

**ANNEX B 2007/08 to 2011/12 FEE PLAN**

**INSTITUTION:** North East Wales Institute of Higher Education

**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?**

<b>Full time undergraduate</b>	£3,070
<b>PGCE (where applicable)</b>	
<b>Any significant variants you wish to note (eg if you propose to charge below £3000 for a significant part of your provision)</b>	<i>Not applicable</i>

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 £3,070 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:**

- Clear statements on NEWI's website,
- through UCAS,
- in mailings with requests for copies of NEWI's prospectus,
- through NEWI's dedicated service information desk.

In addition, NEWI's fee regulations will be updated in time for 2006/07 enrolment and will include a section dedicated to this.

**b. Students entering in 2007/08 and beyond:**

As above

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

- Through individual letters,
- Statement on NEWI website
- Other methods outlined in a. above.

**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?**

<b>Total estimated additional fee income, of which:</b>	<b>07/08 (£k)</b>	<b>08/09</b>	<b>09/10</b>	<b>10/11</b>	<b>11/12</b>
<b>FT Undergraduate</b>	2,914	4,525	4,661	4,801	4,945
<b>PGCE</b>					

**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?**

	<b>07/08</b>	<b>08/09</b>	<b>09/10</b>	<b>10/11</b>	<b>11/12</b>
<b>a) Estimated additional amount to be spent on widening access</b>	1,169	1,773	1,827	1,881	1,938
<b>b) Estimated additional amount to be spent on promoting HE</b>	240	246	252	258	265
<b>c) Sum of a) and b)</b>	1,409	2,019	2,079	2,140	2,203
<b>d) Row c) expressed as a percentage of the totals in row 1 of qu. 3 above</b>	48.35%	44.62%	44.59%	44.57%	44.54%

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
£334k	Based on applications for student support for 2004/05, NEWI has modelled the likely take up of the means tested element of the national bursary scheme. Early indications are that 71% of NEWI's target population would qualify for this element of funding with a consequent need to provide this level of bursaries.	£519k	£534k	£550k	£567k

**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
NEWI supplementary bursary scheme, earnings linked with no upper cap on household income. Therefore all NEWI students will qualify for some funding under this scheme.	There is no existing scheme at NEWI.	£755k	No of beneficiaries are 1,575 at an average of £480.	£1,172k	No of beneficiaries are 2,375	£1,208k	No of beneficiaries are 2,375	£1,244k	No of beneficiaries are 2,375	£1,281k	No of beneficiaries are 2,375
Additional targeted hardship funds	Existing hardship funding has specific funding rules for students who are already in HE.	£30k	It is anticipated that maximum grants of approximately £250 would be available which would benefit 120 students (just over 10% of the 1 <sup>st</sup> year student population).	£31k	Rules would be based upon the informed outcome of the 2007/08 base year but are not anticipated to be materially different. An extra 4 student grants would be available.	£32	It is anticipated that maximum grants of approximately £250 would be available which would benefit 128 students	£33k	It is anticipated that maximum grants of approximately £250 would be available which would benefit 132 students	£34k	It is anticipated that maximum grants of approximately £250 would be available which would benefit 136 students

Additional student support officers aimed at improving services available for students and student retention	Current provision is advice to potential students on available funding and how to access support and assistance in applying for support. Existing number of officers 1.3 FTE.	£50k	This funding would support the appointment of an additional two student support officers in the areas of Welfare Advice & Guidance and Bursaries Advice & Guidance.	£51.4k	It is anticipated that the same level of funding would be available annually to support the two additional officers appointed in 2006/07.	£52.8k	See comments in 2008/09	£54.4k	See comments in 2008/09	£56k	See comments in 2008/09
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**Brief explanation of rationale for these activities**

NEWI is a community higher education institution that takes pride in the extensive educational provision it offers which meets the needs of the Welsh Assembly Government's widening participation agenda. The funding identified above will help to ensure that NEWI is able to offer further encouragement into HE in Wales and maintain an improving retention rate amongst its students.

NEWI has undertaken an extensive analysis of student withdrawals over the past two years and is investigating non-progression of students between years. It is a key agenda for Academic Board and both Learning Teaching and Assessment Committee and the Widening Participation Admissions and Retention Committee are very actively pursuing a priority on student retention. In addition, the Senior Executive is monitoring and reviewing developments which have management implications, such as use of data, financial support, advice and counseling, learning resources and crucially considering the 'withdrawal process of a student' as they inevitably go through a gradual process of withdrawal. It is crucial that NEWI develops a holistic approach to student retention and as such will be developing a Student Retention Strategy over the coming months. It will inevitably draw on the Institute's Strategic Plan and the new Widening Access and Participation Strategy, both of which highlight very explicitly the importance of student retention, including the need to measure and monitor. Student retention is complex in an institution with such diversity, as the national benchmarks (HESA) demonstrate. NEWI is well aware of its performance against the non-continuation of students in HE benchmarks and has identified where improvements can be made. This will include a focus on foundation degrees with a focus on LTA and additional support. In addition, it is clear from the data that improvements on young full time learners is possible. An excellent strategy must be clear about what the current landscape looks like and what the new landscape should look like. Both are contingent on data and an understanding of the data at different levels in the Institute. NEWI is currently working through this process. It is clear that there is scope for early improvements in student retention but long term sustainable improvements will only be achieved with a strategy with clear roles and responsibilities. This will take some time to pull together. The Director of Higher Education Strategy and Further Education Development is leading on this strategy and it will tie in with the Widening Access and Participation Strategy.

**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
Expansion of Welsh medium provision to additional professional courses	1.3% of all students studying part of the programme through the medium of Welsh	£50k	This funding will be specifically targeted to extend the Welsh medium provision in the form of a module on Welsh for Professional Purposes which will be available for all students, but particularly relevant for students studying health, occupational therapy, social work, youth and community, youth justice, etc.	£51k	It is anticipated that the same level of funding would be available annually to this initiative. Additional outputs to be monitored would be the number of modules available /delivered through the medium of Welsh.	£53k	See comments in 2008/09	£54k	See comments in 2008/09	£55k	See comments in 2008/09

Additional investment in staff development and tutorial support for foundation degree delivery	NEWI has existing foundation degree provision.	£190k	This funding will support additional academic members of staff with expertise in developing and supporting the delivery of foundation degrees in order for NEWI to increase and enhance its provision in this area to meet Sector Skills Council and economic needs.	£195k	It is anticipated that the same level of funding would be available annually to this initiative.	£199k	See comments in 2008/09	£204k	See comments in 2008/09	£210k	See comments in 2008/09
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**Brief explanation of rationale for these activities**

By looking to strengthen its expertise in these areas, NEWI is also seeking to meet the aims of Wales: A Vibrant Economy and the Leitch Report: Skills in the UK. NEWI aims to improve collaboration with schools, FE/HE institutions, training providers and businesses to identify opportunities to strengthen the knowledge economy and address skills shortages and low levels of educational attainment. NEWI is a strong advocate of building an increasingly skilled, innovative and entrepreneurial workforce through a graduate technician provision. By utilising the foundation degree route with industry, this will help to deliver a strong and sustainable Welsh economy. NEWI also recognises an increasing need for Welsh language amongst the professions in Wales and sees increases in the number of modules taught in Welsh as an opportunity to address this.

**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	Michael Scott
Position	Principal and Chief Executive
Signed	
Date	