															Ī	INANCIA	AL SUPPOR	T BY INSTI	TUTION
Rank Institution	Actual amount of additional fee income spent on additional outreach (£000)	Actual amount of additional fee income spent on financial support for lower income students (£000)	Predicted proportion of additional fee income spent on financial support for lower income students (%)	Actual proportion of additional fee income spent on financial support for lower income students (%)	Rank Institution	Actual amount of additional fee income spent on additional outreach (£000)	Actual amount of additional fee income spent on financial support for lower income students (£000)	Predicted proportion of additional fee income spent on financial support for lower income students (%)	Actual proportion of additional fee income spent on financial support for lower income students (%)	Rank Institution	Actual amount of additional fee income spent on additional outreach (£000)	Actual amount of additional fee income spent on financial support for lower income students (£000)	Predicted proportion of additional fee income spent on financial support for lower income students (%)	Actual proportion of additional fee income spent on financial support for lower income students (%)	Rank	Actual amount of additional fee income spent on additional outreach (£000)	Actual amount of additional fee income spent on financial support for lower income students (£000)	Predicted proportion of additional fee income spent on financial support for lower income students (%)	Actual proportion of additional fee income spent on financial support for lower income students (%)
1 St Martin's College	137	1,100	43.8	48.4	32 Staffordshire University	225	1,223	31.7	24.9	62 University of Sunderland	611	752	17.5	18.9	97 Birmingham City University	56	645	10.8	13.4
2 University of Central Lancashire	278	3,119	69.4		33 University of Derby	250	931	27.8		64 University of Huddersfield	0	1,122	27.5	18.7		313	1,216	12.6	13.1
3 University of Bedfordshire	250	1,359	38.0		34 Thames Valley University	82	662	45.4		65 London Metropolitan University	69	1,353	38.3	18.6	, ,	170	633	21.1	13.0
4 University of Lincoln	630	1,937	14.7		35 Oxford Brookes University	396	1,022	37.5		66 University of Bristol	250	935	22.7	18.4	· ·	272	628	24.4	13.0
5 University College London	333	1,609	26.7		36 University of Winchester	39	481	25.3		66 University of Kent	300	887	25.6		101 University of Westminster	719	783	14.9	12.7
6 University of Teesside	584	1,375	31.0		37 Liverpool Hope University	100	834	34.4		68 Manchester Metropolitan					102 Institute of Education,				
7 University of Hertfordshire	43	2,812	39.4	37.6	37 University of Nottingham	0	1,786	30.7		University	500	2,137	29.7	17.9	University of London	123	257	9.0	12.1
8 Buckinghamshire New University	70	731	38.3		39 University of Hull	50	1,129	24.3		68 University of Gloucestershire	143	554	22.1	17.9	•				
9 University of Oxford	417	1,876	40.4		40 Southampton Solent University	512	840	33.1		70 University of Lancaster	172	699	17.8	17.6		84	25	22.5	12.0
10 Newman College of Higher		, , ,			41 Sheffield Hallam University	530	1,958	20.0		71 Royal Holloway, University of					104 University of Salford	200	663	13.8	11.8
Education	42	455	35.6	35.0	42 University of Reading	224	978	27.7		London	146	401	20.2	17.5	105 Dartington College of Arts	0	31	42.6	11.7
11 Edge Hill University	646	1,270	39.7	34.9	43 Northumbria University,					72 University of Bradford	0	537	29.6			86	329	16.3	11.5
12 Royal Academy of Music	12	35	39.3		Newcastle	0	1,444	19.0	22.2	73 University of Surrey	100	430	21.6	17.2	,				
13 Bishop Grosseteste University					44 University of Northampton	0	435	32.1		74 University of York	110	655	19.2	17.1	Studies	27	111	17.7	11.1
College Lincoln	29	250	38.9	33.1	45 University of Brighton	150	1,268	20.8		74 University of Exeter	30	916	21.8	17.1	108 Leeds Trinity & All Saints	39	84	11.8	9.9
14 University College Plymouth					45 University of Chichester	52	420	30.0		76 Leeds College of Music	22	42	23.2	16.6	108 University of the Arts London	160	545	11.8	9.9
St Mark & St John	23	351	32.5	31.9	45 Goldsmiths College, University					76 University of Warwick	548	784	33.7		108 Norwich School of Art & Design	0	58	31.1	9.9
15 Queen Mary, University of					of London	24	656	29.0	21.8	78 University of Wolverhampton	0	956	42.2			168	330	20.8	9.3
London	0	1,403	27.8	31.2	48 King's College London	0	897	24.2		79 University of Bolton	28	326	29.6	16.0	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
16 Imperial College London	67	840	29.3	31.1	49 Nottingham Trent University	253	1,644	27.9		80 Newcastle University	1,197	1,036	20.5	15.9	Creative Arts	190	211	11.5	7.9
17 University of East London	76	1,740	11.5	30.3	50 Harper Adams University College	0	130	15.9		81 University of Leeds	100	1,500	23.1	15.8	113 Liverpool Institute for				
17 York St John University	26	441	28.1		51 Conservatoire for Dance and					82 The Arts Institute at					Performing Arts	34	25	10.4	7.7
19 Anglia Ruskin University	230	1,192	7.8		Drama	0	148	24.4	20.4	Bournemouth	0	164	20.0	15.5	114 Ravensbourne College of Design				
20 Liverpool John Moores University	296	2,250	28.5		52 University of Bath	128	731	20.8		82 Roehampton University	85	577	13.1	15.5	and Communication	78	40	20.7	7.5
21 University of Manchester	400	2,699	25.5		53 Aston University	0	571	20.3		84 University College Falmouth	9	159	21.7	15.4	115 Rose Bruford College	66	29	10.5	7.3
22 Coventry University	168	1,250	38.5		54 University of Leicester	120	823	16.9		85 University of Portsmouth	413	983	21.3		-	46	20	16.7	7.2
23 Bath Spa University	57	855	14.7		55 St Mary's College	69	399	38.1		85 University of Worcester	101	351	24.4		•	86	185	24.1	6.6
24 Bournemouth University	94	1,224	27.1	27.5	55 Birmingham College of Food,					87 Kingston University	100	1,179	21.6	15.1	118 Royal College of Music	8	7	13.1	5.8
25 University of Durham	131	1,448	21.8	27.1	Tourism and Creative Studies	256	242	30.7	19.6	88 University of Sheffield	558	970	14.5		118 Middlesex University	360	422	10.0	5.8
26 University of Liverpool	282	1,410	30.0	26.8	55 University of Sussex	167	644	15.7	19.6	89 De Montfort University	319	1,143	21.5	14.8	120 Central School of Speech and				
27 London School of Economics					58 Canterbury Christ Church					89 London South Bank University	110	472	20.0	14.8		29	17	20.0	4.5
and Political Science	189	330	25.5	26.1	University	15	711	29.2	19.5	91 School of Pharmacy	0	35	20.6		121 Writtle College	47	9	10.0	2.6
27 Royal Veterinary College	17	142	27.7		59 University of Cambridge	0	1,300	26.5		91 Royal Northern College of Music	18	37	20.0		122 Leeds Metropolitan University	300	43	0.0	1.3
29 University of the West of					59 St George's Hospital Medical					93 University of Southampton	100	848	18.8	14.3	123 The Open University	0	0	0.0	0.0
England, Bristol	1,160	1,974	29.2	25.5	School	0	114	11.5	19.4	94 Loughborough University	208	704	19.1	13.8					
30 Cumbria Institute of the Arts	48	127	51.4		61 City University, London	113	446	16.9		95 Royal Agricultural College	49	35	16.7	13.7	Annex E Amount of additional fee	20,674	95,837		21.40
31 University of Chester	0	915	20.0	25.3	62 University of Birmingham	131	1,416	22.5	18.9	96 Courtauld Institute of Art	0	12	26.7	13.6	income spent on additional outreach		Times Highe	er ranking based on fig	igures from Offa

additional fee income on financial support.

"We thought that our bursary offer to our students was virtually the most generous in the country," says vice-chancellor Les Ebdon. "We are a widening participation university. We're proud to be that. We carry more of the burden. We wish we were recognised for it." He said a national bursary system would help cover costs.

But Ebdon admitted Bedfordshire too had a problem with student take-up. He put this down to the profile of his university, which caters for a high proportion of students from poorer backgrounds.

"The middle class are better at claiming their benefits than anybody else," he says.

The Offa report acknowledges that it had been difficult for institutions to make the early estimations about spending on widening participation, both in terms of outreach work and student support.

Three new universities, Leeds Metropolitan, Greenwich and Middlesex, also appear near

the bottom of the table though in two of the cases there are specific reasons for this.

Leeds Metropolitan spent only 1.3 per cent of its new income to provide bursaries. It predicted it would not have to use additional fee income for bursaries at all. This is because the university discounts all fees, charging students £2,000 instead of £3,000.

"Some people have referred to our reduced fees as a bursary for everyone. It is also worth remembering that bursary schemes can be costly to administer," a spokeswoman for Leeds Metropolitan says.

Greenwich predicted that it would spend 24.1 per cent of additional fee income on bursaries, but it spent just 6.6 per cent of its additional income on student aid, which, on the face of it, puts it among the lowest spending universities in the country. However, a spokesman said this was because it had charged tuition fees of just £2,500 in 2006-07.

If most of your intake is working class you're going to give out more money. That needs to be acknowledged on a national level. It will affect tuition if you're not careful

"The data provided by Offa does not compare like with like," says the spokesman. "If we treated the fee reduction of £500 as a bursary, the percentage of additional fee income spent on helping disadvantaged students would be in the order of 35 per cent.

"Even without taking the reduced fees into consideration, the amount of bursaries and support funds available to our students stands at 24.1 per cent – our estimated bursary expenditure figure.

"The take-up in 2006-07 was 6.6 per cent and we are therefore taking additional steps to ensure that students access the discretionary funds available to them."

Middlesex gives no explanation for the low take-up of its bursaries, but issued a statement saying "the reason Middlesex is spending less than expected of increased fee income on bursaries is partly, we believe, because we overestimated the number of eligible students. All Middlesex students who applied for

bursaries and met the criteria got them last year."

David Barrett, assistant director of Offa, says: "Any university which has a lower than full fee would argue that is just as valid in terms of financial support as charging a full fee then offering a bursary."

The Offa report claims that the main reason for the sector-wide underspend was an overestimation of the number of students who would qualify for financial support. The Offa report shows that up to 12,000 students on full state support who were eligible for a bursary failed to claim one. That is a failure rate of up to 15 per cent, enough to raise serious questions over the effectiveness of widening participation programmes.

Concerns over effectiveness are compounded by the £1.7 billion spent by the Higher Education Funding Council for England since 2004 on widening participation including money for its AimHigher initiative.

While admirable in their intentions,

initiatives like AimHigher have spanned a period in which the numbers of students from lower socio-economic backgrounds have dropped. Figures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service show that in 2005, before variable top-up fees were introduced, 89,050 Ucas applicants from lower socio-economic backgrounds applied and were accepted into university. This dropped by 1.24 per cent to 87,946 in 2007.

Some of the reason for the 12,000 who failed to receive a bursary is due to the system of means-testing. Local education authorities carry out means-testing for the Student Loans Company, which uses this information to calculate eligibility for state grant. Each student is asked to tick a box which allows the SLC to share the means-testing information with their university or college. This information is used by many institutions to award bursaries.

But, according to data provided by the SLC,

32 Times Higher Education 24 January 2008