

Affordable fees at London Met

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Today, the last day of consultation on the government's Higher Education White Paper, London Metropolitan University has reaffirmed that it is backing several of the Paper's proposals.

The White Paper's aim is to make the Higher Education sector more accountable to students, and more focussed on quality teaching. It also highlights the need for student charters and more student feedback.

Over the last year London Met has already made many changes in line with this ethos: it has completed a radical reworking of its undergraduate portfolio; it is working with students to develop a student charter; it is firmly focussed on providing quality teaching, and on upping the frequency and focus of feedback to students.

From 2012 new London Met students will gain six more weeks of timetabled teaching a year, with an average of 12 teaching hours per week across the institution.

The White Paper proposed that institutions with an average fee of less than £7,500 be able to bid for a further 20,000 student places. London Met's average fee is less than £7,000 for 2012/13.

London Met Vice-Chancellor, Professor Malcolm Gillies, comments: "Under this proposal, with London Met offering such affordable fees, we should be able to expand in areas where there is clear demand."

"London Met is firmly set on being the champion of affordable quality education that is accessible to the whole community."

"The University is adapting well to the many changes happening within the HE sector. We agree with the White Paper's proposal for undergraduate student numbers to be allocated on the basis of quality, value for money, and patterns of student demand."

"Sadly, the White Paper omits answers to important questions about the future of postgraduate study, supplementary funding for the sciences, institutional support for widening participation, or the apparently lost London weighting. But these issues are mostly flagged for future resolution."

Professor Gillies is available for interview upon request.

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Notes to editors:

The London Met Review of Undergraduate Education, completed in March 2011, arose from the University's challenges of recent years, and the need for it to return maximum value to its students in a more competitive environment. As a result, London Met consolidated its portfolio, cutting the number of separate undergraduate courses by 70 per cent, yet retaining most subject areas. A review of postgraduate education and research is now underway.

From 2012 London Met will be one of the most affordable universities in England, offering a range of fees starting at £4,500. In 2011 London Met received the highest possible result in the independent Quality Assurance Agency review, as well as its highest satisfaction rating yet in the National Student Survey.

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