

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## New directions at London Met

London Metropolitan University has announced a radical overhaul of undergraduate education. The London Met model, planning for which started one year ago, puts student value for money at the heart of its widespread changes.

This fundamental review of how, when, where and what is taught to London Met undergraduates arises from the University's challenges of recent years, and the necessity for the University to return maximal value to all its students in a much more competitive environment.

The review also looked at how the University's traditional access mission could be enhanced and student completion of courses – at the heart of the University's recent problems – be much improved.

A meeting of Academic Board on Thursday endorsed the findings of that review and also a slimmed-down portfolio of courses for 2012/13.

From 2012/13 students will mostly study year-long modules, and gain thirty weeks of timetabled teaching, a gain of six weeks on the current average. First-year studies will be more tightly organised, with an average number of twelve teaching hours per week. With this longer learning time, there will be more opportunity for development and guidance before students move to final examinations.

The University has already moved to develop new student learning zones, including a magnificent refurbished library at the Holloway Road campus. A recent Funding Council grant of £8 million also gives the opportunity for a radical improvement in technological support and student access to digital resources.

The University's commitment to students will be formalised in a Student Charter, with parallel development of a Staff Charter.

The University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Malcolm Gillies, comments: "Undergraduate studies at London Met in the future will be more tightly structured, with even more emphasis upon the learning needs of our students."

"After an excellent Quality Assurance Agency report, released today, we are working to turn good processes into even better student support. Our students have many needs, but, above all, they want the very best preparation for the world of work. Our new curriculum will do that by requiring employment training in the core part of each course."

The Academic Board also endorsed London Met's fee strategy for these new programmes in 2012/13. As already announced, it will offer courses to UK and European Union students at many price points across the range of £4,500 to £9,000.

The predicted average undergraduate fee will be £6,850. The University will also consolidate its portfolio through offering around 160 courses, in contrast to the 557 courses currently on its books, many with single-digit enrolments. There will be a transition to this new course offering in 2011/12.

Professor Gillies commented: “Our new curricular focus will help us to target our resources much more keenly. A more uniform cohort size also gives more equitable distribution of teaching effort.”

“The transition to this new curriculum will cause some pain, as we adjust to the new courses, but it underscores the University’s commitment both to quality education and social responsibility.”

**-Ends-**

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**Notes to editors:**

[www.londonmet.ac.uk](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk)

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