

EUIMA – Full Costing
Study Visit to the University of Birmingham
25- 27 October 2011

The University of Birmingham has been selected to host the study visit due to its recognised extensive experience with the implementation of full costing and its integrated use in the strategic management of the university. Specifically, the study visit has been tailored to those who wish to gain experience in the implementation of full costing from the perspective of a university with a comprehensive mission to balance teaching, research and social outreach activities.

The University of Birmingham

Founded in 1900 as the UK's first redbrick university, Birmingham established a new model for higher education, breaking away from the Oxbridge tradition. Through the foresight of its founders the University of Birmingham has inherited one of its greatest assets – a beautiful parkland campus, located less than five miles from the city centre.

The University of Birmingham is one of the world's great universities, ranked amongst the top 50 universities in Europe (Times Higher Education) and top 100 universities in the world (Shanghai Jiao Tong). Today with approximately 27,000 students and 6,000 staff, and as one of the Russell Group Institutions, its main focus remains on research through a range of subjects in its five colleges; Medical and Dental Science; Engineering and Physical Sciences; Life and Environmental Sciences; Arts and Law and Social Sciences.

With a strong leadership team in place, the University of Birmingham is now embarking on a new Strategic Framework which embraces the university as a civic, national and global organisation. Birmingham is one of the strongest universities financially in the UK with a turnover of £460m which continues to grow enabling it to further invest in estate and infrastructure.

Full Costing at the University of Birmingham

The University of Birmingham was a pilot project for Full Economic Costing (FEC) from 1998 and began implementing the approach in 2000 for research grants and contracts. In addition, the principles of full costing are used to calculate charge-out rates for Research Facilities & Equipment. The university has also recently developed a software tool for calculating the full costs of research projects.

TRAC (Transparent Approach to Costing) is used to determine the full costs of all university activities (Teaching, Research, Other) and is also used to show the full costs of Colleges and Schools within the university. Therefore, TRAC is of significant importance in understanding the financial performance of the university and helps to identify key financial indicators to inform decision making across the university.

The university has a dedicated team of accountants entrusted to produce the TRAC and FEC financial information and communicate it to colleagues at all levels within the university from Senior Management to Budget Holders within Colleges and Schools. A number of strategic developments are currently being considered for TRAC including using it to inform Teaching Course costing, resource allocation and workload management for university staff.

Study visit programme

The one and a half day study visit programme has been designed to provide an excellent and intensive learning experience for a variety of university staff profiles, including university leadership representatives and administration/management delegates. Participants will be invited to join the welcome dinner on the evening before the start of the study visit where they will be introduced to the host university's leadership and other participants. The event will offer a unique opportunity for participants to learn about the results of the recent review of the UK full costing methodology, which will be presented by experts from leading universities and other stakeholders in the field. At the beginning of the first day a detailed overview of the implementation of full costing at the University of Birmingham will be provided, while later sessions will focus on specific operational aspects and strategic uses of full costing at other UK and foreign universities.

Tuesday, 25 October 2011

Introductory evening

Evening before study visit

20.00 - 23.00 **Informal dinner**
All participants are invited to the dinner with representatives of the University of Birmingham

Wednesday, 26 October 2011

Day 1

Morning session

9.00 – 9.15 **Welcome address by the Provost of the University of Birmingham**
♦ **Professor David Eastwood**, Vice-Chancellor, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

9.15 – 9.55 **EUA Welcome and Keynote: Full costing and the financial sustainability of universities**
♦ **Thomas Estermann**, EUA

9.55 - 10.30 **Development of full costing experience in the UK**
♦ **David Westbury**, Former Vice-Principal, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

10.30 – 11.00 **Coffee break**

11.00 – 12.45 **Panel: Implementation of full costing at the University of Birmingham and other UK institutions**
♦ Presentation
Gill Ball, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom
♦ Reflection Panel

12.45 – 13.45 **Networking lunch**

Afternoon session:

13.45 - 15.00 **Full costing as a tool for the strategic management of universities**
Session structure:
♦ Presentation
♦ Discussion with participants

15.00 – 15.30 **Coffee Break**

15.30 – 17.00 **Methodologies for the implementation of full costing**
Session Structure:
♦ Presentations (2 non-UK cases)
♦ Discussion with participants

19.00 – 22.00 **Evening dinner reception**
All participants are invited to join the dinner with the representatives of the University of Birmingham

Thursday, 27 October 2011

Day 2

Morning session

9.00 – 10.30 **Time Allocation Mechanisms**
Session Structure:
♦ Presentation(s)
♦ Discussion with participants

10.30 - 11.00 **Coffee break**

11.00 – 12.30 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**
Working Group 1: Course costing
Session Structure:
♦ Presentation(s)
♦ Discussion with participants

Working Group 2: Resource Model Planning
Session Structure:
♦ Presentation(s)
♦ Discussion with participants

12.30 - 14.00 **Closing lunch**

15.00 – 17.00 **Optional sightseeing trip**