

**Institutions in attendance:**

Edge Hill University (6)

Future U (2)

Lancaster University (5)

Liverpool Hope University (3)

Manchester Metropolitan University (5)

University of Central Lancashire (11)

University of Chester (1)

University of Cumbria (2)

University of Liverpool (6)

University of Manchester (2)

University of Salford (8)

Other (1)

**Total attendees: 50**

The session notes below were written and compiled by a variety of reporters, therefore some formatting differences may be present.

1. **How to get the most from your Student Ambassador scheme.** *Delivered by Caitlin McEllenborough, Education Liaison Officer & Jo Mckenna, Student Success Officer, Edge Hill University.*
2. **Peer to Peer - Personal Development Session** *Delivered by NW & NI Committee.*
3. **Student Finance Update.** *Delivered by Stephen Jones, Student Loans Company.*

# How to get the most from your Student Ambassador scheme.

*Delivered by Caitlin McEllenborough, Education Liaison Officer & Jo Mckenna, Student Success Officer, Edge Hill University.*

## Discussion

- Session started with a discussion about how we get the most from our own Student Staff.

## Student Advisory Panels

- Platform for students to give feedback and opinions to shape university services and ensure they're inclusive to the needs of everyone.
- There are 11 fixed panels which students from intersectional key APP target groups can attend.
- Found that when intersectional panel groups met, students were less likely to attend their individual panel.
- Recruitment includes online application form and an interview process.
- 2-hour compulsory training for panel members.
- Incentives include pay, opportunity to make real change, other work opportunities, and improving sense of belonging.
- Impact includes developing a Race, Ethnicity and Religion staff training toolkit, supporting planning of WP on-course/access support programmes, reviewing Black History Month Celebrations and taking part in a listening workshop with Pro-Vice Chancellor around the experiences of Care Leaver, Care Experienced and Estranged Students.

## Utilising students for Recruitment

- Two types of role at Edge Hill – Student Guides and Student Ambassadors.
- Student Guides are co-ordinated by one person, involves application, group interview and training .
- Examples of Student Guide work are open days, taster days, packing work
- Student Guides can apply to be Student Ambassadors.
- Ambassadors are co-ordinated by multiple people.
- Ambassador role involves application, interview and training.
- Work for Ambassadors includes UCAS events, Mock Interviews, attending School talks alone.
- All work opportunities are advertised through HEAT.
- Incentives include pay, thanks in form of vouchers, socials, positive feedback on HEAT profiles, termly refresher training, graduation gift.
- There is a disciplinary procedure – 3 strikes.
- Work with Careers to give feedback on unsuccessful applications.

## Reflection

- Discussion took place – what could you implement from this presentation at your institution?

## Q&A

**Comment:** The ambassador refresher training is a good idea.

**Reply:** We find that ambassadors often don't sign up to events because of a lack of confidence/they've forgotten what they learnt in training, so the refreshers work.

**Q:** Is the refresher training paid?

**A:** Yes, it's an hour long and paid.

**Q:** What's attendance like at the refresher training?

**A:** About 10 – 15 ambassadors each term.

- End -

## Peer to Peer - Personal Development Session

*For the nature of confidentiality these minutes have only been circulated to delegates who attended the September meeting.*

## Student Finance update

*Delivered by Stephen Jones, Student Loans Company*

This session aimed to provide a high-level overview of LLE.

Note: new government affecting decisions made around policy for student finance. We know there will be some changes.

Stephen Jones delivering the session, provides IAG to staff in HE so we can pass this on to prospective students at events.

### Overview Messages

- LLE will transform the post-18 **undergraduate** student finance system in England
- Current finance provision since around 2012 is good for 17-19 year old's but not a whole lot else (mature students, postgraduate, retraining/upskilling)
- LLE will provide new eligible learners with a tuition fee loan entitlement to the equivalent of four years post-18 education funding to use up to the age of 60
- Additional funding for longer courses (Scotland 4yrs is the standard, medicine, dentistry, architecture)
- Equates to £37,000 in today's fees

### September 2025 TBC

- Learners will start to apply for LLE for first courses/modules starting from January 2026. The cohort is smaller than if it was September 2025.

- This could be through a full-time degree, individual modules, or other courses such as HTQs (L4)

### **General Funding Entitlement**

- Four years of post-18 education, £37,000 in today's fees
- Government will be offering this entitlement to both new and returning students (e.g. if you have previously done a 3-year UG degree, you would have another £9250 available)
- Students could therefore study modules that add up to a modular degree. Returning students have access to a residual entitlement.
- Additional entitlement for priority subjects and longer courses
- Eligibility criteria will track existing HE student finance nationality and residency rules.
- LLE tuition fee loans available to eligible students up to the age of 60. Students over 60 may still qualify for maintenance support, but not a tuition fee loan

### **Tuition Fees and Fee Loan**

- 480 credits = £37,000
- This is based on today's limit of £9250 per year. This means that students could use their £37,000 to pay for more than 480 credits of learning
- Tuition fee limits will be based on credits.

### **Maintenance Support**

- Maintenance support will be available to eligible students across all L4-L6 technical and part-time courses (HTQ's). Levels the playing field financially.
- DSA and Childcare Grant will also be available for all designated courses and modules that require in-person attendance
- Maximum amount of maintenance loan available will broadly remain the same as the current criteria
- TBC: How will the payment work for 30 credit courses? Currently is a 3-part payment plan in each term.
- DSA and Carers Allowance different for online and distance learning courses

### **General Terms**

- Repayments of loans taken under LLE will still follow the plan 5 student loan terms and conditions
- Once a borrower earns more than £25,000 a year. Amount repaid is 9%.

### **Alternative Student Finance**

- Faith or conscience can mean some people feel unable to access existing student loans. E.g. Muslims faith prohibits engagement with interest
- Government has committed to introducing an ASF product with an alternative to interest payments as part of the wider LLE programme
- Students will apply for an alternative payment for both their tuition fee and living cost support.
- Students will still apply for ASF support via Student Finance England

### **LLE: Removing Restrictions**

- Previous study is no longer an issue. It is ultimately based on how much you have left of your entitlement
- Equivalent Level Qualification (ELQ) restrictions. E.g. If you have a HND and would want to do another HND, you would now be able to do this as long as you have enough entitlement remaining for the course.
- This focuses on the retrain section of what LLE is designed to do

### **Residual Entitlement**

- Standard students that have done a 3 year UG degree would have 1 year (£9250) remaining
- Older people that have never been through HE would have 4 years entitlement available to them up to the age of 60

### **Courses before 2012**

- Learners who accessed student finance before September 2012 will be deducted based on how many years they studied for.
- Fees were much smaller before 2012.
- Tuition fees calculated as £9250 a year

### **Example Learner Journey**

- A student that completed a 3-year UG degree that is then struggling with a career path could do a 1-year HTQ in a different area to help them upskill and retrain

### **Learner Information and Guidance**

- Lots of useful resources on student finance webpages
- [www.heinfo.slc.co.uk/lle/lifelong-learning-entitlement](http://www.heinfo.slc.co.uk/lle/lifelong-learning-entitlement)
- Introduction to LLE, LLE resources, LLE FAQ section, covering general policy, course designation and previous study.

### **Questions and Answers**

- After a 3-year degree, you would also be eligible for another year of maintenance loan, as well as the tuition fees.
- English students who apply to universities in Wales/Scotland would not be able to access the modular element of LLE, they would just be able to apply for a standard course.
- Welsh/Scottish students are unable to access LLE

**END.**