

The Glasgow School of Art
Response to Scottish Executive Consultation on the Future Level of Tuition Fees
May 2005

Overview

In general the Glasgow School of Art recognises the need to ensure that Scottish students are not disadvantaged by the introduction of higher fees in England and the resultant increased competition for Scottish higher education places from English students. We feel nervous, however, about introducing a differential fees system which, whilst protecting Scottish domiciled students, could potentially discriminate against less advantaged families in other parts of the United Kingdom, thereby adversely affecting the intake of Scottish institutions.

Summary of Questions

General Tuition Fees

Do you agree with the principles on which the general fee level should be based?

Yes

At what level should general tuition fees be set for 2006-7?

The paper acknowledges that the UK Higher Education market is likely to be volatile because of the increases in tuition fees in England from academic year 2006-7.

It may be more sensible, therefore, to assess the impact of increased fees in England on Scottish intake in 2006-7 before deciding what action is necessary. Any change in Scotland would, then, take effect from 2007-8 at the earliest.

If any general increase to fee level in Scotland does take place, we believe that

- it should be at the lower end of the proposed increase
- provision should be made for students from less well off families in other parts of the UK to receive bursary support equivalent in value to the bursaries which would be available to them in their own countries.

Self funded Scottish domiciled students

Should any self funded Scottish or non-UK EU domiciled students be protected from the increased level of tuition fee?

Yes.

If you agree, which categories of Scottish and non UK EU domiciled students should be protected from the increased level of tuition fee?

All Scottish and non UK EU domiciled full time first degree and Higher National students should be protected and entitled to partial tuition fee remission equal to the difference between the current fee level and the new level.

Medical Tuition Fees

Not applicable

Implications for Further Education

Do you agree that the Executive should retain current tuition fee levels for Higher Nationals?

The fee changes in England will affect HN programmes in the same way as degrees. Any changes in fee arrangements, therefore, should apply to both.

Transitional Arrangements

Do you agree that gap year students should be treated as having entered HE in 2005-6 i.e. prior to the planned changes taking effect?

Yes but bearing in mind the suggestion that an increase in general fee level does not happen in 2006-7.