# UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

# Access Agreement with the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) 2014-15

#### 1. Summary

- 1.1 This Agreement is submitted in accordance with the requirements placed on those higher education institutions that intend to charge above the basic rate<sup>1</sup> of tuition fee for Home/EU students commencing full-time undergraduate courses in 2014-15. This agreement and those preceding it have been prepared in accordance with the guidance from OFFA<sup>2</sup> and after extensive consideration by relevant joint University and College Committees, which have all included student representation<sup>3</sup>.
- 1.2 The key features of the Agreement are:
  - The higher rate<sup>4</sup> of tuition fee (according to the maximum rate announced by the Government annually) to be charged, irrespective of course followed, to full-time UK and EU undergraduates and Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) students admitted from October 2014 onwards;
  - A needs-based financial support package that will provide support for maintenance for those undergraduates from lower income households;
  - A minimum level of outreach activities appropriate to currently under-represented groups;
  - Challenging milestones, aimed at increasing the proportion of our UK undergraduate intake from particular groups without compromising the integrity of Cambridge's admissions procedures and entry standards.

### 2. The Context of Undergraduate Admission to Cambridge

- 2.1 This Agreement is concerned with the admission by the Colleges of UK students from UK schools and colleges. The collegiate University's policy is to admit UK students of the highest academic calibre and potential irrespective of financial or other non-academic considerations. In conducting our admission process the University and its Colleges adhere to the five principles set out in the independent review of Admissions to Higher Education led by Professor Schwartz in September 2004<sup>5</sup>. A fair admissions system should:
  - be transparent;
  - enable institutions to select students who are able to complete the course as judged by their achievements and their potential;
  - strive to use assessment methods that are reliable and valid;
  - seek to minimise barriers for applicants;
  - be professional in every respect and be underpinned by appropriate institutional structures and processes.
- 2.2 The standard A-level offer for undergraduate entry to Cambridge is currently advertised as A\*AA. There is a large pool of qualified applicants and competition is rigorous: in 2010-11, only 27% of c.9,000 applicants from UK schools and colleges could be accepted, and of those accepted over 83% exceeded the standard offer (the average number of A\*s achieved by entrants was 2.5). The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The "basic rate" for 2014-15 has been set at £6,000 for full-time courses

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "How To Produce An Access Agreements for 2014-15", Office For Fair Access, Jan 2013

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Most particularly the Undergraduate Admissions Committee (UAC) and University Council, whose membership includes representatives of the Cambridge University Students Union. Student input was most recently requested at the UAC held on 4 Feb 2013. The draft of the 2014-15 agreement was then considered at the UAC held on 14 Mar 2013, and Council on 18 Mar. <sup>4</sup> The "higher rate" for 2014-15 has been set at £9,000 for full-time courses

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> www.admissions-review.org.uk

University does not operate subject quotas, although some courses are subject to external controls (for example, medicine) or capacity restrictions (for example, architecture and some laboratory-based courses) and competition is open across all subjects. Because of the full-time, residential nature of Cambridge's undergraduate courses, it is unlikely that the University's undergraduate intake will significantly increase over the next 5 years. A wider pool of qualified applicants will accordingly make admission to Cambridge all the more competitive.

- 2.3 We are also mindful of the implications of the difficulties being experienced by the state sector in student take-up and teaching provision in a number of subjects that are critical for entry into many of our courses, including modern languages, mathematics and physical science subjects. Additionally and as noted by the Russell Group, a lower proportion of state-sector students overall achieve top grades compared with those in the independent sector, and state sector students are less likely to apply to selective universities<sup>6</sup>.
- 2.4 We have in place rigorous selection processes (which include interviewing over 80% of UK and EU applicants as well as aptitude tests for some particular courses). These are intended to identify, as precisely as possible, the highest achievers with the greatest potential from the pool of applicants who are capable of meeting our entry requirements and the demands of our intensive undergraduate programmes.
- 2.5 Whilst we shall continue to monitor examination performance of students from the various school backgrounds, research by the University<sup>7</sup> shows that performance in public examinations continues to be the best predictor of a student's likely performance once admitted to the University, and that there is no significant differential in terms of performance between students admitted by school sector.
- 2.6 We are concerned that current proposals for A-level reform would significantly reduce student choice and flexibility; in particular, the lack of formal end of Year 12 examinations will adversely affect student confidence and the quality of the advice they receive about higher education options, and also prevent institutions such as Cambridge from accurately assessing current academic performance and trajectory. If effected these proposed reforms could have a significant bearing on our ability to make progress on access measures<sup>8</sup>.

#### 3. Our Access Record

- 3.1 Our ability to identify students likely to succeed is demonstrated by the proportion (over 85%) gaining at least Upper Second Class Honours. We have one of the highest continuation rates of any UK higher education institution (currently 98.4% compared to 89.3% for the sector). This is in part a product of our collegiate system (see section 6.9), but is also assisted by the extensive financial support that we offer to our students.
- 3.2 The University has made significant progress against admissions measures. The proportion of young state sector students securing a place at the University of Cambridge has increased at the rate of approximately 0.5% per year over the last decade<sup>9</sup>. It is now at its highest level in 30 years and reflects patterns of attainment by school type<sup>10</sup>. The proportion of black, Asian and minority ethnicity students admitted overall reflects national demographics<sup>11</sup>; and analysis of age, gender and disability data shows that Cambridge admissions mirror the sector once attainment and subject mix are taken into account. We cannot make any assessment of our position in relation to other protected characteristics at the current time since no comparable national data are available (see Section 8.5).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> www.russellgroup.ac.uk/russell-group-latest-news/137-2011/4808-hesa-performance-indicators--russell-group-comment/ <sup>7</sup> www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/research/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See letter to the Right Honourable Michael Gove MP, www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/admissions/responses/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> HESA Performance Indicators, www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=2060&Itemid=141

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/admissions/research/achievable\_target.html

 $<sup>^{11}\,</sup>www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/behind the head lines/ethnic representation.html$ 

- 3.3 The University aims to attract the best and brightest students in the UK, regardless of background. In support of this objective, Cambridge is currently engaged in an unprecedented level of additional outreach activity which reaches a diverse range of under-represented groups across the UK (see Section 6). Our events have demonstrable impact for both Cambridge and the sector more widely; for example, research has shown that c95% of Sutton Trust Summer School attendees go on to higher education and are more likely to apply to a selective university than those with comparable characteristics that did not<sup>12</sup>, whilst 40% of those attending the Cambridge programme apply to the University itself.<sup>13</sup>
- 3.4 Since the University exceeds national measures in relation to retention and student success, the targets that it sets for itself will continue to focus primarily on outreach and admissions (see Section 5).

#### 4. Fee Limits

- 4.1 The University's intention is to charge all Home and other EU undergraduates irrespective of course, the tuition fee<sup>14</sup> set at the amount determined by the Secretary of State as the higher rate under Part III of the Higher Education Act 2004<sup>15</sup>. For those who started their course after 1 September 2012 including those entering the University in October 2014 the fee will be £9,000. The rate will increase annually in accordance with rates announced by the Secretary of State. The same rate of tuition fee will apply to UK and other EU students admitted to the PGCE.
- 4.2 Those undergraduates who are undertaking an Erasmus year or an overseas year of study as part of their undergraduate course in 2014-15 will be charged a fee at the maximum we are permitted to charge. Subject to approval by the University, that will be £1,350 for students undertaking Erasmus study and work placement years abroad and non-Erasmus years of study abroad, and £1,800 for students on non-Erasmus work placements. Students who started their course before 1 September 2012 on a study or work placement will be charged no fee in 2014-15 if they are on Erasmus placements; otherwise 50% of the fee (ie £1,725) will be charged.
- 4.3 Any student deemed to be continuing (including "end-on") studies that were commenced before 1 September 2012 will be subject to the fee regime applicable to pre-2012 entrants.
- 4.4 On present policy it is estimated that by 2016-17 (ie the point at which it is expected that almost all undergraduate students will have been admitted under the new system introduced in 2012) and subject to any controls operated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), approximately 10,300 undergraduate students and 400 PGCE students admitted to the University will be paying the higher rate of tuition fee. This would produce an additional fee income above the standard rate of c£31.8 million against which is set the reduction in HEFCE funding for teaching.

#### 5. Expenditure on Additional Access and Retention Measures

- 5.1 The University has a strong commitment to widening participation. The University therefore intends to commit to expenditure on access measures at a higher level as suggested in guidance from OFFA (see 5.4 below).
- 5.2 Until 2011-12 all expenditure from additional fee income on access measures by the University of Cambridge was focussed on delivering financial support through bursary provision, at an annual cost of £5.8 million, or 29.2% of fee income above the standard rate<sup>16</sup>. From 2012-13 a proportion of fee income was specifically allocated additionally for the conduct of outreach activities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> www.suttontrust.com/research/the-impact-of-the-sutton-trusts-summer-schools-a-summary/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Cambridge Admissions Office data

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Also known as the "University Composition Fee"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/8/contents

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> As reported in the 2009-10 annual monitoring statement returned to OFFA in January 2011

- 5.3 We intend to maintain the existing balance of expenditure on bursaries and outreach activity from additional fee income. Whilst mindful of OFFA guidance on this subject, we do not believe that there is a sufficient body of evidence that greater benefit would be derived from different proportions of expenditure. As suggested above (see Section 3) we believe that our financial support has a significant bearing on retention. We have also taken full account of student feedback in the formulation of the present scheme. Students have confirmed during the current year that they do not want to see a reduction in bursary levels<sup>17</sup>. It should be noted that the level of expenditure on outreach activity outlined in this agreement is supplemented from very substantial funding through other sources, and so we believe our commitment in this area to be considerable and appropriate (see Section 6).
- 5.4 It is estimated that under the new arrangements and by 2017-18, the total expenditure by the University of Cambridge on access measures from additional undergraduate fee income will amount to approximately £9.8 million per annum, or c32.0% of fee income above the standard rate. In line with advice provided by OFFA, we further estimate that 10% of additional PGCE fee income will also be spent on access measures.
- 5.5 Overall, the collegiate University will, even with the higher fee, still be meeting out of its own resources almost half the real annual cost of c£15,000 of educating an undergraduate at Cambridge and thereby benefitting every UK and EU student at the University, regardless of background.

#### 6. Additional Access Measures

#### Outreach

- 6.1 The University of Cambridge aims to attract the best and brightest students in the UK, regardless of background, and already engages in an extensive range of outreach activities to support this objective. Outreach is delivered collectively and individually by the Cambridge Admissions Office, the Colleges, the Faculties and Departments, and the Cambridge University Students Union. Activity falls into two principal categories: engagement designed to encourage applications to Cambridge from groups presently under-represented; and general aspiration-raising activity on behalf of the sector. Much of this work is delivered in collaboration with other higher education institutions, schools and colleges, and we will continue to support this work. Examples include the national series of Student Conferences delivered in partnership with the University of Oxford, and the HE Partnership project which engages local students with HEIs in the region and beyond.
- 6.2 The University works with a number of specific under-represented and disadvantaged groups across the UK in order to raise aspiration and to improve access to higher education. These include children in care; students eligible for free school meals; black, Asian and minority ethnicity students; mature learners; students educated in further education colleges; and bright students in schools and colleges which have not historically sent students to the University of Cambridge.
- 6.3 Students in each of these groups (and their parents and advisers) are supported through a national programme of school visits and events which are delivered by the Cambridge Colleges using the Area Links Scheme, as well as through summer schools and taster events delivered by the Cambridge Admissions Office, the Cambridge Colleges, University Faculties and Departments and the Cambridge University Students Union. This activity (which is outlined in a Widening Participation Strategic Assessment submitted to HEFCE annually) will be continued.
- 6.4 To date, outreach activity has been funded from external sponsorship, philanthropic donation and from time-limited national initiatives such as Gifted and Talented Excellence Hubs and Aimhigher. The total cost of this activity is estimated at c£2.7 million per year. However, from 2012 the collegiate University has allocated a proportion of additional fee income to underpin and develop outreach activity. By 2016-17 this will amount to c£1.96 million per year<sup>18</sup>.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 17}$  Meeting of the UAC Cambridge Bursary Schemes Steering Group, Nov 2012

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Note that this includes £258,000 which has been redirected from the National Scholarship Programme to outreach activities following a reduction in matched funding by HEFCE. This is in accordance with HEFCE advice, which may be subject to change

- 6.5 Through this funding the collegiate University will undertake to:
  - increase the number of places offered on events with demonstrable impact, particularly summer schools, teachers events and higher education 'taster' days;
  - preserve the legacy of Aimhigher work as it relates to Cambridge through a programme of engagement with younger students in and around Cambridgeshire in partnership with local secondary schools, colleges and other higher education institutions in the region (including Anglia Ruskin University);
  - develop initiatives to engage with students in state schools across the UK to encourage them to choose appropriate subject combinations and make applications to selective higher education institutions;
  - continue to work closely with the University of Oxford on national outreach initiatives;
  - resource efforts to ensure that our PGCE intake reflects the undergraduate population from which we recruit, and to build better networks of graduate teachers to facilitate wider outreach activity. We have appointed a member of staff to take this work forward and to further develop our plans.
- 6.6 A number of our initiatives engage with younger age groups and consist of a series of sustained engagements over a number of years. For example, our work in Cambridgeshire and with looked-after children involves secondary school students of all ages, whilst our core programme for black, Asian and minority ethnicity students is delivered to each cohort over a three year period.
- 6.7 Such work will be focussed on suitably qualified students from under-represented or disadvantaged groups, or from schools and colleges with low rates of progression to Cambridge and other selective higher education institutions. Events will be monitored annually in order to determine outcomes as far as is practicable, and to develop our objectives (see Section 8).
- 6.8 The collegiate University already uses contextual data to support its outreach activity and admissions process<sup>19</sup>; for example, students from low participation backgrounds or whose education has been significantly disrupted or disadvantaged through health or personal problems, disability or difficulties with schooling are invited to draw their circumstances to the attention of the Colleges through the Extenuating Circumstances Form. The University will continue to conduct research into the factors affecting admission and the role which contextual data might usefully play in selection.

#### Retention

6.9 The collegiate University provides unusually individualised and intensive support to its students. Weekly supervisions and tutorials involve very small groups and all undergraduates have a Director of Studies in their College who closely manages their academic progress as well as a personal tutor to advise and support them on pastoral issues. College based support is complemented by lectures, seminars, and practical classes, organised by Faculties and Departments which are increasingly specialised in the later years of the course. Students benefit from high-quality College accommodation which is available to all undergraduates for at least three years of each course, and also from extensive medical and counselling support. All of this contributes to an unusually low dropout rate, but is delivered at significant cost. Retention rates will be kept under review as the University responds to the demands of an increasingly diverse student body.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> For further information see www.study.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/info/contextualdata.html

#### **Financial Support for Students**

- 6.10 The University is committed to the principle that no publicly-funded UK student should be deterred from applying to an undergraduate course at the University of Cambridge because of financial considerations, and that no such student should have to leave because of financial difficulties.
- 6.11 The University plans to give all UK undergraduate students in receipt of a full government maintenance grant (ie from households with an income of £25,000 or less) financial support of £3,500 per year (£5,600 for mature students<sup>20</sup>) in the form of a maintenance bursary.<sup>21</sup> Students in receipt of partial maintenance grants (ie from households with incomes of between £25,000 and £42,600) will be offered support of up to £3,500 on a tapering basis<sup>22</sup>. This support will cost approximately £7.1 million per annum by 2016-17. Students from elsewhere in the EU will be entitled to similar support subject to proper demonstration of equivalent household income.
- 6.12 In addition (subject to changes in government policy) we shall match-fund support provided under the National Scholarship Programme (NSP) to provide an additional fee waiver (of £6,000) for students in their first year of study who are both in receipt of full government maintenance grants and also from particularly disadvantaged backgrounds (for example, care leavers)<sup>23</sup>. This additional support will amount to approximately £0.9 million net of matched funding from the government in 2014-15<sup>24</sup>. We do not know the future of the NSP after that date, but have planned on the basis that our commitment to the scheme will remain at the same level thereafter, or that we will redirect funds at that level to access measures should the NSP discontinue.

Household Income	Support Package
Below £25,000 pa (Disadvantaged Groups)	A bursary of £3,500 per year, plus an additional fee waiver of £6,000 in the first year only.
Below £25,000 pa (Others)	A bursary of £3,500 per year.
Between £25,000 and £42,600	A bursary of up to £3,500 per year.

#### Figure 1: Summary of Undergraduate Financial Measures

- 6.13 The University will use the Higher Education Bursaries and Scholarships System (HEBSS) to inform the process of allocating fee waivers and maintenance bursaries.
- 6.14 The financial support package described above will be reviewed each year and may be subject to change from 2015-16 onwards to ensure that intended outcomes are achieved.
- 6.15 Almost all students admitted to the PGCE programme at Cambridge are entitled to training bursaries. The University will give all UK mature students<sup>25</sup> in receipt of a full government maintenance grant (ie from households with an income of £25,000 or less) financial support of £1,000 per year. Mature students in receipt of partial maintenance grants (ie from households with incomes of between

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Mature students for the purposes of financial support will be defined as (a) studying for a first degree, (b) 21 or over at the start of the course and (c) resident in Cambridge all year round

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Note that we will take into account any funding secured from other public sources (for example the NHS and funding made available from UK devolved administrations) when assessing eligibility and amounts to be awarded

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> We have chosen to link our provision to government support arrangements; this will be reviewed should these arrangements change significantly

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Such awards will be made by the University in compliance with additional eligibility criteria set by the government

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Assuming that the National Scholarship Programme continues in the form announced, until the effect of applying intended criteria is better known it may be difficult to offer exactly the planned number of awards in any given year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Mature students for the purposes of financial support will be defined as (a) 24 or over at the start of the course (ie they were 21 or over when they commenced their first degree or have returned to higher education after a break)

 $\pm$ 25,000 and  $\pm$ 42,600) will be offered support of up to  $\pm$ 1,000 on a tapering basis<sup>26</sup>. This support will cost approximately  $\pm$ 20,000 per annum. Students from elsewhere in the EU will be entitled to similar support subject to proper demonstration of equivalent household income.

#### 7. Targets and Milestones

- 7.1 The University will continue to encourage applications from well-qualified applicants from groups that are currently under-represented and to admit a greater proportion of them within the framework of our admission policy and without compromising entry standards. Experience demonstrates that outreach activity (particularly that focussed on younger age groups, as advocated in OFFA guidance) will not be reflected in the composition of the student population for some years.
- 7.2 The University recognises the value of HESA performance indicators and benchmarks, but notes that the benchmarks have severe limitations in a Cambridge context in that they take insufficient account of the University's entrance requirements, both in terms of subject combinations and levels of attainment.<sup>27</sup>
- 7.3 Guidance from the Office for Fair Access sets out three key areas to be addressed by Access Agreements. These are outreach, admissions and retention. Accordingly the University proposes to measure its progress against four corresponding targets:
  - to increase the proportion of UK resident students admitted from UK state sector schools and colleges so that they fall within a range of 61-63%;
  - to increase the proportion of UK resident students admitted from low participation neighbourhoods to approximately 4.0%;
  - to meet HESA benchmarks on retention;
  - to offer a commitment to the minimum number of places available on summer schools at the University.
- 7.4 The University has selected the four targets described above because they are measurable, do not rely on information which is unavailable (or inconsistently available) at the point of application, and are possible to influence without compromising either the principle of needs-blind admissions, or entry standards. We will nonetheless continue to consider such other data as is made available by UCAS and HESA and its usefulness in measuring our progress.

#### Proportion of Intake from State Schools

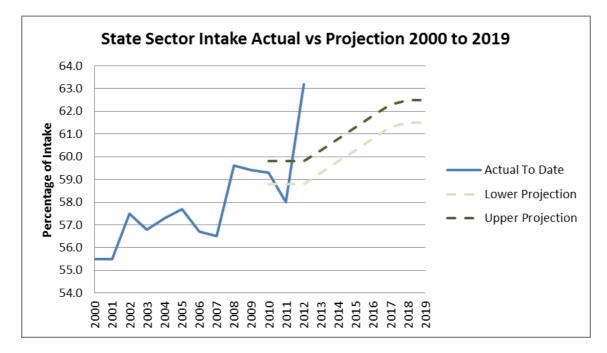
- 7.5 The University's principal objective is to increase the proportion of our UK undergraduate intake from schools in the UK state sector.
- 7.6 Research conducted by the University<sup>28</sup> suggests that the proportion of students nationally educated at state schools securing examination grades in subject combinations that reflect our entrance requirements and the achievement level of students admitted to Cambridge stands at around 62%. The University's objective therefore is to increase the proportion of those students admitted from the state school sector so that they fall within a range of 61-63% by 2016-17 and remain at that level thereafter. As noted at Section 2.6, government policy may have a bearing on this objective. Given the uncertainty regarding application trends in light of the new financial arrangements our minimum objective for 2012 entry was to maintain our existing intake profile; thereafter however we sought to make progress at an average rate of 0.7% pa (but taking into account the probability of year on year

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> We have chosen to link our provision to government support arrangements; this will be reviewed should these arrangements change significantly

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/research/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/research/

fluctuations). The graph below shows progress since 2000 and the upper and lower projections allowing for a 1.0% fluctuation either side of the planned position.



#### Proportion of Intake from Low Participation Neighbourhoods

7.7 Currently HESA performance indicators and other national datasets relating to socio-economic background do not take adequate account of the entry requirements of individual institutions. Whilst they take some account of attainment, they do not do so in sufficient detail for highly selective institutions such as Cambridge where the average candidate admitted has 2.5 A\* grades with specific subject entry requirements. For the present we have adjusted our HESA low participation neighbourhood benchmark in line with the results of our research in relation to state school entry and will use this as our target. We considered that to maintain the pre-2012 entry level would prove to be demanding in the first year, but we aimed to make annual progress thereafter (with allowance for statistical variation) to 4.0% by 2016-17.

#### Retention

7.8 The extensive support offered by the Cambridge collegiate system ensures that the University has one of the best rates of student retention in the sector (currently 98.4%<sup>29</sup>). Nonetheless, increased levels of fee debt present significant challenges that are difficult to predict. A secondary objective will therefore be to ensure that retention rates correspond at least to the HESA benchmark for non-continuation rates in the year following entry for full time first degree entrants. This benchmark is currently 1.9%<sup>30</sup>.

#### **Minimum Number of Places on Summer Schools**

7.9 Research has shown that summer schools are a particularly effective and measurable mechanism for improving access to higher education. The Sutton Trust reports that around 95% of students attending its summer schools (all of whom are from state sector schools and colleges with relatively low rates of progression to selective universities) go on to attend higher education<sup>31</sup>. The University's own data demonstrates proven success in relation to subsequent admission to Cambridge of summer school attendees over several admission cycles. The University will therefore continue to offer a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> HESA performance indicators 2009-10, www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=2064&Itemid=141 <sup>30</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> www.suttontrust.com/research/ten-year-review-of-sutton-trust-summer-schools/

minimum of 600 places per year on its programmes, making the Cambridge summer schools programme one of the largest and most ambitious in the UK.

#### 8. Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

- 8.1 The University will continue its policy of making admissions statistics publicly available, through its web-site. Those statistics include data on the number of applications and acceptances by school type, region, gender, ethnicity and socio-economic classification.
- 8.2 The University's adherence to this agreement and its progress in reaching the objectives indicated above will be monitored through the University's Undergraduate Admissions Committee (jointly chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) and the Secretary to the Colleges' Senior Tutors Committee) which report to the principal University and Collegiate bodies. The Committee will take advice from the Admissions Forum, the intercollegiate body charged with managing undergraduate admissions and delivering agreed targets and objectives. The Undergraduate Admissions Committee will annually review application, offer and admission trends, particularly in respect of currently underrepresented groups. It will also keep under review, and advise as necessary on the amendment of admissions and recruitment processes that have a bearing on securing a wide and diverse pool of well-qualified applicants. Each of these groups includes student representation.
- 8.3 The Cambridge bursary scheme, National Scholarship Programme and other financial support will be reviewed by the Undergraduate Admissions Committee through a specially tasked Cambridge Bursary Schemes Sub Group, which will monitor the operation and impact of schemes using annual reports and data analysis, and make recommendations as appropriate.
- 8.4 Scrutiny of outreach activities will be undertaken by the Outreach Steering Group (reporting to the Undergraduate Admissions Committee) which will co-ordinate and prioritise those activities and review their effectiveness. The success of outreach activities (aside from those which are web-based or of a general aspiration-raising nature) will be monitored through annual analyses of qualitative evaluation and attendee and application data. It will not be possible to routinely measure the wider benefit to the HE sector of Cambridge activity until measures are put in place at a national level to assist with quantitative evaluation. It is our intention to embed or grow those initiatives which make demonstrable progress towards their objectives.
- 8.5 The University has identified specific groups that may be particularly affected by the new financial arrangements and so has prepared an Equality Assurance Assessment in line with BIS guidance. The University will continue to consider any potential disproportionate or adverse impact on protected groups (as defined by the Equality Act 2010) periodically via the groups described above, and is currently drafting a further Equality Assurance Assessment in relation to its widening participation activities to ensure that it fulfils its legal obligations in this area. It should be noted that national data regarding several protected characteristics does not exist, and so no comparisons can be made in any such assessment.
- 8.6 Post-entry reviews will be undertaken by continued analyses of retention rates and examination performances of relevant groups in comparison with those of the overall cohorts.
- 8.7 We will continue to monitor the ease with which students make the transition from school to university on a subject-by-subject basis. The University has in recent years invested in a Transkills Project to assist with this transition<sup>32</sup>. The personal attention paid to the needs of students through the Colleges will continue to enable prompt resolution of any individual difficulties.

#### 9. **Provision of Information to Students**

9.1 The University will ensure that full details of its access measures including a detailed description of financial support arrangements are published in future editions of our Undergraduate Prospectus,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/education/transkills/index.html

finance guides and on the web<sup>33</sup>. Advice and information will continue to be given to students during school and college visits and at Higher Education fairs, conferences and open days.

9.2 We shall provide in a timely manner such information as the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and the Student Loans Company (SLC) reasonably require to populate their applicantfacing web services.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> See <u>www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/finance</u> and <u>www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/cambridgebursary</u>

# OFFA Access Agreement 2014/15 - Annexes B & C

Institution name: University of Cambridge Institution UKPRN: 10007788

## Table 5 - Milestones and targets

Table 5a - Statistical milestones and targets relating to your applicants, entrants or student body (e.g. HESA, UCAS or internal targets)

Number	Please select milestone/target type from the drop down menu	Description (500 characters maximum)	Is this a collaborative target?	Baseline year	Baseline data	Yearly milestones/targets (numeric where possible, however you may use text)						Commentary on your milestones/targets or textual description where
						2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	numerical description is not appropriate (500 characters maximum)
	State School (other measure - please	Proportion of UK undergraduate intake from schools in the UK state sector per admissions cycle	No	2010-11	59.3%	59.3%	59.9%	60.6%	61.3%	62%		Note that these figures are for each admission cycle rather than for year of entry We have provided the mid-point of the range we expect to be within here; however in any given year there may be statistical variation of +/- 1.0%. Figures will be as published in the Admissions Special Edition of the University Reporter
	LPN (HESA Table T1a)		No	2009-10		3.1%	3.3%	3.5%	3.7%	4%	4%	Note that as above there may be statistical variation of +/- 0.5% in any given year. Performance will be recorded as per HESA PIs. We will seek data throug HESA or otherwise to amend or update our target in relation to socio-economic background in a revised access agreement next year.
3	T3a)		No	2008-09	2.1%							We will at least meet the published HESA benchmark each year

# Table 5b - Other milestones and targets

Alongside applicant and entrant targets, we encourage you to provide targets around your outreach work (including collaborative outreach work where appropriate) or other initiatives to illustrate your progress towards increasing access. These should be measurable outcomes based targets and should focus on the number of pupils reached by a particular activity/programme, or number of schools worked with, and what the outcomes were, rather than simply recording the nature/number of activities.

Nun	Please select milestone/target type Description (500 characters Is this a collaborative Baseline				Basolino voar	Basolino data	-	estones/target	s (numeric whe	ere possible, h	owever you ma	Commentary on your milestones/targets or textual description where	
Null	ilber	from the drop down menu	maximum)	target?	Dasenne year	Daseine uata	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	numerical description is not appropriate (500 characters maximum)
	(	Outreach / WP activity (summer	Minimum number of places offered each										
	1	schools)	year	No	2010	400	600	600	600	600	600	600	Prior to 2012-13 places were funded entirely funded from philanthropic donation

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Optional commentary on milestones. This box is character-limited to 1000 characters; however, we are happy for you to upload additional 'supporting information' as a separate Word/pdf document.