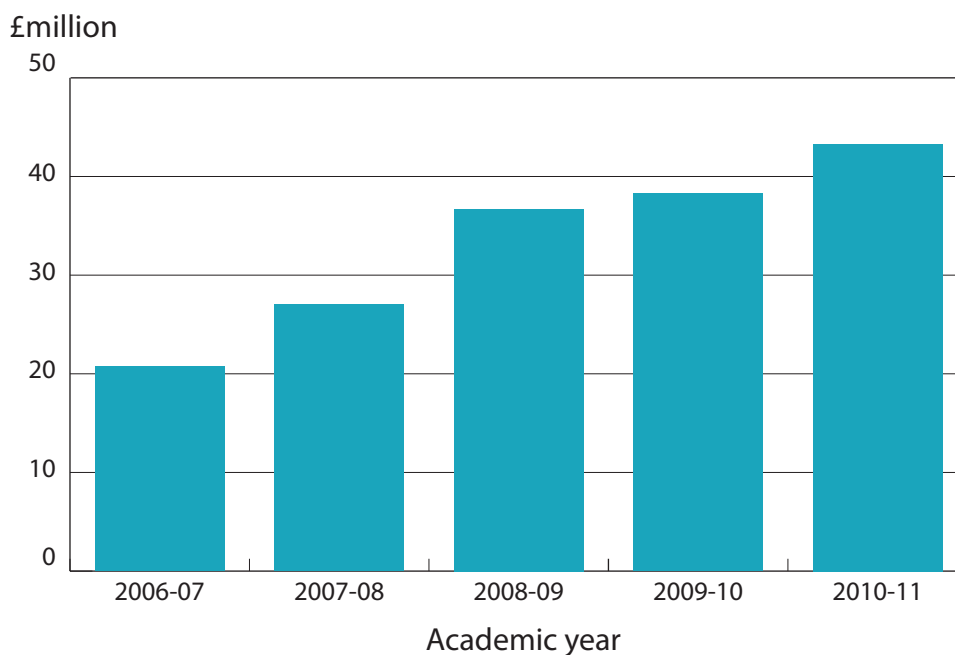
Re-allocation of funds

71. Institutions may decide to re-allocate funds when they have spent significantly less than they predicted in their access agreement. This may occur, for example, when eligible students have failed to claim bursaries in earlier years, or where institutions had made an explicit commitment to spend a minimum amount in their access agreements but are behind schedule on delivering activities.

72. Institutions were asked to provide an update of any underspend from 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 that was spent in 2010-11. We also asked them to provide us with details of any underspend that they had re-allocated to other access measures or for retrospective bursary awards for future years.

73. Around £300,000 (less than 0.1 per cent of higher fee income) of re-allocated funds was spent within the 2010-11 academic year, compared with £600,000 in 2009-10. The reductions in recent years have been largely the result of the improvement in bursary take-up rates (see Box 1).

Figure 3: Additional outreach expenditure: HEIs only



¹⁵ For more information, see OFFA publication 2010/03, *What more can be done to widen access to highly selective universities?*, and OFFA publication 2010/06, *Have bursaries influenced choices between universities?*.

74. There is also a small amount of underspend (around £400,000) that was not re-allocated in 2010-11. This will be carried forward to spend in future years. We are not concerned about this underspend because it represents small amounts and allows for some flexibility.

Outcomes of OFFA's monitoring of 2010-11 access agreements for FECs

75. We are satisfied that all FECs have met the commitments in their access agreements.

76. A total of 60 FECs had access agreements in place in 2010-11 for their directly HEFCE-funded higher education provision. Courses offered through franchise arrangements with a lead HEI are covered by the HEI's access agreement and the income and expenditure are included in the relevant HEI return and in the HEI section of this report.

Higher fee income

77. Higher fee income for FECs was £28.9 million in 2010-11, up from £23.0 million in 2009-10.

78. Five FECs chose to charge the basic fee or below in 2010-11 and were not required to submit monitoring returns. Of the 55 FECs charging higher variable fees (compared with 54 in 2009-10), 40.0 per cent (22 FECs) charged the maximum fee of £3,290.

79. Due to the wide variation in fees and course type among FECs between years, comparable data tables are problematic and we have therefore not included them in this report. However, data is available on request.

Expenditure on bursaries and scholarships

80. FECs spent £8.0 million on bursaries and scholarships for lower income students and other under-represented groups in 2010-11, up from £7.8 million in 2009-10.

81. The proportion of higher fee income spent on bursaries and scholarships was 27.7 per cent, compared to 33.9 per cent in 2009-10. Although this is a decrease in terms of percentage spend, we are not concerned about this because most FECs already have diverse student bodies and in many cases offer much more generous bursaries than we would expect. In addition, in 2010-11 FECs spent much more than we required of them.

82. Some colleges have not targeted their bursaries because their intake is predominantly disadvantaged and to avoid the administrative burden of operating a targeted scheme. We have encouraged FECs to review their access agreements for 2011-12 and beyond to consider whether their schemes are delivering value and are sufficiently well targeted. We may also review our approach to FEC access agreements as additional WP data on the nature of the FEC cohort becomes available.

Numbers of OFFA-countable bursary holders

83. Over 10,600 FEC students from lower income and under-represented groups received a bursary or scholarship in 2010-11 (includes OFFA-countable students in targeted and untargeted schemes, see paragraph 82). Around 8,000 (75.8 per cent) of these were from the lowest income group and in receipt of full state support.

Expenditure on additional outreach activities

84. FECs spent around £2.4 million on outreach in 2010-11, double that recorded in 2009-10 (£1.2 million). This is 8.3 per cent as a proportion of higher fee income. We are encouraged by this increase in outreach activities by FECs, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to widening participation and improving fair access.

Table 7: Total access agreement expenditure: FECs only

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Total expenditure (£million)	3.4	5.6	8.7	9.0	10.5
Number of FECs (number charging above basic fee)	40 (37)	50 (40)	51 (47)	54 (51)	60 (55)

Part three: OFFA predictions on access agreement expenditure in subsequent years

85. By combining actual expenditure from universities' and colleges' monitoring returns and their financial predictions in access agreements for 2011-12 onwards, we can examine some of the predicted trends for future expenditure on access measures.

86. The most significant factor affecting future expenditure is the changing context of higher education funding from 2012-13. The funding that institutions receive via HEFCE will be substantially reduced, and much more of the cost of teaching will be covered through higher tuition fees.

87. These changes mean that institutions will have higher levels of higher fee income (see Box 3) and OFFA's expectations of how they invest in fair access and widening participation will also change. Key aspects of our new approach are:

- a greater focus on outcomes and targets
- a greater focus on outreach, including collaborative working
- a focus on student retention and success for those with relatively low retention rates
- higher expectations of those with furthest to go on access, particularly in terms of outcomes
- emphasis on better targeted and more effective use of expenditure
- annual approval of access agreements, at least for several years.

Box 3: A change of focus for access agreements

From 2012-13, Parliament has increased the undergraduate basic and higher tuition fee caps for home and EU students to £6,000 and £9,000 per year respectively. As a result of these changes, all institutions wishing to charge fees above £6,000 per year for full-time undergraduate entrants, and £4,500 for part-time undergraduate entrants, from 2012-13 need a new access agreement. We therefore use the term 'higher fee

income' to describe income per student above these basic levels.

Following this, the Secretary of State issued new guidance in February 2011 setting out his expectations and suggestions for how OFFA might approach the approval and monitoring of access agreements in future. There are therefore significant differences between previous access agreements and those that will be in place for 2012-13 onwards.

Future expenditure on access agreements by HEIs

88. Between 2006-07 and 2009-10, HEIs' overall expenditure remained reasonably consistent at around 25-26 per cent, fluctuating by around 0.8 percentage points from 25.0 in 2007-08 to up to 25.8 per cent in 2008-09. However, in their 2011-12 access agreements, institutions predict that access agreement expenditure as a proportion of higher fee income will decrease to 22.6 per cent (see Figure 4)¹⁶. There are a number of factors behind this:

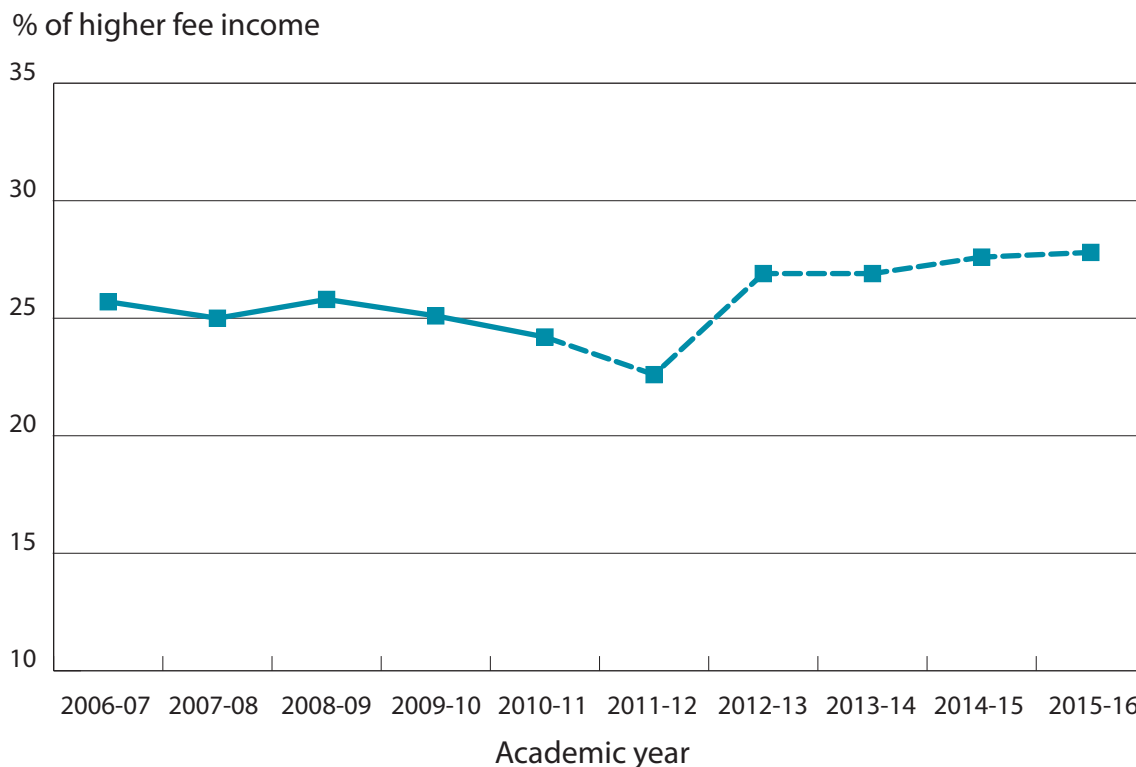
- OFFA's research showing that bursaries and scholarships have had little impact in influencing students' choice of institution¹⁷ may have influenced some institutions to reduce their bursary levels
- the effect of the economic recession in 2008-09 and the need to better manage public spending which meant that the funding allocated to institutions by HEFCE for 2010-11 and beyond was reduced
- considerable uncertainties around the new funding system from 2012-13 which affected spending plans for a number of institutions.

89. HEIs predict that, under the new system from 2012-13, overall access agreement expenditure will increase to 26.9 per cent of higher fee income in 2012-13 itself, and further still to 27.8 per cent by

¹⁶ Source: OFFA publication 2011/06, *Updated access agreement data tables for 2012-13 (December 2012)*, Table 1d.

¹⁷ OFFA publication 2010/06, *Have bursaries influenced choices between universities?*.

Figure 4: Total access agreement spend as a proportion of higher fee income, 2006-07 to 2015-16: HEIs only (dotted line represents projected spend)



2015-16. This represents a larger proportion of a larger amount of money because higher fee income will have increased considerably. The projected increase in expenditure is in line with OFFA's expectations around expenditure levels, reflecting guidance we received from ministers.

90. Expenditure in cash terms is predicted to increase to £614.1 million in 2015-16 from £116.0 million in 2006-07.

91. Note that the data in Figures 4 to 6 does not include the Government's contributions towards the National Scholarship Programme (NSP)¹⁸ which is an additional £136.5 million¹⁹ in 2015-16 available to eligible students enrolled at institutions with access agreements.

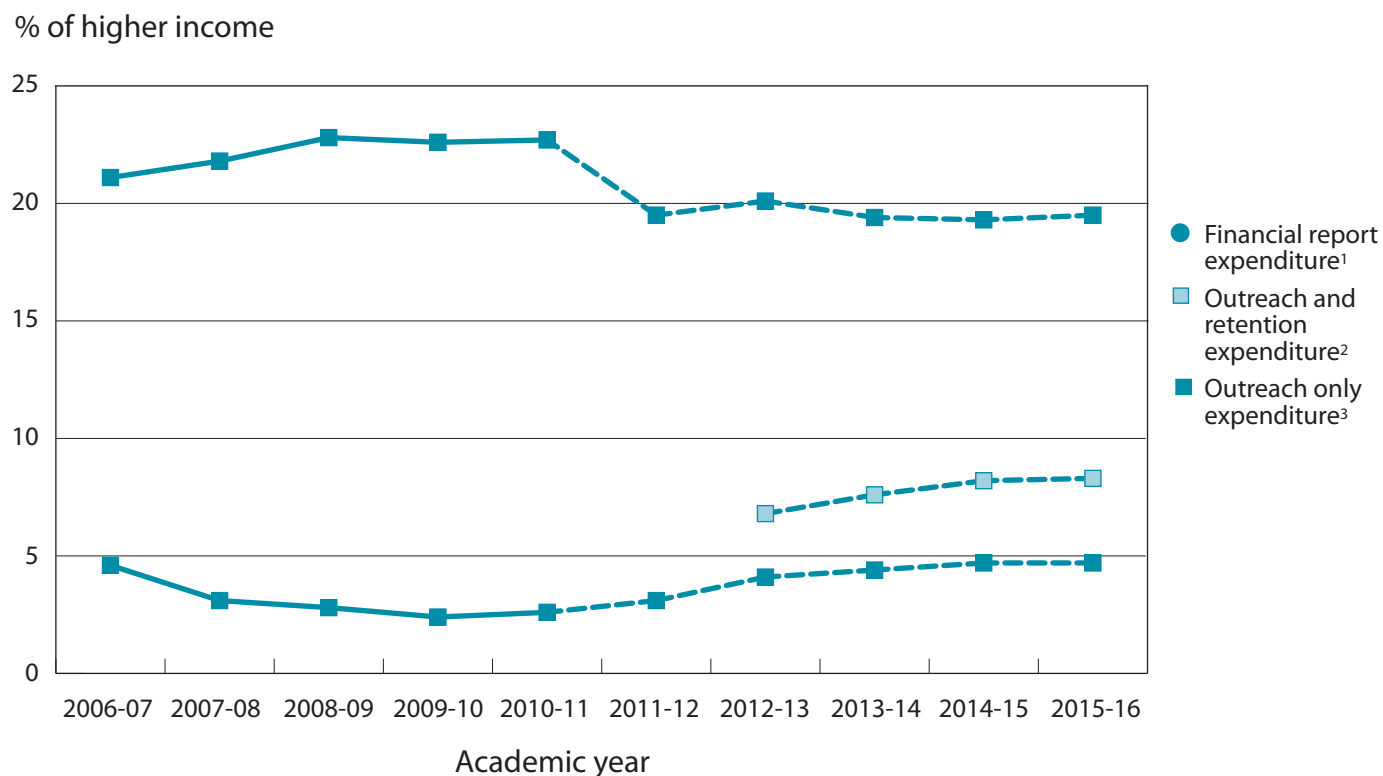
92. Institutions predict that the proportion of expenditure spent on outreach activities will increase substantially (see Figure 5), particularly from 2012-13 onwards. This is in line with OFFA's guidance for access agreements in 2011-12 and subsequent years, which suggested that institutions should increasingly shift their focus towards outreach because research has shown that long-term outreach targeted at disadvantaged young people is a more effective way of widening access than precise amounts of bursary support for students²⁰. In view of this evidence the Government also removed, from 2012-13, the requirement for a minimum bursary. There will be a corresponding decrease in the proportion of higher fee income spent on financial support (although this expenditure will rise considerably in cash terms, see Figure 6).

¹⁸ The National Scholarship Programme is a new scheme to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds with the cost of going to university. It is jointly funded by the Government and, via match funding, universities and colleges and will offer eligible students a support package of at least £3,000 to help with the cost of going to university. It will start in 2012-13.

¹⁹ Source: OFFA publication 2011/06, Table 1c note. This figure is less than the full Government NSP funding of £150 million because: some NSP funding will be allocated to colleges charging fees below the basic level; some institutions have allocated funding to part-time students (who were not covered by access agreements at the time of submitting data) and chose not to include this expenditure in their agreements; and the figure does not include allocations to FECs.

²⁰ See footnote 15.

Figure 5: Breakdown of expenditure on OFFA-countable financial support, outreach and retention as a proportion of higher fee income: HEIs only (dotted line represents projected spend)



- 1 'Financial support expenditure' includes access agreement spend on bursaries, fee waivers and other institutional discounts.
 2 'Outreach and retention expenditure' includes access agreement spend on outreach, plus additional expenditure on retention and employability which was introduced in access agreements for 2012-13.
 3 'Outreach only expenditure' includes access agreement spend committed to outreach activities.

93. Figure 5 shows that outreach expenditure as a proportion of higher fee income slowly decreased between 2006-07 and 2009-10, before rising slightly in 2010-11. From 2011-12, it is predicted that this proportion will continue to rise, reaching £77.9 million (4.1 per cent) by 2012-13 and £104.0 million (4.7 per cent) by 2015-16. If we also incorporate the additional expenditure which institutions have committed to spend on activity relating on retention and employability, this figure increases further to 8.3 per cent by 2015-16.

94. Figure 6 shows projected trends in financial support expenditure with and without the Government's NSP allocation, outreach-only expenditure, and outreach and retention expenditure in cash terms. This shows that expenditure on

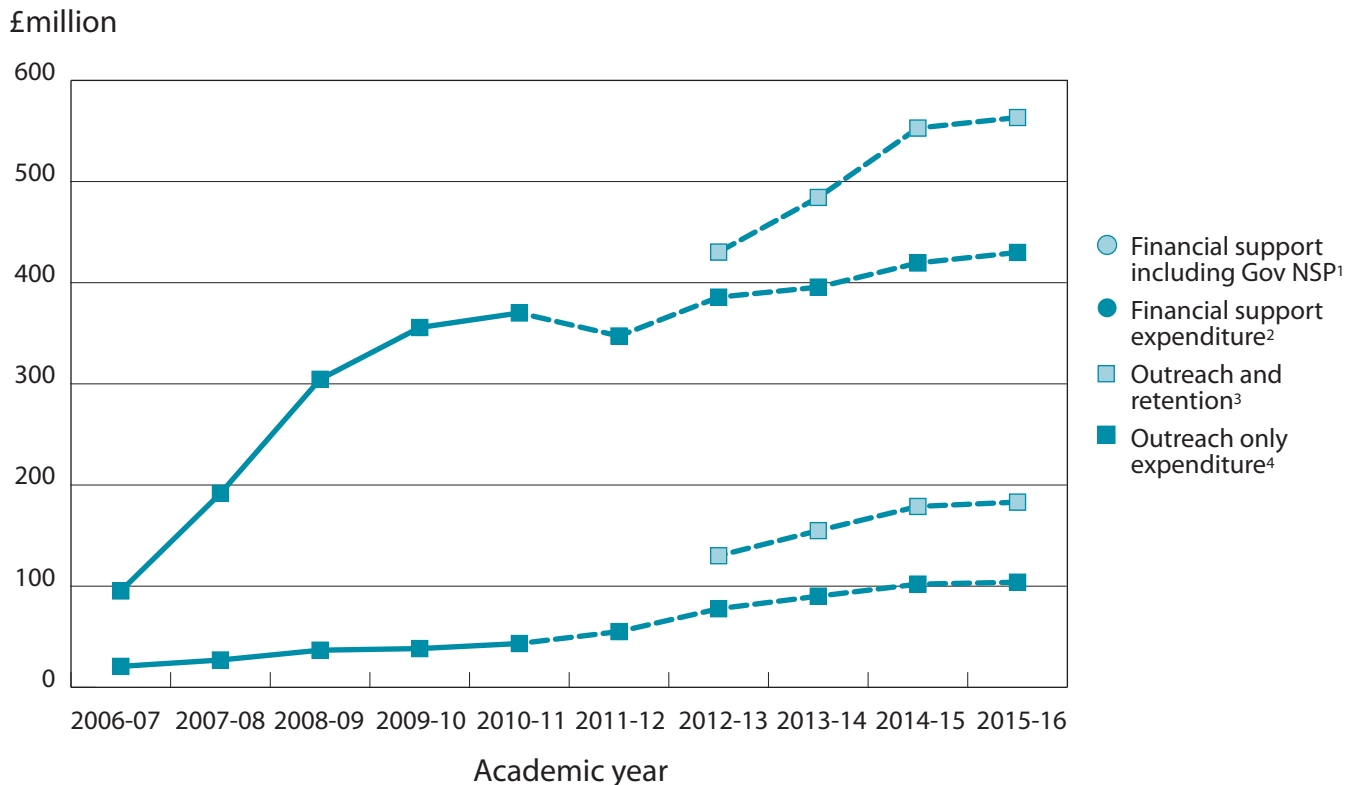
financial support is predicted to increase considerably from £95.3 million in 2006-07 to £430.8 million by 2015-16. If we include the money the Government has allocated to HEIs, this increases further to £567.3 million.

Future expenditure on access agreements by FECs

95. As with HEIs, the changes taking place in 2012-13 (see Box 3) will have an effect on the way FECs invest in access measures. In particular, a large number of FECs that currently have an access agreement have decided not to increase fees above £6,000 and therefore do not require an access agreement: just 25 FECs have an access agreement for 2012-13, compared to 72 FECs for 2011-12²¹.

²¹ Source: OFFA publication 2011/06, Table 3.

Figure 6: Expenditure on OFFA-countable financial support, outreach and retention on access measures: HEIs only (dotted line represents projected spend)



1 'Financial support including Gov NSP' includes access agreement spend on bursaries, fee waivers and other institutional discounts, plus the Government's NSP allocation.

2 'Financial support expenditure' includes access agreement spend on bursaries, fee waivers and other institutional discounts only. This does not include the Government's NSP allocation.

3 'Outreach and retention' includes access agreement spend on outreach, plus additional expenditure on retention and employability which was introduced in access agreements for 2012-13.

4 'Outreach only' includes access agreement spend committed to outreach activities.

96. Predictions of future overall expenditure show a similar trend to that seen for HEIs. From 2012-13, when higher fees are introduced, the proportion of higher fee income spent on access measures is predicted to increase, reaching 37.5 per cent by 2015-16 (Table 8 below).

Table 8: Projected access agreement expenditure: FECs only

	2011-12	2012-13	2015-16
Total expenditure (£million)	4.0	5.4	6.9
% of higher fee income	25.4	29.0	37.5

Part four: OFFA monitoring of access agreement targets and milestones for 2010-11

Background

98. Each year, as part of their monitoring return, institutions report on their progress against the targets they set for themselves in their access agreements.

99. Our monitoring reports are retrospective – we collect data from institutions after the end of each academic year to capture all that they have delivered that year – so it is important to bear in mind that the outcomes reported in this document and in institutions' individual returns are for the academic year 2010-11.

100. Institutions take account of their current access and retention performance when drafting their access agreements and this has a bearing on the ambition of the agreement, including the level and balance of expenditure committed to. We expect considerably higher expenditure commitments and stronger access targets for institutions with the furthest to go on access than from institutions that already have a diverse student body.

101. Institutions have already submitted plans setting out their significant extra investment and efforts in WP and fair access from 2012-13 onwards, when tuition fees will be much higher than in 2010-11. This includes significant increases in financial support, and activity and infrastructure around widening participation, retention and student success.

102. There is no single measure that is best in capturing progress because institutions are diverse and access agreements are varied in their content. Measuring universities' and colleges' progress in widening participation and fair access, particularly at institutional level, is complex because:

- there are a large number of factors influencing institutions' performance. While there are some stable indicators against which we can measure performance, such as the WP performance indicators produced by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)²²,

we must set these, and institutions' targets, in the context of the variable influencing factors, such as changing demographics, trends within the education system (in higher education or in schools and colleges), the wider social and economic environment and the particular circumstances and characteristics of individual institutions

- the range and number of targets and milestones that each university or college sets for itself varies as a result of the variety of different institutions and strategies across the English higher education sector (see Box 4), so performance is not directly comparable between institutions
- we are interested in monitoring trends over time, rather than simplistic year-on-year changes
- it is difficult to disaggregate the impact of individual initiatives or individual institutions' access measures from the combined efforts of the sector more generally, or from the other variable factors influencing participation.

Box 4: Setting and reporting on targets and milestones

Universities and colleges set their own targets in their access agreements, based on where they need to improve and what the particular institution is trying to achieve under its access agreement. They may also set targets that reflect their collaborative work and their contribution to widening participation as a whole²³. These targets must be agreed by OFFA, but OFFA does not itself set the targets.

When considering whether targets are sufficiently ambitious, we consider whether they represent a balanced view of the institution's performance, and whether they address areas where the institution has furthest to go to improve access. We normally expect universities and colleges to

²² For more information see www.hesa.ac.uk/pi.

²³ For example, outreach that is designed to encourage raised aspiration and attainment that will lead to increased participation in higher education, but not specifically designed to improve applications and entry to that individual institution.

have a range of targets, to enable them to measure their progress effectively – for example, looking at performance around their institutional and collaborative outreach at various stages in the education pipeline, as well as performance around growing the proportion of applicants and entrants from under-represented groups.

In the 2010-11 monitoring process, institutions reported to OFFA on two sets of targets from their access agreements.

The first set is statistical targets, for example those relating to the numbers of applicants/entrants from lower income backgrounds or under-represented groups. All institutions are required to have a statistical target relating to either the diversity of their pool of applicants or their student body.

The second set records other targets, such as the number of schools an institution is aiming to work with, or the number of students involved in outreach activities, as well as the measurable success of those activities, for example in raising aspiration and attainment or in influencing choices around GCSE subject, or about whether and where to go to higher education.

In 2010-11, around three-quarters of HEIs used some or all of the HESA widening participation performance indicators to inform at least some of their statistical milestones. FECs do not yet have HESA widening participation performance indicators. Targets that did not use HESA data often used data such as application statistics, the number of students entitled to a maintenance grant or bursary, the number of students from other under-represented target groups, or the numbers of students applying and entering through outreach initiatives.

Changes to the 2010-11 monitoring process

103. Because monitoring performance is complex, with many factors at work, and because there is increasing public interest in institutions' access performance, we have reviewed and refined our

monitoring method to ensure greater consistency of reporting and to make it more transparent. We will continue to review how we can improve this for future years.

104. For 2010-11 access agreement monitoring, we asked institutions to provide, in a standardised format, a self-assessment of their progress on each of the milestones and targets they had set themselves across five academic years up to 2010-11, and to provide a commentary on overall progress and the wider context in which the outcomes were achieved. We have published these in full on our website at www.offa.org.uk/universities-and-colleges/monitoring/2010-11-monitoring-institutions-commentaries. This differs from the monitoring process for 2009-10 access agreements, in which we asked institutions to provide a single, overall self-assessment of their progress, and we published a sector-level overview only.

105. Institutional commentaries against each target provide a much more complete picture of the progress in each institution. We no longer ask institutions to grade their overall progress in the monitoring return because we found that this did not adequately capture the complexity of the range, importance and ambition within institutions' targets and was therefore not meaningful.

106. The issues institutions have highlighted in their commentaries include, for example: particular challenges that affected their work; changes to the institution, such as entry requirements that might affect their performance benchmarks; and details of how they have strengthened, or intend to strengthen, their activity in 2011-12 and beyond.

107. The narratives and assessments of individual targets reflect institutions' own analysis of their performance. These targets are varied and in order to provide some consistency across institutions we also asked institutions to consider their performance in the context of their HESA WP performance indicators. It is important to note that HESA WP performance indicator benchmarks are not targets (though some institutions have chosen to set targets around them), but a way of comparing the performance of institutions with entrants with similar entry qualifications.

108. This new approach provides increased transparency and accountability and encourages institutions to give a greater sense of the context of their activities and performance. Requiring a standardised format with room for commentary over a five-year time-frame will enable us to monitor and understand progress more effectively across the sector, and will better inform our conversations and work on understanding what works best.

Progress in 2010-11

109. At a sector level, we are generally encouraged by the level of progress reported by institutions against their targets. And we are pleased to see good progress against targets around expanded outreach activities and the impact of these, because this fits well with our research findings about the importance of sustained, targeted outreach programmes.

110. Due to the diversity of institutions, and the complexity and range of institutions' access agreement targets across the sector, it is not possible to provide a meaningful statistical summary of progress across the sector because it would not capture the variance in the number, range, importance and ambition of the targets against which progress was being measured. Likewise, to understand an individual institution's performance requires an understanding of all of its targets and its contextual commentary. It would therefore not be meaningful to look at institutions' performance against their self-assessment of individual targets without understanding both the content and ambition of their targets and their commentaries. We have published individual institutions' progress reports, including some HESA WP performance indicator data, on our website at www.offa.org.uk/universities-and-colleges/monitoring/2010-11-monitoring-institutions-commentaries. Full institutional WP performance indicator data tables are published on the HESA website at www.hesa.ac.uk/pi.

111. However, progress is less than anticipated against some targets and, more generally, we know from our research analysis that on average, the net

performance on widening access to the most selective institutions has been flat in recent years²⁴, despite their considerable efforts and investment. Where performance is below expectation or activities have not taken place, we have looked for an explanation of this in the commentaries.

How we use institutions' progress reports

112. Institutions' progress reports form part of our ongoing dialogue with universities and colleges, and the sector, about performance and what works best to widen access and improve retention and student success.

113. We have recently been asked by Ministers to develop with HEFCE a joint strategy to widen access. The information from institutions' monitoring returns will enrich our understanding of where institutions have made progress or not. In particular, institutions' self-assessed grades and narratives against each target will help us to identify areas where we need to work with the sector and institutions to support them in improving their performance.

114. In writing access agreements (now done on an annual basis) institutions are expected to reflect and where necessary seek to address their current access performance in their future strategy and spend. The monitoring reports therefore form additional context to the access agreements as part of our ongoing, long-term dialogue with institutions.

115. The significant increases in access agreement investment following the changes to student funding from 2012-13 reflect an increased expectation and commitment from institutions to increase their efforts to improve their performance on access or retention and student success as appropriate.

116. Under the new system (from 2012-13 access agreements), Ministers have asked us to place greater emphasis on outcomes by providing both greater support and challenge to institutions on their performance. The increased transparency and commentary required in our new monitoring process provides greater public accountability for institutions

²⁴ Source: OFFA publication 2010/03.

for their efforts and performance (including their contribution to widening participation as a whole) and will better inform the dialogue and strategy around improving performance through a better understanding of what works.

Part five: Outcomes of HEFCE's monitoring of WPSAs for 2010-11

HEFCE's monitoring requirements

117. When HEFCE requested WPSAs, we indicated that we would also require annual monitoring reports, and that where institutions need to make both returns, this would integrate with OFFA's monitoring of access agreements. We requested joint monitoring returns for the first time for 2009-10, and have continued this for 2010-11.

118. For 2010-11 monitoring, we asked institutions to:

- report on all expenditure on widening participation commitments in 2010-11, including expenditure on additional outreach under their access agreement if applicable, but not expenditure on OFFA-countable bursaries
- report on the findings from evaluation of their three to five most successful/significant widening participation activities/initiatives/achievements.

119. For full details of our monitoring requirements, see the joint HEFCE/OFFA guidance published in October 2011, OFFA publication 2011/05, HEFCE publication 2011/32, *Access agreements and widening participation strategic assessments: how to complete your monitoring return for 2010-11*.

Institutional expenditure on widening participation commitments 2010-11

120. In the WPSA section of the joint monitoring return, HEFCE asked institutions to report on all of their WP expenditure in 2010-11 across the student lifecycle, including, if applicable, additional outreach expenditure that was included in their access agreement, but not expenditure on OFFA-countable bursaries.

121. This was an opportunity for institutions to demonstrate and take credit for the full range of activities in which they invest across the student lifecycle, funded by a range of sources, including

HEFCE's WP allocation, Aimhigher funding, and non-HEFCE funding sources. This broader investment is not included in reporting on access agreements, because access agreements relate only to expenditure from higher fee income. It should also be noted that 2010-11 access agreements and their associated funding covered only full-time undergraduate provision and some postgraduate teacher training courses.

122. HEFCE asked institutions to report on their WP expenditure in 2010-11 by activity/area of work, selecting a pre-determined category to describe each activity/area of work. This was to enable us to collect consistent information across the sector, so we could assess the overall investment in WP and understand the areas in which investment is made. It also provided us with baseline information that will enable us to understand the impact of any overall reduction in funding, and how investment was being made prior to the changes in the funding and fees regime in 2012.

123. The total amount reported as expenditure on WP by the sector as a whole for 2010-11 was £685.2 million. This did not include OFFA-countable bursary expenditure but did include additional outreach spend under access agreements of £45.7 million, meaning that the total reported spend by all institutions on WP commitments, outside of expenditure from higher fee income under access agreements, was £639.5 million.

124. These figures should be seen in the context of the total WP funding delivered by HEFCE in 2010-11, which amounted to approximately £457.9 million, divided as shown in Table 9 overleaf.

125. Given the total expenditure on WP commitments of £639.5 million, outside of expenditure under access agreements, we can see that overall the sector is making a significant investment in WP over and above the funding provided by HEFCE specifically for widening participation. We are happy that the level of investment in WP signals a continuing commitment to this area from the sector as a whole.

Table 9: Total funding delivered by HEFCE available to institutions for widening participation and improving retention, 2010-11

Funding element	Full-time (£M)	Part-time (£M)	Total (£M)
HEFCE WP allocation			144
Of which:			
Funding for widening access	62	69	131
Funding for students with disabilities			13
Improving retention element of HEFCE's teaching enhancement and student success allocation	175	54	229
Total HEFCE targeted allocations for WP and improving retention			373
Final year of Aimhigher funding			84.9
Overall total			457.9

126. Figures for WP expenditure provided to HEFCE through monitoring are not comparable between institutions because:

- institutions were able to calculate WP expenditure in different ways, which may have included interpreting the categories differently
- HEFCE funding for widening participation in 2010-11 was delivered as part of a block grant, so institutions made their own decisions on how to use it and there was no requirement for them to mirror HEFCE funding calculations in their internal allocation processes.

127. Many institutions reported spending significantly more on WP than they received through the HEFCE widening access and improving retention allocations, while others reported spending less.

128. One reason for this variation is that institutions may spend their WP allocation in a way which benefits all students, for example on student support services, and on strategies to improve the retention and success of all students. We encourage this inclusive approach, and the embedding of WP into the core strategic aims of institutions, but are aware that it can make financial reporting of WP expenditure more difficult. For example, we are

aware that a few institutions have embedded WP so thoroughly into their operations that they had difficulty in disaggregating their WP expenditure for the purposes of this monitoring return, and may well therefore have under-reported their WP spend.

129. Conversely, we also know that a number of institutions see WP as so much a part of their core mission that they consider a large proportion of their overall expenditure to be directly related to WP, which can result in very high reported WP expenditure.

130. Because 2010-11 was the last year of Aimhigher funding, we wished to get a baseline figure for WP expenditure in that year, so that from 2011-12, and especially from the beginning of the new fees and funding regime in 2012-13, we can assess any impact of the funding changes on WP activity.

131. As HEFCE funding for teaching reduces, and what remains is directed to activity that protects the student and public interest, there will be increasing pressure to demonstrate that WP funding is being used effectively, and for institutions to be accountable for this targeted funding. We need to understand how expenditure both from HEFCE funding and from higher fee income under access agreements contribute to successful widening participation outcomes.

132. HEFCE and OFFA are currently developing a shared strategy for widening participation and fair access, as requested by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Minister for Universities and Science. Information from joint monitoring returns, the access agreements submitted to OFFA for 2012-13 and 2013-14, and the interim widening participation strategic statements submitted to HEFCE in June 2012 will inform the development of the shared strategy, and help to develop our understanding of how funding is being used. This will be an important contribution to any future Government Spending Review discussion.

133. For this reason, it is essential that institutions can clearly report on WP expenditure and demonstrate the value for money delivered through the WP allocation, despite the difficulties they may face in disaggregating expenditure (described above). We therefore continue to encourage institutions to put in place procedures to enable them to do this in future.

134. As discussed above, the HEFCE sections of the monitoring return asked institutions to report against pre-determined categories in order to get a sense of how money was being spent on different areas. The categories were:

- outreach work with schools and/or young people
- outreach work with communities/adults
- support for current students (academic and pastoral)

- support for progression from higher education (into employment or postgraduate study)
- support for disabled students
- WP staffing and administration
- other.

135. Table 10 shows the percentage of overall sector spend on WP reported as spent on each category. It should be borne in mind that these are proportions of expenditure at a sector level, and that individual institutions varied in the proportions spent on each category. Individual institutions vary in size, mission, and in the amount of targeted allocation received from HEFCE for widening participation and improving retention, which all affect their expenditure against the different categories. Please note also the caveats in paragraphs 126-129 when interpreting this data.

136. These figures are based on self-reporting by institutions and they may have varied slightly in how they categorised their activities. In particular, institutions may have differed in how they allocated staffing expenditure. We gave more detailed guidance on how to allocate expenditure against categories than we did in 2009-10, but it is still likely that some staffing costs of outreach work have been categorised under 'WP staffing and administration' rather than under the outreach categories.

137. Nonetheless, when compared to the 2009-10 monitoring returns, the data quality of institutions' submissions was considerably improved, and we are

Table 10: Total WP expenditure by category, as a percentage of total sector WP expenditure

Category	Percentage of total sector WP expenditure reported in this category
Outreach work with schools and/or young people	12%
Outreach work with communities/adults	5%
Support for current students (academic and pastoral)	63%
Support for progression from higher education (into employment or postgraduate study)	2%
Support for disabled students	6%
WP staffing and administration	12%

University of Essex

Co-sponsorship of Colchester Academy

The University is a co-sponsor of Colchester Academy, with partner institution Colchester Institute being the lead sponsor. During the first year of operating, 2010-11, the University and Colchester Institute have provided governance and strategic direction, established support networks, delivered activity and established academic networks between academy staff and sponsor academics, to raise the attainment and the aspiration of the students and the Academy.

The Academy's 2011 Year 11 Examination results increased from 2010 as below:

- 5+ A-C including English and Maths improved by 15 percentage points from 34 per cent (2010) to 49 per cent (2011)
- 5 A*-C improved by 23 percentage points from 46 per cent (2010) to 69 per cent (2011)
- The examination results exceeded the OFSTED forward estimate of 27 per cent
- The Academy is now above the national average for all academies (45.7 per cent) and improved at 3 times the national rate

The Academy was identified by Essex County Council as one of the most improved schools in the county.

content that the above figures broadly reflect how institutions across the system are allocating money to WP.

138. We are therefore happy to see that, in general, institutions are spending money on WP activity throughout the student lifecycle, from pre-entry outreach to support for student success and for progression from higher education.

139. Table 10 shows that almost two-thirds of overall sector WP expenditure was spent on current students. However, expenditure on this category varied widely among institutions, and most reported spending a lower proportion than the 63 per cent sector-wide figure (around 55 per cent of institutions reported that less than 40 per cent of their WP expenditure was in this category). The 63 per cent sector-wide figure may be affected by a number of factors:

- some institutions reported both very high WP expenditure in comparison to the rest of the sector, and a very high proportion of that expenditure (well above 63 per cent) on current students (as noted in paragraph 129, a number of institutions reported a proportion of their total expenditure as WP where it was determined to be core to their mission)

- a larger amount of HEFCE funding in 2010-11 was delivered to institutions under the improving retention stream than under the widening access stream, as shown in Table 9
- some institutions have difficulty in disaggregating WP expenditure because they take an inclusive approach to the support of all students (see paragraph 128); this difficulty may be more pronounced when reporting on support for current students than when reporting on outreach work
- HEFCE funding for widening access is calculated so that more funding is delivered to those institutions with more students from disadvantaged backgrounds. It would therefore seem likely and appropriate that those institutions with strong access records may be spending greater proportions of their WP funding on supporting such students once they have arrived at the institution.

140. The relatively low proportion of overall sector WP expenditure devoted to outreach work may be a result of the economies of scale achieved in this area through the collaborative work of the Aimhigher programme. It is possible that from 2011-12 we will

University of Greenwich

Supporting achievement using Student Ambassadors

Deploying student Ambassadors in the classroom to support the GCSE achievement of WP students continues to demonstrate a positive impact. Research conducted by Dr John Brown* of Aspire Aimhigher south east London highlights that year 11 students who received support from an Ambassador improved their maths by an average of 1.46 grades over a nine month period. This is compared to students who were not receiving support over the same period of time, whose maths improved by 0.61 grades. Therefore the possible impact of Ambassador curriculum support in the classroom is that year 11 maths grades could be improved by an average 0.85 grades. The school participating in the study, currently has 28 per cent of Free School Meal students achieving 5 A*-C at GCSE and equivalents. The University has received national recognition for our Ambassadors, an undergraduate won Student of the Year in recognition of his work in local schools, from the National Association of Student Employment Services.

*Brown, J., 2011 *The effect of Student Ambassadors providing long term curriculum support in GCSE maths*

see the proportion of funding spent on outreach increase, as institutions divert more of their resources into this area.

141. However, institutions also varied widely in the proportion of their expenditure devoted to this area. For example, a majority of institutions reported spending a higher proportion on outreach work with schools and/or young people than the 12 per cent figure for the entire sector (around half of all institutions spent more than 15 per cent of their expenditure on this category, and nearly a quarter spent more than 30 per cent). As with expenditure related to current students, the 12 per cent figure is affected by the institutions which reported both very high WP expenditure in comparison to the rest of the sector, and a very high proportion of that expenditure under the 'Support for current students' category. Such institutions reported low proportions (although in some cases relatively high amounts) of their expenditure under outreach.

142. We are also aware that the proportion of expenditure devoted to outreach overall is likely to be higher than the figures in Table 10 show, because some of that reported under staffing is likely to contribute to outreach work, as discussed in paragraph 136.

143. In 2010-11, £13 million was delivered by HEFCE as specific funding for students with disabilities, i.e.

3.5 per cent of the total 2010-11 HEFCE targeted allocations for widening participation and improving retention, which was £373 million (see Table 9). We are therefore pleased to note that the reported sector spend on support for disabled students was 6 per cent of the total spend on WP, showing that overall, institutions are putting more money into this important area than is specifically delivered for the purpose. This also supports our proposal to increase the amount of HEFCE funding for disabled students from 2013-14 onwards and then ensure it at least keeps pace with inflation, as there would seem to be a clear need for more money in this area.

144. We will consider how we can improve the HEFCE guidance on reporting of WP expenditure for 2011-12 monitoring, in order to gain even more improved data. However, we do not envisage major changes to expenditure reporting for 2011-12 monitoring. We wish to continue to collect information in a consistent way so that we get useful baseline data on WP spend prior to the change in the fees and funding regime from 2012. We will be particularly interested, when receiving monitoring data for 2011-12, to assess the effect of the end of Aimhigher funding on WP expenditure. We may look to review our requirements on financial reporting from 2012-13 onwards, and particularly from 2013-14, as funding for widening participation becomes a greater proportion of remaining HEFCE teaching funding.

Findings from monitoring of institutional evaluation

145. The HEFCE sections of the monitoring returns submitted for 2009-10 demonstrated that most institutions had developed their WP evaluation strategies. To build upon the progress being made in the evaluation of WP activity, for 2010-11 we asked institutions to report findings from evaluation of three to five of their most successful WP activities/initiatives/achievements. Institutions were asked to briefly indicate the evidence that they had collected demonstrating each activity's impact, focusing on evidence collected in 2010-11.

146. In addition to the analysis of the monitoring returns which follows, we have included (throughout part five) examples to show how different institutions are approaching the use of evaluation and to highlight good practice in demonstrating the impact of WP activity. These examples are taken directly from institutions' monitoring returns.

147. Institutions included a diverse range of activities to demonstrate how they are measuring and evaluating the impact of their WP activity. Most could be classed as 'outreach', in that they are examples of work with young people or school pupils to raise aspirations and deliver information, advice and guidance. Institutions also included: activities related to pastoral and study support to help current students engage with and complete their course; activities linked to specific cohorts of students, such as outreach or support aimed at disabled students; and activities relating to the refinement of data gathering and tracking, and admissions processes.

148. The submissions showed that institutions use a range of methods and approaches to evaluate the impact of their activities. These can be grouped as:

- feedback from participants or staff on activities, for example through questionnaires
- use of nationally collected and verified data (e.g. from HESA, Participation of Local Areas (POLAR), the National Student Survey (NSS) and Ucas) and qualification – such as GCSE – attainment rates at schools with which institutions have worked, both for targeting purposes and to measure changes in these indicators
- analysis of institutions' own data collection and tracking processes (often linked to volume of participants in particular activities)
- independent research commissioned by the institution.

149. Questionnaires and other feedback from participants and staff were used by the majority of institutions. Most reported that they used such feedback to improve processes and activities over time. Evidence from questionnaires was frequently reported to demonstrate activities' success, for example to show the difference in participants' attitudes to higher education before and after taking part in outreach activity. Some institutions reported numbers of events undertaken and numbers taking part, but did not offer much evidence of the impact of these events.

150. Feedback and proof of demand for events are essential tools for institutions in assessing the success of activities, but they have limitations in

Harper Adams University College

The University College had been concerned about the retention rate of first year foundation degree students and particularly those students from a vocational background who would often experience a difficult transition from further to higher education. A new post was created in 2009, the 'Academic Guidance Tutor', to give a renewed focus to supporting foundation degree students who were considered to be at risk of academic failure.

A detailed analysis of student performance in 2010-11 shows that those students who received the full support of the Academic Guidance Tutor – through both one to one sessions and group tutorials – had a first year success rate 7 per cent above those students who did not take up the full range of available support.

University of Leeds

Intensive post 16 Talent Spotting Scheme Reach for Excellence

NFER/Sutton Trust Research has shown that 54 per cent of the cohort go on to apply to the University of Leeds and, of these, 69 per cent received an offer and 36 per cent registered. The national findings of the third cohort of Reach for Excellence students show that half of those surveyed applied to at least one research intensive university and a further third applied to between one and three research intensive universities. 75 per cent of those surveyed said that the information and experiences they had gained through Reach for Excellence would help them while at university. The findings are in line with those gathered for the previous two cohorts.

demonstrating impact, particularly when used for one-off events. Questionnaires completed by participants after events are likely to show their satisfaction with an event, and the immediate impact on their aspirations, but cannot show longer term impacts. Such impacts can be demonstrated by the improved attainment of participants, by evidence of long term impact on attitudes and aspirations, and by tracking progression of participants to higher education. These can of course only be demonstrated when more intensive work with particular cohorts is carried out over a longer time frame.

151. We have received evidence of longer term impact from some institutions, such as improved GCSE attainment over a number of years at partner schools, and evidence of progression to an institution and to higher education in general of participants in intensive schemes. It is difficult to establish a direct cause-and-effect relationship between activities and outcomes, because many factors will be in play, but nonetheless such evidence is valuable. We encourage more institutions to ensure that they are reporting on the impact of such work in future monitoring returns. A number of FECs were able to report on progression rates from their own Level 3 provision to higher education, and we would encourage all colleges to consider how they can report this data in the future, where relevant.

152. In general, the evidence submitted by a number of institutions was stronger on collecting attitudinal feedback around WP outreach activities than on evidence of longer term outcomes and impact. Evidence of outcomes is more resource-

intensive to collect, and it was notable that some of the best examples of evaluation included in the monitoring returns came from nationally funded programmes, or from research by external partners such as the Sutton Trust, often involving collaboration between institutions. We encourage institutions to consider how they could work together, including collaborative evaluation, to improve evidence of impact.

153. National programmes referenced in the monitoring returns included Aimhigher and Realising Opportunities. There were examples of some HEIs and FECs using the Aimhigher targeting tools as the basis for delivering other outreach work outside the Aimhigher programme.

154. A number of institutions referred to Aimhigher's impact as providing the encouragement for sustainability after funding for the programme ceased. We are aware that a number of institutions are continuing to work collaboratively in 'post-Aimhigher' partnerships, and will be keen to see the impact of this work in future monitoring returns.

155. The Realising Opportunities programme was referenced by a number of the participating institutions, which were able to show the proportions of participants taking part in this scheme who applied to higher education and to research-intensive institutions for 2011 entry. Again, we will be interested to see future evaluation findings from this programme reflected in future monitoring returns.

156. Specific work targeting children in care and supporting care leavers once in higher education

was referenced by a number of institutions, and achieving and maintaining the Buttle UK Quality Mark featured prominently as evidence of impact. Institutions are required to specify how their commitment to students from a care background will be monitored and evaluated in order to gain the Quality Mark. They are required to provide statistics, case studies, evaluations and feedback from students to Buttle UK when applying for renewal of the Quality Mark. It therefore seems appropriate that achieving the Quality Mark is referenced by institutions in monitoring returns, because this does show that they have evaluation strategies in place. However, it is important that institutions also report their findings from this evaluation, to demonstrate how they have put their strategies into practice.

157. A number of institutions reported on their work with current students, and a few provided evidence on how retention rates for students from disadvantaged backgrounds compared to rates for all students at the institution, or how retention rates for students taking part in a particular scheme compared to rates for the student body as a whole. We realise that it is difficult to prove that single schemes have a direct, causal impact on retention rates, due to multiple factors being involved in student retention. However, such data is a valuable way of showing the impact of this work, and we encourage more institutions to include such evidence in future monitoring returns.

158. Some institutions included in their reports information on how evaluation practices are being set up, and on pilot projects which should be able to offer evidence of impact in the future. We will be interested to see the impact of this work in future monitoring returns.

159. From the information submitted by institutions it appears that, generally, evaluation, at some level, of widening participation commitments is now taking place. However, despite the range of examples provided by institutions, not all provided the evidence to show that such activities are achieving their aims. Many submissions referred to activities being 'very successful', having 'a successful impact' or making 'a significant contribution to WP', but did not always provide specific evidence to show

this. It could be that such evidence is not available for all activities at all institutions, or it may simply be that some institutions did not provide such information in their submissions, even though evidence was available. In our future guidance on monitoring returns, we will further clarify the importance of providing evidence of impact rather than simply describing activity.

160. Many of the activities described in the monitoring returns appeared to have very clear aims and objectives, and we urge institutions to ensure that they take a robust approach to putting in place the necessary processes to evaluate their activities against their objectives.

161. This will become increasingly important in future, when funding for widening participation provided through HEFCE's proposed Student Opportunity allocation will carry greater expectations of accountability for all institutions. Evaluation of WP commitments is even more important at a time of financial restraint, because it enables institutions to allocate their resources effectively. It is vital to build a national evidence base about the impact of WP activity, in order to demonstrate the value of the funding delivered for WP in contributing to greater social mobility.

162. For 2011-12 monitoring, we will review how we ask for information on findings from evaluation, so that we are better able to demonstrate, with evidence, which WP activities are effective.

Conclusion on HEFCE's WPSA monitoring

163. The WPSA monitoring returns show the commitment of institutions across the sector to WP, demonstrated by investment, at a sector level, over and above the funding which HEFCE delivers to institutions specifically for WP.

164. We were pleased to note the improvement this year in the data quality of the financial reporting by institutions. We were also encouraged to see the wide range of WP activities taking place across the student lifecycle, and the evaluation of these activities being put into practice by a number of institutions.

165. However, we again encourage all institutions to consider how they can improve their ability to demonstrate the impact of their WP activity, both by showing how funding from HEFCE contributes to this, and by improving the evidence base regarding which WP activities are most effective.

166. As we move to the new funding system, we will continue to monitor the effects on WP, and future monitoring returns will be an important part of this. These monitoring returns will complement the interim widening participation strategic statements that we have requested for 2012-13, and the longer term strategy documents that we will require from 2013-14. The longer term documents

will look forward for the following three years, setting out strategic aims and objectives, while the monitoring returns concentrate on demonstrating the impact of WP expenditure and activity in a particular year.

167. HEFCE remains committed to widening participation. The funding we provide contributes to national progress on WP, which looks beyond the immediate, individual targets set by access agreements. Monitoring returns will remain an important part of showing accountability for this funding and demonstrating national progress by building an evidence base on the impact of WP activity.

Lincoln College

Tutorial and study skills support

Each higher education course has a named group tutor and weekly timetabled tutorial slot. This allows close working relationships to be forged between tutors and students. Given the academic abilities possessed by students on entry to the higher education courses at Lincoln College, this close support is required to develop Level 4/5 skills.

NSS data and commentary demonstrate that students value this relationship highly; 86 per cent satisfaction was recorded with regards to tutorial support and 95 per cent satisfaction shown for availability of tutors. Statistical analysis of course data illustrates that the higher education programmes had, on average, 98 per cent retention and 94 per cent completion rates. While no national benchmark data exists, these values are extremely favourable when compared to peer colleges in the region.

Higher education awareness raising

To encourage internal progression from Level 3 learners at Lincoln College, the higher education provision is marketed to all students via Level 3 tutorial activity and via the Curriculum Manager for higher education talking directly to students either in class time or via bespoke higher education awareness events. This represented an increase in direct contact with Level 3 learners at college.

Internal progression has risen in the last year by 5 per cent and this is expected to continue to rise given the increased tuition fees.

Annex A:

OFFA's monitoring of 2010-11 access agreements: summary data

A1. Higher fee income (£000)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
HEIs	451,125	878,239	1,332,442	1,574,066	1,709,706
FECs	7,367	13,984	24,617	23,018	28,914
SCITTs	1,402	1,375	1,624		
Total	459,894	893,598	1,358,683	1,597,084	1,738,620

A2. Expenditure on bursaries and scholarships for lower income students and other under-represented groups (£000)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
HEIs	95,309	191,688	304,453	355,713	370,068
FECs	2,799	5,015	7,500	7,806	8,023
SCITTs	107	164	174		
Total	98,215	196,867	312,127	363,518	378,091

A3. Expenditure on bursaries and scholarships for lower income students as a proportion of higher fee income (%)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
HEIs	21.1	21.8	22.8	22.6	21.6
FECs	38.0	35.9	30.5	33.9	27.7
SCITTs	7.6	11.9	10.7		
Total	21.4	22.0	23.0	22.8	21.7

A4. Expenditure on additional outreach (£000)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
HEIs	20,699	26,975	36,702	38,337	43,256
FECs	576	630	1,230	1,217	2,404
SCITTs		95	125	11*	
Total	21,370	27,730	37,943	39,553	45,659

* In 2008-09 we streamlined our monitoring requirements for SCITT providers so fewer institutions reported on outreach expenditure.

A5. Overall expenditure (£000)

Note: figures shown are more than amount of expenditure on bursaries plus outreach because they include reallocated funds.

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
HEIs	116,008	219,136	344,255	394,690	413,739
FECs	3,375	5,645	8,730	9,054	10,506
SCITTs	202	290	185		
Total	119,585	225,071	353,170	403,744	424,245

A6. Overall expenditure as a proportion of higher fee income (%)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
HEIs	25.7	25.0	25.8	25.1	24.2
FECs	45.8	40.4	35.5	39.3	36.3
SCITTs	14.4	21.1	10.7		
Total	26.0	25.2	26.0	25.3	24.4

Notes:

1. Higher fee income is all fee income above the standard fee (£1,310 in 2010-11) for home/European Union full-time undergraduates, including postgraduate initial teacher training.
2. The expenditure on bursaries and scholarships is only the amount spent on lower income students or other under-represented groups. Many universities and colleges also provide financial support for other students as well. Lower income is defined as any student with an assessed household income of up to £50,020. This was the Government threshold for state support for new students in 2010-11. For more information see the glossary (Annex D).
3. The expenditure on additional outreach is not the total amount spent by institutions on outreach or widening participation. It is the additional amount that institutions have spent following the introduction of variable fees. For more information see the glossary (Annex D).
4. Expenditure is based on all actual expenditure reported by institutions for the 2010-11 academic year.
5. The Student Loans Company provided data for all expenditure paid from the Higher Education Bursaries and Scholarship Scheme (HEBSS) to lower income students in respect of 2010-11 up to 17 October 2011.
6. Data for SCITTs is not available for 2009-10 or 2010-11 because their access agreements for these years have not yet been monitored.

Annex B

Institutional expenditure since 2006-07 on OFFA-countable access measures

Higher education institutions	Bursaries and scholarships		Outreach		Overall expenditure					Reallocated and carried forward	
	£000	%	£000		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11		£000
Anglia Ruskin University	2,620	18.1	302		35.1	40.7	27.9	17.1	20.2	-	
Aston University	2,270	22.0	0		19.9	21.1	24.5	22.9	22.0	-	
University of Bath	2,185	15.6	133		23.7	20.9	19.2	17.3	16.5	-	
Bath Spa University	2,444	23.0	149		30.0	25.8	23.0	25.4	24.5	-	
University of Bedfordshire	3,838	26.2	1,010		47.3	40.7	41.3	34.3	33.1	-	
Birkbeck College	20	8.4	0				0.0		8.4	-	
University of Birmingham	6,652	24.8	449		20.7	22.3	22.9	25.3	26.5	-	
Birmingham City University	3,202	15.9	170		14.5	15.5	19.9	17.5	16.7	-	
University College Birmingham	1,606	34.3	1,728		14.5	35.2	43.7	43.5	71.3	-	
Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln	864	27.4	46		36.8	35.3	29.8	29.4	28.9	-	
University of Bolton	1,482	23.8	71		17.4	21.1	24.1	25.5	24.9	-	
The Arts University College at Bournemouth	717	16.4	38		15.5	16.6	16.0	17.5	17.3	-	
Bournemouth University	1,937	11.1	200		29.6	29.6	25.5	18.8	12.2	-	
University of Bradford	3,368	26.9	0		19.6*	22.9	28.5	29.5	26.9	-	
University of Brighton	5,716	25.7	363		24.3	25.7	30.2	28.0	27.3	-	
University of Bristol	3,483	16.8	617		23.4	20.4	20.2	20.2	19.8	-	
Brunel University	3,767	24.4	0		16.5	14.6	16.5	20.5	24.4	-	
Buckinghamshire New University	1,376	18.2	102		38.9	42.9	35.7	19.6	19.6	-	
University of Cambridge	6,343	29.5	0		19.4	24.0	25.5	29.2	29.5	-	
Canterbury Christ Church University	3,219	25.7	246		19.9	27.9	28.3	27.7	27.7	-	
University of Central Lancashire	5,025	18.5	398		44.4	38.0	39.1	26.5	20.0	-	

Higher education institutions	Bursaries and scholarships		Outreach					Overall expenditure				Reallocated and carried forward	
	£000		£000					2009-10					2010-11
	%		2006-07					2008-09					
Central School of Speech and Drama	241	21.7	120	19.3	31.2	30.9	32.4	-	-	-	-	-	
University of Chester	1,888	17.1	0	25.3	20.8	18.4	17.1	-	-	-	-	-	
University of Chichester	1,836	25.1	59	24.5	22.2	27.4	25.9	-	-	-	-	-	
City University, London	1,502	18.4	186	23.9	20.8	22.3	20.7	-	-	-	-	-	
Courtauld Institute of Art	56	19.2	60	13.6	18.6	25.6	38.7	-	-	-	-	-	
Coventry University	3,229	15.8	1,307	32.2	30.0	27.4	22.3	-	-	-	-	-	
University for the Creative Arts	926	10.6	374	15.0	17.0	13.6	11.7	-	-	-	-	-	
University of Cumbria	3,345	28.8	274	NA*	33.6	43.3	31.2	-	-	-	-	-	
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	428	26.6	5	20.4	18.5	25.7	27.0	-	-	-	-	-	
De Montfort University	6,057	27.2	273	19.0	22.1	25.0	28.4	-	-	-	-	-	
University of Derby	5,298	31.9	308	31.3	29.6	30.2	33.7	-	-	-	-	-	
University of Durham	2,676	13.3	1,631	29.6	30.1	22.4	21.5	-	-	-	-	-	
University of East Anglia	3,313	20.3	760	28.1	23.1	25.0	24.9	-	-	-	-	-	
University of East London	5,061	23.9	95	31.6	23.4	27.0	24.3	-	-	-	-	-	
Edge Hill University	2,639	19.0	909	52.6	49.1	34.2	25.5	-	-	-	-	-	
Institute of Education	186	8.8	203	17.9	17.7	17.6	18.4	-	-	-	-	-	
University of Essex	2,518	16.4	679	17.6	15.9	20.4	20.8	-	-	-	-	-	
University of Exeter	3,696	18.1	137	17.6	20.9	22.8	18.8	-	-	-	-	-	
University College Falmouth	1,122	22.0	51	16.3	23.0	22.2	23.0	-	-	-	-	-	
University of Gloucestershire	1,804	17.0	563	22.5	17.3	22.9	22.2	-	-	-	-	-	
Goldsmiths' College	1,716	19.0	182	22.6	25.3	24.7	21.0	-	-	-	-	-	

Higher education institutions	Bursaries and scholarships		Outreach					Overall expenditure				Reallocated and carried forward	
	£000	%	£000					2009-10					2010-11
			2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11	2010-11	2010-11		
University of Greenwich	1,565	8.0	575	9.7	11.8	7.2	7.9	11.0	-	-	-	-	
Guildhall School of Music & Drama	153	15.4	114	52.1	30.9	30.4	30.8	27.0	-	-	-	-	
Harper Adams University College	510	17.2	0	20.6	17.4	27.1	20.7	17.2	-	-	-	-	
University of Hertfordshire	6,472	26.4	255	38.2	31.9	38.1	30.7	27.5	-	-	-	-	
Heythrop College	303	35.7	131	50.2	29.9	44.3	51.2	-	-	-	-	-	
University of Huddersfield	2,744	13.2	0	18.7	24.8	21.3	17.5	13.2	-	-	-	-	
University of Hull	4,474	23.8	55	23.7	24.9	25.1	24.6	24.0	-	-	-	-	
Imperial College London	4,106	36.1	81	33.5	33.3	32.1	32.3	36.8	-	-	-	-	
Keele University	1,550	14.1	194	14.5	13.7	14.1	13.4	15.8	-	-	-	-	
University of Kent	4,602	20.6	394	24.6	21.4	22.5	22.0	22.3	-	-	-	-	
King's College London	3,884	23.1	339	21.1	19.8	20.6	27.2	26.4	209	-	-	-	
Kingston University	5,566	20.5	255	16.4	17.5	20.5	20.3	21.4	-	-	-	-	
Lancaster University	3,021	21.1	305	21.9	21.6	20.8	20.6	23.2	-	-	-	-	
University of Leeds	7,907	22.0	400	16.8	16.7	26.8	24.0	23.3	64	-	-	-	
Leeds College of Art	560	25.7	85	21.1	24.2	27.9	29.6	-	-	-	-	-	
Leeds Metropolitan University	1,098	6.3	1,150	10.3	15.7	10.9	10.9	12.9	-	-	-	-	
Leeds College of Music	273	20.1	45	25.2	23.4	22.3	22.9	23.4	-	-	-	-	
Leeds Trinity University College	925	22.9	82	14.5	15.6	17.5	23.8	25.0	-	-	-	-	
University of Leicester	3,384	21.6	405	22.7	21.3	24.8	23.7	24.2	-	-	-	-	
University of Lincoln	2,173	13.6	424	52.1	29.3	25.0	20.2	16.3	-	-	-	-	
University of Liverpool	6,386	28.5	377	32.2	28.3	31.8	30.9	30.2	-	-	-	-	

Higher education institutions	Bursaries and scholarships		Outreach					Overall expenditure					Reallocated and carried forward	
	£000		%		£000			2006-07 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11						£000
	£000	%	£000	%	£000	£000	£000	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11		£000
Liverpool Hope University	2,442	25.6	100		25.7	45.2	30.4	34.0	26.6				-	
Liverpool John Moores University	8,555	29.3	323		32.9	28.4	27.8	28.8	30.4				-	
Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	99	9.5	90		18.2	17.1	15.7	16.9	18.1				-	
University of the Arts London	2,187	12.6	2,216		12.8	21.6	26.0	24.8	25.6	42				
University College London	5,284	32.8	420		31.0	28.1	35.5	35.6	35.4				-	
UCL School of Pharmacy	295	25.8	10		14.6	16.6	18.6	20.9	26.7				-	
London School of Economics and Political Science	1,100	23.0	204		41.1	29.9	28.0	30.5	27.3				-	
London Metropolitan University	5,991	30.6	0		19.5	25.7	29.1	25.9	30.6				-	
London South Bank University	2,738	21.8	205		18.2	21.9	21.5	21.6	23.4				-	
Loughborough University	3,358	17.1	243		17.9	16.8	19.5	19.6	18.3				-	
University of Manchester	10,588	26.1	400		33.3	30.3	30.5	29.8	27.1				-	
Manchester Metropolitan University	10,655	26.3	284		22.1	25.2	30.4	26.0	27.0				-	
Middlesex University	1,722	7.6	370		10.8	9.8	9.6	9.0	9.2				-	
University of Newcastle upon Tyne	4,887	20.0	926		34.2	23.8	23.0	22.2	24.0	47				
Newman University College	813	20.5	70		38.3	52.2	25.3	27.0	22.3				-	
University of Northampton	3,010	24.6	143		21.7	25.2	25.8	24.2	25.8				-	
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	7,364	28.1	0		22.2	19.5	20.8	31.5	28.1				-	
Norwich University College of the Arts	545	19.7	69		9.9	12.9	24.8	20.2	22.1				-	
University of Nottingham	6,730	20.3	628		22.9	21.7	23.4	24.1	22.2				-	
Nottingham Trent University	8,160	24.1	384		24.0	22.2	29.5	26.7	25.3				-	
Open University	0	0.0	0						0.0				-	

Higher education institutions	Bursaries and scholarships		Outreach					Overall expenditure					Reallocated and carried forward
	%		£000					£000					
	£000	%	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2010-11	2010-11	2010-11	2010-11	£000	
School of Oriental and African Studies	617	15.9	135	19.3	22.8	20.8	19.4	-	-	-	-	-	
University of Oxford	6,095	33.2	661	43.1	33.4	31.0	34.1	36.8	-	-	-	-	
Oxford Brookes University	5,177	33.3	382	33.8	36.2	34.4	34.3	35.7	-	-	-	-	
University of Plymouth	5,283	21.1	254	20.5	18.4	26.8	24.2	22.2	-	-	-	-	
University College Plymouth St Mark & St John	192	4.7	534	34.0	20.9	10.8	17.2	17.9	-	-	-	-	
University of Portsmouth	5,656	20.3	857	21.6	22.7	24.5	24.1	23.4	-	-	-	-	
Queen Mary, University of London	4,555	26.3	0	31.2	29.8	30.8	29.6	26.3	-	-	-	-	
Ravensbourne	338	13.4	103	22.2	22.7	18.6	10.1	17.4	-	-	-	-	
University of Reading	3,293	21.4	58	27.4	29.2	24.1	22.8	21.8	-	-	-	-	
Roehampton University	1,760	15.9	296	17.8	16.3	20.7	21.1	18.6	-	-	-	-	
Rose Bruford College	162	14.9	61	24.1	21.2	18.1	22.4	20.4	-	-	-	-	
Royal Academy of Music	63	14.1	115	45.0	27.8	32.8	45.3	39.8	-	-	-	-	
Royal Agricultural College	330	20.4	78	32.7	21.4	24.1	26.0	25.2	-	-	-	-	
Royal College of Music	45	7.9	90	12.6	13.2	15.8	24.5	23.6	-	-	-	-	
Royal Holloway, University of London	2,277	25.1	324	23.9	28.0	29.1	30.7	28.7	-	-	-	-	
Royal Northern College of Music	169	18.9	52	21.6	23.7	26.7	30.0	24.7	-	-	-	-	
Royal Veterinary College	691	27.5	55	29.1	30.3	34.1	32.7	29.7	-	-	-	-	
St George's Hospital Medical School	472	23.6	229	19.4	27.0	31.6	26.9	35.1	-	-	-	-	
St Mary's University College	813	13.4	0	41.7	22.9	26.1	17.6	13.4	-	-	-	-	
University of Salford	3,652	18.5	562	15.3	17.0	19.7	19.4	21.3	-	-	-	-	
University of Sheffield	4,925	18.6	1,237	23.5	17.8	19.0	21.3	23.2	-	-	-	-	

Higher education institutions	Bursaries and scholarships		Outreach					Overall expenditure					Reallocated and carried forward
	£000		£000					£000					
	%		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2010-11	2010-11	2010-11	2010-11	£000	
Sheffield Hallam University	6,559	21.0	510	28.6	27.4	26.5	25.6	22.6	-	-	-	-	
University of Southampton	4,477	19.8	278	16.0	17.2	17.5	19.0	21.0	-	-	-	-	
Southampton Solent University	3,298	20.9	519	36.4	30.7	28.6	27.8	24.1	-	-	-	-	
Staffordshire University	3,829	25.1	352	29.5	42.9	27.6	37.6	27.4	-	-	-	-	
Universities of East Anglia and Essex; Joint Provision at University Campus Suffolk	1,222	25.8	405				36.7	34.3	-	-	-	-	
University of Sunderland	3,887	26.2	1,984	34.3	40.2	43.8	42.9	39.6	-	-	-	-	
University of Surrey	3,459	31.5	100	21.2	19.1	31.3	33.2	32.4	-	-	-	-	
University of Sussex	2,674	18.3	292	24.7	16.8	18.3	19.1	20.3	-	-	-	-	
Teesside University	3,664	27.6	433	54.5	40.2	37.9	35.2	30.9	-	-	-	-	
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	178	15.2	174	23.8	25.5	34.1	34.2	30.1	-	-	-	-	
University of Warwick	4,928	26.9	549	28.2	32.9	31.2	31.0	29.9	-	-	-	-	
University of the West of England, Bristol	6,042	18.7	1,917	40.4	31.8	32.1	32.4	24.6	-	-	-	-	
The University of West London	2,690	34.3	424	27.7	35.0	45.4	38.0	39.7	-	-	-	-	
University of Westminster	3,421	16.0	876	24.3	28.1	26.4	32.2	20.1	-	-	-	-	
University of Winchester	1,895	23.3	170	26.2	26.4	28.4	28.3	25.4	-	-	-	-	
University of Wolverhampton	3,061	16.6	682	16.3	23.5	23.8	20.8	20.5	54	-	-	-	
University of Worcester	3,189	21.6	235	19.5	22.6	22.2	23.4	23.2	-	-	-	-	
Writtle College	103	7.6	85	17.2	11.3	16.9	5.0	13.8	-	-	-	-	
University of York	3,412	20.2	157	20.0	21.3	20.5	21.8	21.2	-	-	-	-	
York St John University	1,662	26.6	83	32	35.0	29.1	26.5	27.9	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL			43,256					416					

Annex C

Bursary and scholarship holders, 2010-11

This annex shows for 2010-11:

- the number of undergraduate students at individual institutions who hold a bursary or scholarship. It excludes awards paid to students who do not fall in 'OFFA-countable groups'
- the proportion of full fee-paying students this number represents.

Higher education institutions	In receipt of full state support		Bursary holders other OFFA-countable incomes/groups		Total OFFA-countable	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Anglia Ruskin University	2,466	33.7	1,206	16.5	3,672	50.1
Aston University	2,254	37.3	759	12.6	3,013	49.9
University of Bath	1,376	16.9	1,151	14.1	2,527	31.0
Bath Spa University	2,119	38.8	706	12.9	2,825	51.7
University of Bedfordshire	3,772	51.0	1,869	25.3	5,641	76.3
Birkbeck College	53	38.1	0	0.0	53	38.1
University of Birmingham	3,259	23.2	1,485	10.6	4,744	33.7
Birmingham City University	4,765	44.1	1,818	16.8	6,583	60.9
University College Birmingham	1,367	55.3	406	16.4	1,773	71.8
Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln	649	36.4	227	12.7	876	49.2
University of Bolton	1,828	52.8	398	11.5	2,226	64.3
The Arts University College at Bournemouth	729	32.6	172	7.7	901	40.3
Bournemouth University	2,595	29.2	694	7.8	3,289	37.1
University of Bradford	4,072	62.6	980	15.1	5,052	77.7
University of Brighton	4,363	37.3	1,415	12.1	5,778	49.4
University of Bristol	1,745	16.4	1,450	13.7	3,195	30.1
Brunel University	3,339	38.4	752	8.6	4,091	47.0
Buckinghamshire New University	1,574	40.1	942	24.0	2,516	64.2
University of Cambridge	1,411	12.8	1,332	12.1	2,743	25.0
Canterbury Christ Church University	2,507	39.1	1,659	25.9	4,166	64.9
University of Central Lancashire	6,711	45.7	2,973	20.2	9,684	66.0
Central School of Speech and Drama	197	35.1	46	8.2	243	43.2
University of Chester	2,137	38.4	61	1.1	2,198	39.5
University of Chichester	1,342	35.2	565	14.8	1,907	50.1

Higher education institutions	In receipt of full state support		Bursary holders other OFFA-countable incomes/groups		Total OFFA-countable	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
City University, London	1,841	42.9	171	4.0	2,012	46.9
Courtauld Institute of Art	21	14.2	0	0.0	21	14.2
Coventry University	4,118	39.4	1,942	18.6	6,060	58.0
University for the Creative Arts	1,610	32.8	64	1.3	1,674	34.1
University of Cumbria	2,427	41.4	1,419	24.2	3,846	65.6
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	223	27.5	71	8.8	294	36.3
De Montfort University	5,261	45.5	2,168	18.8	7,429	64.3
University of Derby	3,742	41.3	1,610	17.8	5,352	59.1
University of Durham	1,803	17.5	200	1.9	2,003	19.5
University of East Anglia	2,342	27.6	2,305	27.2	4,647	54.8
University of East London	6,967	62.0	2,277	20.3	9,244	82.3
Edge Hill University	3,275	46.2	1,502	21.2	4,777	67.4
Institute of Education	524	48.3	125	11.5	649	59.9
University of Essex	2,740	35.1	1,521	19.5	4,261	54.5
University of Exeter	2,219	21.4	877	8.5	3,096	29.9
University College Falmouth	1,112	42.1	456	17.3	1,568	59.3
University of Gloucestershire	2,725	49.2	855	15.4	3,580	64.6
Goldsmiths' College	1,840	40.3	350	7.7	2,190	48.0
University of Greenwich	2,788	23.5	316	2.7	3,104	26.2
Guildhall School of Music & Drama	74	14.6	81	16.0	155	30.6
Harper Adams University College	448	24.4	216	11.8	664	36.1
University of Hertfordshire	5,142	41.5	611	4.9	5,753	46.4
Heythrop College	167	39.0	77	18.0	244	57.0
University of Huddersfield	5,173	48.0	94	0.9	5,267	48.8
University of Hull	3,442	34.5	1,455	14.6	4,897	49.1
Imperial College London	971	16.7	523	9.0	1,494	25.7
Keele University	1,734	31.2	240	4.3	1,974	35.5
University of Kent	3,756	32.3	1,677	14.4	5,433	46.8
King's College London	2,248	25.4	1,165	13.2	3,413	38.6
Kingston University	6,062	43.7	1,822	13.1	7,884	56.8

Higher education institutions	In receipt of full state support		Bursary holders other OFFA-countable incomes/groups		Total OFFA-countable	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Lancaster University	2,117	28.0	659	8.7	2,776	36.7
University of Leeds	4,585	23.6	1,789	9.2	6,374	32.8
Leeds College of Art	385	35.0	25	2.3	410	37.2
Leeds Metropolitan University	2,164	13.8	31	0.2	2,195	14.0
Leeds College of Music	186	27.0	110	16.0	296	43.0
Leeds Trinity University College	985	41.3	559	23.4	1,544	64.8
University of Leicester	2,169	26.8	902	11.2	3,071	38.0
University of Lincoln	3,219	39.7	2,085	25.7	5,304	65.4
University of Liverpool	3,245	27.8	701	6.0	3,946	33.8
Liverpool Hope University	2,461	50.2	685	14.0	3,146	64.2
Liverpool John Moores University	6,831	46.0	3,222	21.7	10,053	67.7
Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	155	28.4	51	9.3	206	37.7
University of the Arts London	2,845	32.2	372	4.2	3,217	36.4
University College London	1,724	20.9	1,123	13.6	2,847	34.5
UCL School of Pharmacy	255	44.0	91	15.7	346	59.8
London School of Economics and Political Science	502	20.8	275	11.4	777	32.2
London Metropolitan University	6,351	63.0	862	8.6	7,213	71.6
London South Bank University	3,649	57.6	481	7.6	4,130	65.1
Loughborough University	2,013	19.2	885	8.4	2,898	27.7
University of Manchester	5,490	25.9	1,045	4.9	6,535	30.9
Manchester Metropolitan University	9,125	44.3	2,592	12.6	11,717	56.9
Middlesex University	4,352	37.1	118	1.0	4,470	38.1
University of Newcastle upon Tyne	2,603	20.2	832	6.5	3,435	26.7
Newman University College	1,004	50.2	402	20.1	1,406	70.3
University of Northampton	2,635	37.9	772	11.1	3,407	49.0
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	6,741	48.4	4,345	31.2	11,086	79.6
Norwich University College of the Arts	602	41.7	312	21.6	914	63.3
University of Nottingham	3,446	20.0	2,487	14.5	5,933	34.5
Nottingham Trent University	5,975	34.5	2,225	12.8	8,200	47.3
School of Oriental and African Studies	656	31.3	16	0.8	672	32.1

Higher education institutions	In receipt of full state support		Bursary holders other OFFA-countable incomes/groups		Total OFFA-countable	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
University of Oxford	1,385	14.7	1,315	14.0	2,700	28.6
Oxford Brookes University	2,276	28.3	938	11.7	3,214	40.0
University of Plymouth	5,066	38.4	1,804	13.7	6,870	52.1
University College Plymouth St Mark & St John	581	27.2	2	0.1	583	27.3
University of Portsmouth	4,999	34.1	1,871	12.7	6,870	46.8
Queen Mary, University of London	3,412	38.8	569	6.5	3,981	45.3
Ravensbourne	451	34.6	190	14.6	641	49.2
University of Reading	1,812	22.7	1,104	13.8	2,916	36.5
Roehampton University	2,869	51.4	404	7.2	3,273	58.6
Rose Bruford College	181	32.3	19	3.4	200	35.7
Royal Academy of Music	32	14.2	32	14.2	64	28.3
Royal Agricultural College	149	18.2	98	12.0	247	30.2
Royal College of Music	41	14.0	8	2.7	49	16.7
Royal Holloway, University of London	1,511	31.6	590	12.4	2,101	44.0
Royal Northern College of Music	122	27.1	50	11.1	172	38.1
Royal Veterinary College	243	18.8	165	12.8	408	31.6
St George's Hospital Medical School	318	30.8	133	12.9	451	43.7
St Mary's University College	1,049	32.3	388	12.0	1,437	44.3
University of Salford	5,212	50.5	658	6.4	5,870	56.8
University of Sheffield	3,072	22.6	2,473	18.2	5,545	40.7
Sheffield Hallam University	7,214	40.2	2,370	13.2	9,584	53.3
University of Southampton	2,951	25.7	1,445	12.6	4,396	38.3
Southampton Solent University	3,275	38.4	751	8.8	4,026	47.2
Staffordshire University	3,745	40.9	556	6.1	4,301	47.0
Universities of East Anglia and Essex; Joint Provision at University Campus Suffolk	1,139	45.3	190	7.5	1,329	52.8
University of Sunderland	3,144	40.4	1,552	19.9	4,696	60.3
University of Surrey	1,261	22.7	517	9.3	1,778	32.1
University of Sussex	2,549	33.5	139	1.8	2,688	35.3
Teesside University	3,388	50.3	266	3.9	3,654	54.2
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	127	21.5	100	16.9	227	38.5

	In receipt of full state support		Bursary holders other OFFA-countable incomes/groups		Total OFFA-countable	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Higher education institutions						
University of Warwick	2,037	21.5	925	9.8	2,962	31.3
University of the West of England, Bristol	5,093	31.2	679	4.2	5,772	35.3
The University of West London	2,302	57.1	419	10.4	2,721	67.6
University of Westminster	5,747	52.2	1,167	10.6	6,914	62.8
University of Winchester	1,415	34.5	876	21.3	2,291	55.8
University of Wolverhampton	4,415	44.6	1,285	13.0	5,700	57.5
University of Worcester	2,324	30.1	2,461	31.9	4,785	62.1
Writtle College	218	31.7	26	3.8	244	35.5
University of York	1,974	22.5	1,090	12.4	3,064	34.9
York St John University	1,147	35.1	0	0.0	1,147	35.1
TOTAL	312,141		108,935		421,076	

Annex D

Glossary

Access agreements These set out: how a university or college plans to protect and promote fair access to higher education for people from lower income backgrounds and other groups that are currently under-represented at the institution; the tuition fees it intends to charge; the milestones and objectives the institution chooses to use to monitor its progress in improving access; and working estimates of the higher fee income they expect to receive and what they anticipate spending on access measures. All institutions that wish to charge undergraduate fees above the basic level (in 2010-11, this was £1,310), must have an access agreement approved by OFFA. For more details see part one of this document.

Additional outreach For the purposes of OFFA's access agreement monitoring, institutions only report on outreach expenditure related to funds committed from higher fee income and other new and additional (post-2006) sources of funding. This might include funding specific new outreach activities, or enhancing and growing existing programmes, and can include relevant staffing and overhead costs. It does not include other funding sources such as Aimhigher and Lifelong Learning Network funding.

Basic fee The level of tuition fee up to which an access agreement is not required. In 2010-11 this was £1,310 for a full-time undergraduate course and £650 for some 'specified' courses, including sandwich courses and courses provided in conjunction with an overseas institution.

FEC Further education college

HEFCE Higher Education Funding Council for England. HEFCE distributes public money for higher education to universities and colleges in England, and ensures that this money is used to deliver the greatest benefit to students and the wider public.

HEI Higher education institution

Higher fee The level of tuition fee for which an access agreement is required. In 2010-11, this refers to any full-time undergraduate fee above the basic level of £1,310 and up to the maximum of £3,290. For some 'specified' courses, including sandwich

courses and courses provided in conjunction with an overseas institution, the maximum fee for 2010-11 was £1,640 and the basic fee was £650.

Higher fee income Income from fees above the basic level. For example, where institutions charged the maximum fee of £3,290 for full-time undergraduates in 2010-11, when the basic fee was £1,310, the 'higher fee income per student' was £1,980 ($£3,290 - £1,310 = £1,980$).

OFFA Office for Fair Access. The Office for Fair Access was established under the Higher Education Act 2004. Our role is to safeguard and promote fair access to higher education by regulating the charging of variable tuition fees through the approval and monitoring of access agreements.

OFFA-countable groups See 'under-represented groups' below

Outreach We define outreach as any activity that involves raising aspirations and attainment and encouraging students from under-represented groups to apply to higher education.

PGCE Postgraduate/Professional Graduate Certificate of Education

Minimum bursary In 2010-11, universities and colleges who charge higher tuition fees must give a minimum bursary to students entitled to receive the full state Maintenance Grant or Special Support Grant. In 2010-11, the minimum bursary was £329. From 2012-13, following Government changes to student finance, there will be no minimum bursary. Lower income students may be eligible for support under the new National Scholarship Programme. In practice, most universities and colleges give more than the minimum bursary.

NSP National Scholarship Programme

NSS National Student Survey

Retention and student success activity Measures such as targeted academic or pastoral support to help students succeed and complete their courses.

SLC Student Loans Company

Under-represented groups This refers to groups that are currently under-represented in higher education compared to their representation in wider society, that is:

- students from lower socio-economic groups and neighbourhoods in which relatively few people enter higher education
- students from some ethnic groups or sub-groups
- students who have been in care
- disabled students.

Variable fees The full-time undergraduate tuition fees payable to an institution. Variable fees were introduced by the Higher Education Act 2004. In 2010-11, fee limits could be set between £0 and £3,290.

WP Widening participation

WPSA Widening participation strategic assessment. WPSAs set out institutions' overall widening participation aims and objectives alongside a strategic assessment of what they hope to achieve over a three-year period. All higher education institutions and further education colleges that are directly funded by HEFCE and have 100 students (full-time equivalent) or more were required to submit a WPSA in 2009. For more details see part one of this document.

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