Part Two: Fee and Access Plan (required for publication)

Fee and Access Plan	
Name of institution	Wrexham University
Duration of the fee and access plan	1 August 2025 to 31 July 2027

Section 1 - Fee levels

Section 1.1 – Fee levels or the determination of a fee level at each location
(Guidance paragraphs 85-92)

The University will be determining the fee level for 2025/26 and 2026/27 in line with the requirements of the HE (Wales) 2015 Act regulations (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/1/contents/enacted). In doing this the University makes clear that:

- The fee level is calculated, recognising the maximum permitted, in line with the sector norm;
- Information on current and proposed fee levels can be found on the University's website (https://wrexham.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/)
- The fee levels are approved by the University's Board of Governors following recommendations made by the University's management team. The Board of Governors approves
    - the process of, and methodology for, determining fees;
    - The maximum fee that they are allowed to charge by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, and no more, being the fee that will be charged;
    - That any changes will be communicated clearly and as soon as possible to students and applicants;
    - If the University decides to change the Fee that it wished to charge after the Fee and Access Plan has been approved, authority to do this will be sought from the Chair of the Board of Governors in consultation with the Chair of the Strategy and Finance Committee.

All decisions relating to tuition fees will be taken in consultation with the Students' Union and will be communicated to any students and prospective students affected by any change

Section 1.2 - Aggregate fee levels
(Guidance paragraphs 98-101)

The University intends to charge the maximum fee level for full-time, undergraduate courses for 2025/26 and 2026/27, which is determined upon approval of this fee and access plan by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW). The proposed fee level will not exceed the maximum amount permitted.

The maximum fee level is currently £9,535. Tuition fees may increase annually for all students (Home undergraduate fees, whose rates are regulated by the UK and Welsh Government, will be amended in line with any alteration advised by the Welsh Government). The fees stated are for your first year only. For subsequent years, for continuing students studying in Wales, fees may increase year on year by inflation in each academic year of study except where regulated. The Fee for 2025/26 has currently been set at £9,535. Any amendment to these will be communicated to students and prospective students.

The University, in response to changes in the maximum fee allowed by Welsh Government, reserves the right to change fee levels post Fee and Access Plan submission. Any changes in Fee levels would have to be agreed by HEFCW and would be communicated to students, using the means outlined below. Changes in fee levels could impact on the full range of provision which is outlined within this Plan, which currently is based upon an assumption of a maximum fee level of £9,535.

For those students studying at Barking and Dagenham on the BA Business programme the fee for 2025/26 is £6,000 per student per annum.

For students who enrolled in previous years, the University will honour the commitments made in the Fee and Access Plan corresponding to their year of entry.

We will continue to use the Wrexham University website as the primary focus of all fee and student support information, as well as a range of digital media and communications. Comprehensive details of all fees and student support arrangements will be made available as early as possible to aid student decision making. The University provides clear statements on its website in a specific section on all fees and funding for relevant years (https://wrexham.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/) and will publish the fee and access plan as soon as it is approved by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) as well as more detailed fees for all students for 2025/26 and 2026/27. Fee regulations and information provided covers routes of entry and all subjects and we will be careful to include consideration of specific issues such as arrangements for students transferring in from other institutions, deferring study or transferring from full-time to part-time, and being explicit that the fee includes all aspects of the course needed to complete successfully.

In providing information to prospective students the University will act in accordance with the Consumer & Markets Authority Guidance 2015 to ensure that prospective students will be provided with the information they need to make an informed decision before they apply. Therefore in addition to information on tuition fees prospective students will be provided with details of any additional items such as field trips, lab equipment or bench/studio fees (where any are applicable) that are necessary to successfully complete their qualifications. We will also provide prospective students, in their offer letter, with web links to our terms and conditions, including any rules and regulations that students are bound by, and information on course content

and structure. Students who make an application and are offered a place will be provided with a comprehensive range of clear, succinct and timely information about their courses, timetables, assessments, fees, regulations, support systems, campus developments and any changes made to them.

Section 2 - Student Partnership

(Guidance paragraphs 102-105)

Student involvement in creating this Plan has been direct and formal and indirect and informal, the latter becoming more valuable, important and comprehensive each year. The direct and formal involvement has been through the engagement of the Students' Union and its Sabbatical Officers, not only as contributory members on the different groups that consider and review the Plans but also with the Planning and Reporting Team directly, who lead on drawing together the Fee and Access Plans. Opportunity to consider the Plans is also used through the regular one-to-one meetings held between the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the SU President.

Close working in partnership with the student body is an integral part of the University's approach to all areas of strategy, policy and practice of the student experience, and the 2019 QER Outcome report affirmed the effective working with students in the "*co-development, management and evaluation of their student experience*". This partnership approach is embodied in the extensive and thorough routes for student feedback and engagement where ensuring that action is taken to "close the feedback loop" is critical. The University outlines the value, purpose and means for such within its Student Engagement Policy and Framework, a documented process co-created with the Students' Union, and this informs the Fee and Access Plan.

Examples of the feedback routes are:

- The inclusion of a specific "Students as a Partner" strand in the Strategy for Supporting Student Learning and Achievement
- The Student Voice Fora (SVF) are effective and comprehensive across programme areas;
- The SU feedback routes of "Unitu" to provide feedback on academic and operational areas and as an signposting resource, and with reporting on student feedback and actions taken at the Learning and Teaching Quality Committee;
- Student representation training (that has received national award) led by the Students' Union and the advocacy module for student representatives.
- Regular formal meetings of the Students' Union and Executive members, as well as involvement of sabbatical officers in key groups such as the Board of Governors, senior management team, LTQC, Academic Board and the Widening Access Committee ;
- Student representation is included on validation and approval events

Such engagement and feedback is used to inform the development and implementation of the Strategy for Supporting Student Learning and Achievement, Widening Access Strategy and other key areas. This is then includes the whole of the Fee and Access Plan, which is a principal means of outlining the University's intent and actions with regard to promotion of higher education and equality of opportunity, and as such informs all aspects including objectives, activities/services and the under-represented groups. This student voice is more formally represented through the active involvement of sabbatical officers on a range of key management and operational groups and committees.

Also involved in development of the Plan are those in the University responsible for working with prospective students, and a part of their input into the Plan is informed by the views of prospective students who provide feedback and comment at a range of events and activities that the University is involved in running, and this includes those involved in Reaching Wider activities. More formally, the University's Fee and Access Plan has also been considered and reviewed by colleagues in the Reaching Wider Partnership team, who are also represented on the Widening access Committee (the body responsible for developing and monitoring the Plan).

All the above is used by the Planning and Reporting Team in drafting the Plan, which is then again shared with the student body through the formal routes. Given the breadth and strength of the feedback processes, we are able to inform all aspects of the Plan: what do we intend to achieve; who we look to support, what we seek to do to achieve our objectives, for example. Co-delivery of services is also an important part of the provision, with the Student Advocacy Modules a good example as well as where the University works with the Students' Union on resolving student issues quickly that might otherwise become more complex and drawn out if they became more formal complaints.

Section 3 - Under-represented groups
(Guidance paragraphs 106-116)

The University aims at supporting all into higher education, and the Fee and Access Plan has been developed to address specific groups who are, on a national basis, under-represented in higher education. These align to the target groups of HEFCW and Reaching Wider, and are identified as:

- Those groups identified by HEFCW as under-represented in higher education
    - Those from disadvantaged areas in Wales (as identified within the WIMD bottom two quintiles)
    - Part-time degree students;
    - Students studying though the medium of Welsh
    - Those from low participation areas of the UK (POLAR)
- Those supported through the either the institutional contribution to the Reaching Wider Programme or as part of the North Wales Reaching Wider Partnership;
    - Those from disadvantaged areas in Wales (as identified within the WIMD bottom two quintiles) (as above) particularly young people and those over 21 without level 4 qualifications
    - Those of any age that are care leavers or care experienced and those acting as carers
- Those groups identified by the institution as under-represented in HE:
    - Students with disabilities;
    - Mature students
    - Females in STEM

- Students identified as BAME

Section 4 – Objectives as they relate to supporting equality of opportunity and the promotion of HE
(Guidance paragraphs 117-135)

Section 4.1 - Equality of Opportunity

Objective 1

Promote and Widen Access to Higher Education for under-represented groups

Objective 2

Provide academic and welfare support to under-represented groups to improve their experience of higher education and their retention and completion in particular

Objective 3

Develop and promote an inclusive academic and student community

Objective 4

Expand our Welsh Medium academic provision

Section 4.2 - Promotion of higher education
Objective 5 Provide an excellent student experience
Objective 6 Strengthening community engagement and alignment with The Well-being of Future Generations Act
Objective 7 Assure graduate employability

Authorisation of the fee and access plan application to HEFCW (required for publication)

In authorising fee and access plan applications, the governing body:

i. confirms that it continues to be an institution that provides higher education in Wales and is a charity;

ii. has seen and considered appropriate evidence to support the declarations being made in this application;

iii. confirms that there has been appropriate consultation with its students, both those studying at the institution and at other providers where education is delivered on its behalf;

iv. confirms that the information provided in this fee and access plan application is accurate and current, at the time of writing, and is based on verifiable data;

v. confirms that:
   a. it is acceptable for HEFCW to use financial, quality and/or other information/data that it holds about a currently regulated institution, regardless of whether the information/data was originally provided for purposes of regulation under the 2015 Act;

vi. understands that HEFCW reserves the right to undertake a visit to the institution to better understand eligibility related to the organisation and management of financial affairs, the data submitted on fee and access plans and/or the quality of education provided on, or on behalf of, the institution;

vii. understands that it must provide HEFCW and/or HEFCW's agent, with information, assistance and access to its facilities and the facilities of other bodies providing higher education on its behalf;

viii. understands that HEFCW may carry out, or arrange for an agent to carry out, a review relating to the quality of education provided by, or on behalf of the institution, and its governing body must take into account any advice given to it by HEFCW or the body appointed by HEFCW for this purpose;

ix. confirms that <u>all</u> education provided by, or on its behalf, regardless of the level or location of the provision has been taken into account in this fee and access plan application;

x. confirms that the institution is at a low risk of failure on financial grounds over the medium-to long- term;

xi. confirms that the accounts are audited each year by a registered auditor and that the registered auditor is not the same firm and/or individual that prepared the accounts;

xii. confirms that the institution complies with Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) guidelines for higher education;

xiii. understands that any financial commitments to students made in the fee and access plan, as approved by HEFCW, must be honoured;

xiv. confirms that it will continue to invest the same proportion of full-time undergraduate fee income to promote equality of opportunity and promote higher education and not reduce invest to promote equality of opportunity which is intended to support only under-represented in higher education;

xv. confirms that it will continue to invest its institutional contribution to the Reaching Wider Programme aligned to its agreed Reaching Wider Strategy and Implementation Plan;

xvi. confirms that it will maintain student support levels;

xvii. confirms that the institution will ensure that a copy of the fee and access plan can be made accessible to its students in any format;

xviii. confirms that the institution will clearly signpost its students to HEFCW's complaints processes;

xix. take all reasonable steps to supporting under-represented groups that are studying for postgraduate courses;

xx. considers how investment can best support students most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic where they are not already identified as under-represented groups; and

xxi. gives due consideration to any guidance published by the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research as it discharges its duties in relation to the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Act 2022, particularly in relation to learner protection, learner engagement, equality of opportunity, and the support and promotion of the welfare of its students and staff.

Fee and access plan application submission to HEFCW[1]

[1] Fee and access plans published on the institution's websites must only include versions approved by HEFCW.

Date of Governing Body approval:	17/05/2024
Governing Body authorised signature:	Dr Leigh Griffin, Chair of the Board
Date:	20/05/2024
Final fee and access plan submission once HEFCW has confirmed it has no further issues (where applicable)	
Date of Governing Body approval:	
Governing Body authorised signature:	
Date:	