

Annex C Additional Support for Part-Time Students

1. Our proposals for changing the funding system for higher education include changes to the way that additional support for part-time students is allocated¹.
2. From 2011/12, we will embed the widening access stream of the former *Additional Support for Part-Time Students* funding into Widening Access Strategy funding. In 2010/11 the additional support for part-time students funding totalled £4.257m.
3. Embedding this funding in widening access strategy allocations from 2011/12 will increase widening access funding and encourage further alignment with widening access strategies and institutional activities.
4. We will expect Widening Access Strategies to include plans, specific actions and targets to address the part-time agenda and to contribute towards our Corporate Strategy measure:

The total number of part-time students studying higher education courses in higher education institutions and further education institutions in Wales will rise from 54,714 in 2008/09 to 59,000 in 2012/13.

5. To provide consistency, we can confirm that all part-time activities included within this strategy will be assessed against the criteria contained in circular W10/19HE².
6. We anticipate that funding core staff from this allocation might present a risk to institutional resources and progress towards the above target, should this funding be affected by future budget constraints. We would seek assurance that any such core posts made a specific and significant contribution to an institution's part-time agenda. We would ask institutions to consider this issue in their planning and target setting. In the same way, we would not normally expect to fund capital through this strategy.
7. Any further information about this process and funding allocations will be published in our Learning and Teaching and Widening Access supplementary guidance in April 2011, subject to confirmed budgets from the Welsh Assembly Government.

¹ See HEFCW circular W10/37HE: *Initial proposals for changing the funding system for HE in Wales*

² See HEFCW circular W10/19HE: *Additional support for Part-time Students 2010/11*