



**University and College Union**

**‘Further, higher, better’**

**Submission to the government’s  
second Comprehensive Spending  
Review**

**Section 6**

## 6 Public spending on higher education in Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, total grant and fees – including top-up fees from 2006 - are estimated to increase by 9.6% in 2006-7, by 9.0% in 2007-8 and by 8.3% in 2008-9. Grant estimates are based on known levels of grant in 2003-4, uprated from then by the GDP deflator (this rate of increase is lower than for the grant and fee allocations for Queen’s University Belfast and the University of Ulster for 2006-7 – see table below). Between 2005-6 and 2008-9, total grant and fees – including top-up fees - are estimated to rise by 26.8% in Northern Ireland, a rise of £72m over the three-year period. Because the amounts shown below are estimates rather than government funding plans to 2007-8 (not available at the time of writing), figures for unit of resource and spending as a proportion of GDP have not been attempted.

### Grant and fees, Northern Ireland <sup>26</sup>

	2003-4	2004-5	2005-06	2006-07	2005-6 to
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	2006-7
Northern Ireland	Outturn	Outturn/ Estimate	Forecast/ plan	Forecast/ plan	% change
1. Government grants	171,702	175,359	179,533	183,949	2.5%
2. Academic fees and support grants	62,704	64,040	65,564	67,177	2.5%
Top-up fees*				17,397	
<b>Total grant and fees</b>			245,097	268,523	9.6%

\* Provisional figures awaiting further analysis

	2007-08	2006-7 to	2008-09	2007-8 to	2005-6 to
	£000s	2007-8	£000s	2008-9	2008-9
Northern Ireland	Forecast/ plan	% change	Forecast/ plan	% change	% change
1. Government grants	188,842	2.7%	193,941	2.7%	8.0%
2. Academic fees and support grants	68,964	2.7%	70,826	2.7%	8.0%
Top-up fees*	34,794	100.0%	52,191	50.0%	150.0%
<b>Total grant and fees</b>	292,600	9.0%	316,958	8.3%	29.3%

\* Provisional figures awaiting further analysis

Notes

#### Northern Ireland

1. Government grants

Source: HESA 2003/04 Resources, uprated by HMT GDP deflator @ 23.12.05

2. Academic fees and support grants

Source: HESA 2003/04 Resources, uprated by HMT GDP deflator @ 23.12.05

Estimated top-up fee income from 2006

AUT estimates based on 2003-4 HESA data: 10,265 full-time 1st-year u/grads UK & other EU domicile x £1,800 in 2006-7, then x2 in 2007-8 and x3 in 2008-9

The table below indicates that recurrent grant and public tuition fee funding for Queen's University Belfast will rise by 5.7% in 2006-7 and by 3.8% for the University of Ulster. These rates of increase do not include income from top-up fees, which begin in 2006-7 in Northern Ireland.

**Grant and fee allocations for Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster 2006-7**

	Queen's University Belfast	University of Ulster	Total
Recurrent funding for teaching and research from DELNI 2005-06	87,183,953	78,307,780	165,491,733
2005-06 Adjustments to mainstream teaching grant	-45,408	-19,380	-64,788
2006-07 Adjustments to mainstream teaching grant	123,736	0	123,736
2006-07 Additional funded places	917,034	350,938	1,267,972
2005-06 Adjustments to research grant	0	0	0
2005-06 Regulated fee income	12,668,365	14,788,380	27,456,745
2005-06 Total adjusted resource	100,847,680	93,427,718	194,275,398
2006-07 Total resource	105,646,903	96,598,481	202,245,384
Percentage change adjusted for volume	4.76%	3.39%	4.10%
Percentage change in total resource	5.72%	3.78%	4.79%

DELNI: Department for Employment and Learning (Northern Ireland)  
Source: DELNI QUB grant tables, April 2006