

How is the University funded and how are my tuition fees spent?

The University is funded from a wide range of sources. We use this funding entirely to support our research and teaching activities.

We hope that the following **questions and answers** explain the University's income and expenditure more fully.

What do I get for my tuition fees?

Your tuition fees, together with income from other sources, are used to pay for the education that you and other students receive. This includes the facilities that support your education and student life, for example libraries and student welfare services.

Tuition fees also contribute towards the cost of sports facilities, Students' Union activities, student canteens and student transport, if these costs are not fully covered by direct charges or other sources of income.

Fees also contribute towards the cost of major investments in the University that benefit students. Recent examples include the new extension to the Queen's Engineering Building, refurbishment of the Students' Union building, investment in Beacon House and ongoing refurbishments of academic facilities, libraries and other resources.

We spend the income from tuition fees in ways that we believe will best enable us to deliver a world-class education and support your future prospects – and those of all our students.

Why do international students pay higher fees?

We receive no HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council) funding for international students, so their tuition fees have to cover the full cost of their education. It is also more costly for the University to recruit international students, and there are some additional regulatory requirements for the University that add to our costs. We set fees for international students to reflect these differences, and in accordance with what we believe to be the value of the educational experience at Bristol.

Why do postgraduate students pay higher fees?

The cost of teaching postgraduate students is higher than the cost of teaching undergraduates. Postgraduates are taught for a longer academic year than undergraduates, and staff and other costs are therefore higher. We base our fee levels for postgraduates on the cost of delivery of our educational provision, and in accordance with what we believe to be the value of the educational experience at Bristol.

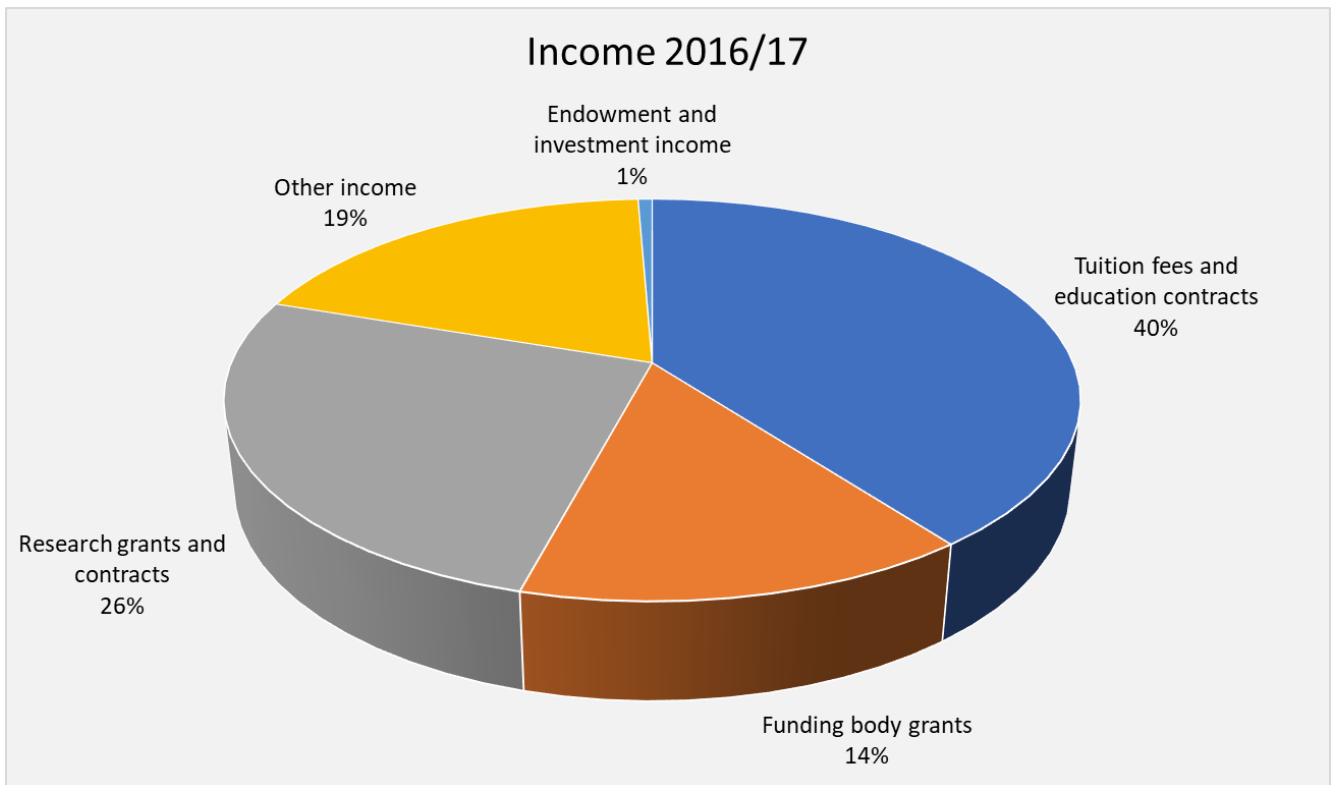
I'm an Arts student. Are my tuition fees subsidising students in other, more expensive disciplines?

Many factors contribute to the cost of educating an individual university student. The numbers of lectures, labs and seminars across the University do vary significantly because of the different ways in which students can become proficient in their disciplinary areas. Individual students also have very different needs and approaches to their studies: some make far heavier use of libraries, welfare services etc than others. We aim to cater for the needs of all students, and we clearly cannot put an individual price on each student's degree. There is inevitably, therefore, some level of cross-subsidy

between students. But we aim to use all of our resources to support our educational and research activities as effectively and fairly as possible.

Does the University's income come entirely from tuition fees?

In 2016/17 tuition fees represented around 40% of the University's total income. The remaining funding came from government grants for research and teaching (14%), research grants and contracts (26%) and other income including trading activities (19%).



Does the University make a profit?

The University is a charity rather than a private or limited company, so we have no shareholders who would expect a return on investment and therefore require a profit.

But we *do* need to make a surplus – that is, our operating income every year needs to be greater than our operating expenses for that year. This is not for anyone's individual gain, but to enable us to generate cash reserves that are used for reinvestment in the University's long-term academic needs – including buildings, equipment and IT facilities. Doing this is vital for the University's future.

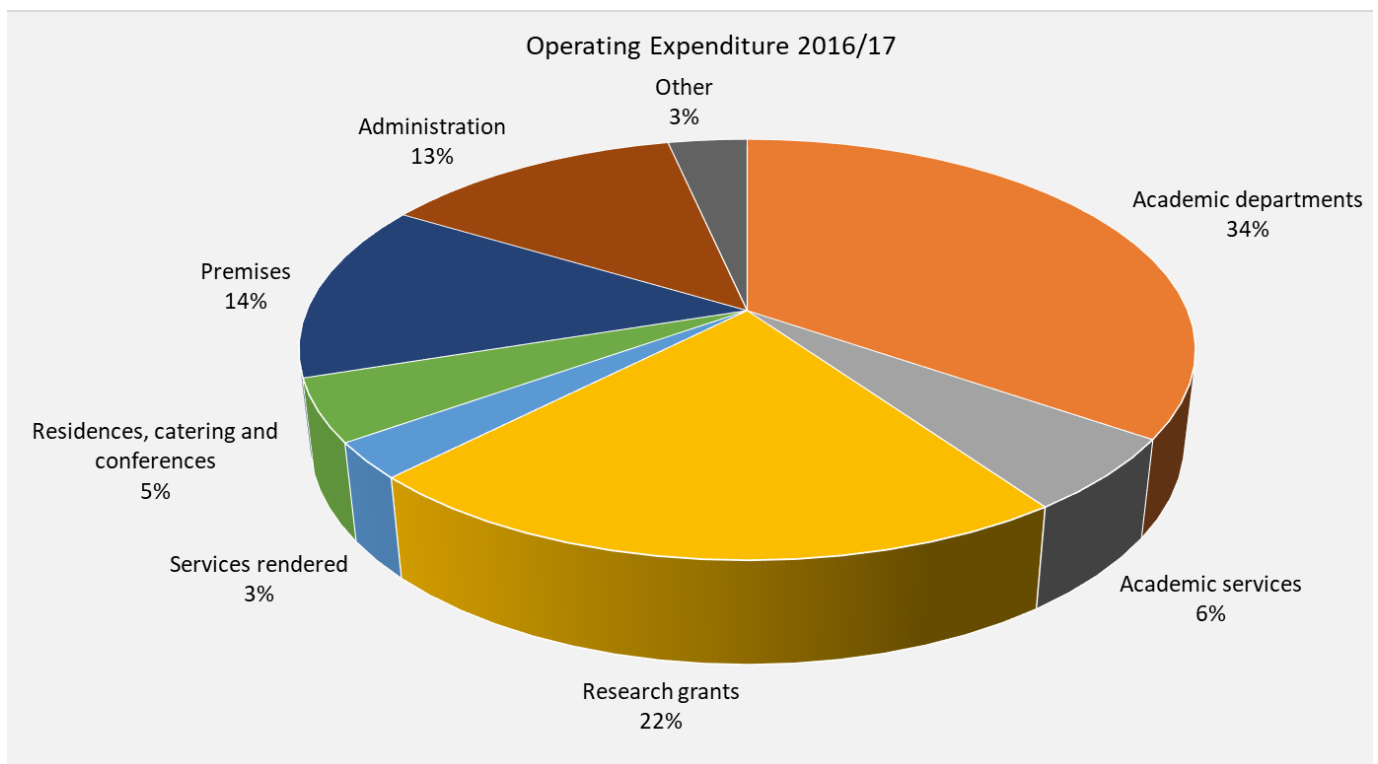
Do my tuition fees subsidise research?

A lot of our expenditure covers activities, infrastructure or staff that support both teaching and research. Most of our academic staff do research *and* teaching, both of which add value to our students' learning experience. Many of our facilities, including laboratories, are used for both research and teaching. Although most research is directly funded by external funders such as research councils or HEFCE via the Research Excellence Framework, the full cost of research projects is not usually covered by grants from research councils or elsewhere. This means that there is

inevitably some cross-subsidy for research from teaching income. However, all our students benefit enormously from the world-leading academics that we employ and from the cutting-edge research that they undertake, both in terms of how it informs the curriculum and of the support that students get for their research (whether at undergraduate or postgraduate level). Undergraduates also benefit from the strong culture of postgraduate researchers at Bristol and their support of undergraduate education.

What does the University spend its money on?

We aim to use the funds available to us to support world-changing research, high-quality research-informed teaching, a first-class student experience, a vibrant and inspirational academic community, and outstanding academic and student facilities that help to make a University of Bristol education one of the very best in the UK.



We are investing in teaching and research.

Our total operating expenditure in 2016/17 was £561m; of this, 53% was spent on staff costs. This allows us to offer inspirational teaching by passionate academics and to embark on world-leading research. The University employs 7,000 staff, of which about half are academic staff and half are professional and technical services staff. These members of staff teach and support over 22,000 registered students.

Other operating costs include a wide range of activities including the maintenance and operation of buildings and equipment, libraries, computers and student services.

For example, the Careers Service offers guidance and information to our students and graduates and provides ways for students and potential employers to meet through recruitment fairs and presentations. Welfare Services, including Disability Services, Multi-faith Chaplaincy, Student

Counselling and the Students' Health Service provide personal, confidential support, to help you manage your studies and get the best out of the University experience. The number of people using these services has increased significantly in recent years; they are key to supporting students as they study. We are also investing an additional £1m per year in a new Student Wellbeing Service with Wellbeing Advisers embedded in Schools and Faculties as well as Residential Life Advisers based in residences.

Does my tuition fee cover anything else?

We are continuing to make a significant financial investment in widening access to higher education. For 2016/17, the Office of Fair Access required us to spend around £930 of each £9,000 home undergraduate tuition fee on widening participation activities.

In 2016/17, we invested £12.7m in additional access measures. This included £3.8m on widening participation (outreach work with communities, building relationships with schools, support for disabled students etc) and approximately £8.9m on student financial support. This meant that we were able to give financial assistance to over 3,000 students in this year. Spending on outreach allows us to reach thousands of potential new students, from primary school children to adult learners, and raise their awareness and aspirations to higher education. Our investment in student success and progression initiatives allows us to invest in support for current students, in the form of mental health advisers, funded internships and global opportunities placements among others.