

## Changes in regulations relating to certain scholarship agreements

PRAC/1

Planning and Resource Allocation Committee

Approved at the meeting on 2 July 2019

**Section 5 Regulations relating to the fees for certain scholarship and exchange agreements**

**To provide for greater flexibility in the arrangements for Reach Oxford and related scholarships**

### Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2018, Regulations on Financial Matters*, at <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/ai-ronfinamatt/>

**With immediate effect**

### Detail of change

1. Amend citation reference 1.97 – 1.101 as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

#### **‘§5. Regulations relating to the fees for certain scholarship and exchange agreements**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of §1 above, the University shall remit 45% of the prescribed fees payable by any ~~overseas~~ student who establishes, by information certified to the Director of Finance by an officer of the student's college or society, that a proportion (agreed between the college and Junior Members), ~~at least half of the cost of~~ the student's maintenance (as distinct from fees), as determined by Student Fees and Funding in the relevant year, has been provided by resident Junior Members of the University (otherwise than from funds of common rooms contributed directly or indirectly by grant-paying authorities in payment of membership fees); provided that:

(a) the number of students whose fees are remitted under this clause shall not in any one year exceed thirty-five and that any arrangements required for determining the allocation between colleges or other societies of the benefits available under this clause shall be subject to approval from time to time by Council's Education Committee.

(b) the student's college or society shall remit 55% of the prescribed fees, and shall also arrange to cover ~~meet~~ the balance of the cost of the student's maintenance, as determined by Student Fees and Funding, that is not covered by the Junior Members; and

(c) the criteria for and selection of students benefiting from these provisions shall be administered through the Reach Oxford Scholarship, or other scheme designated as eligible by Council's Education Committee.

2. Council's Education Committee shall have power to approve exchange arrangements with other universities under which no fees are payable on either side. Any of the fees prescribed in §1 or §2 above, which would otherwise have been payable by any person working in Oxford under those exchange arrangements shall be remitted.'

### Explanatory Notes

The Regulations relating to the fees for certain scholarship and exchange agreements currently provides for the Reach Oxford Scholarship scheme. This scheme enables undergraduates from

low income countries to attend Oxford who would otherwise be unable to study in their own country for political or financial reasons.

There are a small number of additional student groups for whom the broad objectives of the Reach Oxford scheme would also apply, such as students with complex immigration statuses, refugees, and asylum seekers, who are currently unable to take up places for financial reasons.

The present changes amend the existing regulation to provide institutional scope for a more flexible approach, with the aim of making it possible to support up to the maximum of 35 deserving students at any one time currently provided for under the regulation. The changes consist of the following.

- (a) While requiring the continuation of contributions to maintenance costs from junior members of colleges/societies, the current stipulation that they must provide at least half the cost of a student's maintenance is changed so as no longer to specify a minimum required level; instead, they would need to provide a proportion of the total, this proportion to be subject to agreement by the college concerned. This will give greater flexibility to colleges about how often they could support scholars under this regulation, and also enable them to create funding packages for maintenance costs that can draw on donor support or contributions from external funders as well as using their own funds.
- (b) The reference to 'overseas' students is removed so that, in exceptional cases, those with Home fee status can also be aided.
- (c) The change enables similar schemes, as agreed by Education Committee in due course, to be covered by the regulation.