

ANNEX B 2007/08 to 2011/12 FEE PLAN

INSTITUTION: Aberystwyth University

Principal Contact for Fee Plans

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Note for Guidance: We strongly encourage institutions to provide short, precise, quantifiable (or, if not quantifiable, then easily verifiable) statements, not lengthy descriptions of institutional strategies, histories or other contextual information. If the information provided is not clear, or appears difficult to reconcile with other information in our possession, we will ask for clarification. If, however, institutions consider it essential to add detailed contextual information to elements of the plan, we would appreciate this being confined to clearly labelled appendices.

1. What fee levels do you propose to charge from 2007/08?

Full time undergraduate	£3,070
PGCE (where applicable)	£3,070
Any significant variants you wish to note (eg if you propose to charge below £3000 for a significant part of your provision)	None.

Note: We appreciate that the position is not yet clear over the use of the GDP deflator for 2008/09 and thereafter, so will expect the figure of £3070 to be the maximum shown for present purposes. When it comes, later, to monitoring, we shall need information that reflects the reality of fees actually charged.

2. What measures will you take to communicate these proposed levels clearly to a) students entering in 2006/07, and b) students entering in 2007/08 and beyond?

a. Students entering in 2006/07: please explain how they will be made clearly aware of the position from 2007:

Students entering in 2006/07 have been sent individual letters explaining their liability for fees from the second year of their studies and thereafter. Bursaries will be widely advertised through contact events such as Visiting Days and Open Days. We have also produced an information pack including information on bursaries and fee levels for successful applicants.

More information will be available through advertising flyers, on the University website and in newspaper advertisements. A mailing will be sent to all accepted applicants in eligible schemes.

b. Students entering in 2007/08 and beyond:

As above, with the important addition of information in the Prospectus for 2007 entry and also the establishment of a dedicated web site containing the relevant information which will have a separate URL.

c. Please explain how gap year students who deferred entry in 2006 will be made clearly aware of their position:

We will send individual letters to all gap year students deferring entry in 2006.

Notes:

- a) Here, and below, please expand the space to suit your needs.
- b) There is no need to repeat in detail material that applies to more than one category of entrant.
- c) Please keep responses brief and focused – bullet points and phrases rather than paragraphs.
- d) On 2a) and 2c) above, please see the Assembly guidance to HEFCW on these points if you are in any doubt.

3. What additional income do you expect to receive as a result of flexible fees?

Total estimated additional fee income, of which:	07/08 (£k) 7,823k	08/09 (£k) 11,291k	09/10 (£k) 11,291k	10/11 (£k) 11,291k	11/12 (£k) 11,291k
FT Undergraduate	7362	10,830	10,830	10,830	10,830
PGCE *	461	461	461	461	461

Note : Throughout this fee plan, income and expenditure is set at 2007/08 levels. That is, to avoid over-complication, and enable a clearer comparison between years, we have not at this stage applied an uplift for inflation.

** We note that the position on PGCE numbers is currently under review.*

4. Bearing in mind the agreement reached between HEW and the Assembly that proposals set out in fee plans should account for at least 30% of the additional income, how do you propose to distribute this between a) widening access, and b) higher education more generally?

	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12
a) Estimated additional amount to be spent on widening access	£2,145k	£3,143k	£3,000k	£3,000k	£3,000k
b) Estimated additional amount to be spent on promoting HE	£350k	£350k	£560k	£560k	£560k
c) Sum of a) and b)	£2,495k	£3,493k	£3,560k	£3,560k	£3,560k
d) Row c) expressed as a percentage of the totals in row 1 of qu. 3 above	32%	31%	31.5%	31.5%	31.5%

5. Please give details of initiatives under 4a) and 4b) above, including further information on intended additional financial commitments and additional levels of output. It is important also to show how the institution's commitment to the National Bursary Scheme features within these commitments.

a) Widening Access: National Bursary Scheme

Estimated sum to be spent on means tested £305 bursaries in 2007/08	Brief explanation of why pitched at this level	Indicative estimate of sum to be spent on means tested £305 bursaries in 2008/09	Indicative estimate of sum to be spent on means tested £305 bursaries in 2009/10	Indicative estimate of sum to be spent on means tested £305 bursaries in 2010/11	Indicative estimate of sum to be spent on means tested £305 bursaries in 2011/12
£743k	<p>We have reviewed the position across the UK and consider that the model we have chosen for the operation of these bursaries is appropriate, given the pattern of recruitment at UWA.</p> <p>The model that the University has chosen for its means-tested bursaries operates on a sliding scale of awards, according to the residual income of the student. This has the benefit of being more sensitive to the needs of the student than other models and provides support to middle-income students as well as sustaining UWA's impressive track record in widening participation.</p> <p>The figures expressed in this part of the <i>proforma</i> relate to the University's means tested bursaries. An explanation of the model, as expressed in our prospectus, is attached to this fee plan.</p> <p>Note that the profile of expenditure between 2007/08 and 2009/10 relates to the fact that it will take approximately three years to achieve steady state.</p>	£1,486k	£2,400k	£2,400k	£2,400k

b) Widening Access: Other activities

Activity	Baseline for monitoring additional outputs	2007/08		2008/09		2009/10		2010/11		2011/12	
		Estimated additional spend, £k	Outputs anticipated at year end	Estimated additional spend, £k	Indicative outputs anticipated at year end	Estimated additional spend, £k	Indicative outputs anticipated at year end	Estimated additional spend, £k	Indicative outputs anticipated at year end	Estimated additional spend, £k	Indicative outputs anticipated at year end
A programme of bursaries, including accommodation bursaries, and bursaries aimed at supporting widening access, support for subjects of strategic importance, Welsh-medium provision.	593 awards.	1,798 (Total spend in 2007/08 of £2145k)	3,650 awards	998 (Total spend in 2008/09 of £3,143k)	5,200 awards	0 (see note in rationale below. Total spend in 2009/10 of £3,000k)	4,400 awards.	0 (Total spend in 2010/11 of £3,000k)	4,400 awards	0 (Total spend in 2010/11 of £3,000k)	4,400 awards

Brief explanation of rationale for these activities

Section 5b includes those means-tested bursaries details of the costings of which have been provided in Section 5a, as required.

The University aims to further expand its programme of Bursaries, as described in the plans for the use of the Supplementary Income Stream in 2006/07, to enhance recruitment and ensure that as many students as possible are supported to succeed in their studies. The range of bursaries offered by the University will ensure that support is targeted at areas of student need, and at subjects of strategic importance to encourage recruitment in areas of need of support (e.g. Science areas, Welsh, European Languages and schemes taught mainly through the medium of Welsh). Current application information indicates that in many of these areas the bursaries are enabling departments to increase applications and conversions in the context of overall applications having fallen, hence assisting recruitment to subjects of strategic importance. The bursaries, therefore, make a significant contribution towards the sustainability of these programmes. The bursary programme will assist the University in seeking to achieve its targets for Welsh Medium provision as expressed in its current Annual Monitoring Statement.

Although in 2009/10 the overall number of awards is seen to decrease, the average value of awards will have increased, when we will have reached steady state in relation to our major programme of means-tested awards. When this occurs, some of the smaller awards will cease.

c) Promoting Higher Education

Activity	Baseline for monitoring additional outputs	2007/08		2008/09		2009/10		2010/11		2011/12	
		Estimated additional spend, £k	Outputs anticipated at year end	Estimated additional spend, £k	Outputs anticipated at year end	Estimated additional spend, £k	Outputs anticipated at year end	Estimated additional spend, £k	Outputs anticipated at year end	Estimated additional spend, £k	Outputs anticipated at year end
A contribution towards 7 Senior Academic Appointments	Staff in post from 2006/07	£0k (total spend in 2007/08 of £350k)	An uplift in contribution towards the University's submission for RAE 2008	£0k (total spend in 2008/09 of £350k)	Maintaining high quality research performance, including <i>inter alia</i> , grant applications and research income.	£210k (total spend in 2009/10 of £560k)	Maintaining high quality research performance, including <i>inter alia</i> , grant applications and research income.	£0k (total spend in 2010/11 of £560k)	Maintaining high quality research performance, including <i>inter alia</i> , grant applications and research income.	£0k (total spend in 2011/12 of £560k)	Maintaining high quality research performance, including <i>inter alia</i> , grant applications and research income.

Brief explanation of rationale for these activities

The funding will be used as a contribution towards the salary costs of seven senior appointments, approved for support under the terms of HEFCW's Strategic Support for 2008 RAE initiative. A series of appointments are planned, in academic areas which the University has selected to support. Selection has been on the basis of evidence to demonstrate that the research output of a significant number of individuals is such as to give assurance that the placing of additional researchers with strong research records will strengthen the overall quality of the research profile in the 2008 RAE.

All the areas selected scored at least a 4 in the 2001RAE, consistent with our policy on selective investment in our research profile and with our research strategy.

The posts will be partially supported by the £631,579 from the Strategic Support for 2008 RAE initiative (HEFCW Circular W05/66HE) in 2006/07.

Notes:

- a) Please note that question 5 asks for firm information only for 2007/08, because we assume that the detailed elements within your plan will vary from year to year in ways to be judged against evolving circumstances. We also ask, however, for indicative information for the remaining four years. When we begin to monitor performance, using the Annual Monitoring Statement, we will need to ask you annually to update the information in question 5 for the next year of the plan.
- b) In respect of questions 5a) and 5b), the Assembly Government has not specified the amount of additional fee income to be spent on bursaries, or other widening access activities. Rather, it expects this to be influenced by the competitive pressures each institution faces, and by the nature of the student intake, and therefore to vary between institutions. It does, however, expect those institutions with further to travel in ensuring improved participation from under-represented groups to invest proportionally more in this area of activity. It will be helpful if you would directly address this point in responding at 5a) and 5b) in particular.
- c) In 5b) and 5c) we ask you to specify baseline performance for your chosen activities, and then to specify anticipated outputs for the end of 2007/08. This is so that you, and HEFCW, will be able clearly to demonstrate additionality to the Assembly Government. The expression of the output targets is a matter for you. We will expect them to be realistic but stretching in terms of your institution's current strategy and performance in the areas selected. We expect outputs for 2007/08 to be higher than those for 2006/07. Whether or not they rise beyond the 2007/08 level in later years will depend upon the approach that you are taking.
- d) On the same point, we recognise that there is an issue over the date of the baseline data. For the purpose of monitoring performance during 2007/08, the ideal baseline year would be 2006/07, but this postdates the submission of the Fee Plan. Accordingly, we ask you to use the latest available baseline data. (But please see note (e), below).
- e) Given the intention to roll the monitoring of performance against Fee Plans into general annual monitoring, it would simplify matters if monitoring of activities could, as far as possible, be expressed in the same terms as existing Reaching Higher targets. You may choose to present output targets in other terms, but need to be aware that doing so may entail additional dialogue with HEFCW to clarify or check data. Use of Reaching Higher targets also helps with the baseline issue (note (d) above), since HEIs will already have forecast figures for these targets for 2006/07 and 2007/08, and so could demonstrate additionality by increasing the 2007/08 forecasts.
- f) Examples of "Widening Access: Other activities" might include, amongst others, measures to increase participation from Community First areas or from students with disabilities, or to increase recruitment to subjects of strategic importance, not least by targeting under-represented groups.
- g) Examples of "Promoting Higher Education" might include activities in support of existing or planned reconfiguration and collaboration projects, strengthening management development with particular reference to the challenges involved in reshaping the HE sector, action to develop or strengthen research, better engagement with private, public or voluntary bodies and communities in Wales, particular investments in improving the quality of learning and teaching (over and above what could be expected of normal institutional investment), initiatives to increase Welsh Medium provision, initiatives aimed at developing new modes of delivery or harnessing ICT more effectively, activity that would strengthen the skills base available to Welsh employers, and actions that would promote Welsh HE more effectively internationally.

Sign-off (to be completed on paper copy only, by head of institution or appropriate deputy).

I enclose the Fee Plan from the above institution, and I confirm that all the commitments made above are additional to existing activity at this institution:

Name	
Position	
Signed	
Date	