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13 June 2011

**LLOYDS BANKING GROUP LAUNCHES LLOYDS SCHOLARS
UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME**
**University of Sheffield students invited to apply for bursary and internship
programme**

As part of its commitment to the communities in which it operates, Lloyds Banking Group is pleased to launch Lloyds Scholars – a programme which will support and encourage students from below average income families to study at leading top academic and research universities.

A unique programme, Lloyds Scholars provides students with support for their academic and vocational development including mentoring and volunteering opportunities. Additionally, unlike many established bursary programmes, students are not bound to join the Group once their studies have completed.

Scholars will benefit from a complete financial and support package:

- Annual bursary payment to help with living costs and study materials
- Additional annual cash awards based on academic achievement
- End of course excellence awards for top scholars
- Paid summer internships with Lloyds Banking Group
- Mentoring and development of a support network with senior employees of the Group
- Cohort activities to develop employability and broader transferable skills
- Access to Lloyds' graduate recruitment programme for top scholars

In return, scholars will:

- Volunteer a minimum of 100 hours in the local community
- Actively promote and champion the Lloyds Scholars programme to future generations in schools

The Group is launching a pilot of Lloyds Scholars at the University of Sheffield on Saturday 18 June. This is followed by a second pilot at the University of Bristol launching on Thursday 30 June. 15 places are available for undergraduates at each institution.

António Horta-Osório, chief executive of Lloyds Banking Group, says:

“Lloyds Scholars is a key part of our commitment to invest in the long-term economic future of the UK. Attendance at a leading university can provide students with many opportunities. By launching Lloyds Scholars we hope to be able to open those doors to students who otherwise might not have had the financial backing required to attend. We are also providing the Scholars with hands-on work experience that will put them in good stead for their future careers.

“We have developed the programme to give undergraduates all-round professional and vocational experience. We will also encourage our Scholars to volunteer in their local communities during the academic year to support the Group’s wider commitment to support communities.”

Universities and Science Minister David Willetts said:

"I welcome this innovative scheme, which I hope will prove to be very popular among prospective students. Access to higher education is at the heart of the Government's agenda, and providing new routes to the professions is an excellent way of helping people reach their full potential. So I congratulate Lloyds on this exciting initiative."

Keith Burnett, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield said:

"The University of Sheffield has a long history of supporting the most talented students, irrespective of their financial background. We are delighted to be partnering with Lloyds Banking Group on this innovative scheme and are sure that it will make a positive difference to the futures of the students chosen for the scheme."

The selection criteria which applicants need to meet to join the scheme are as follows:

- Students come from a household with an income below £25,000
- Students have obtained 320 UCAS points, equivalent to two As and one B at A-level
- Students will have successfully completed a Lloyds Banking Group assessment

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Notes to editors

- Lloyds Scholars will be available at participating universities. The University of Sheffield and The University of Bristol are taking part in the pilot launching June 2011.
- Indicative financial support available for Lloyds Scholars:

Academic Years 1 & 2	Annual Fixed Bursary		
	£1000 paid to each student		
	Academic variable award paid after exam results (years 1 & 2 only)		
	<2.1 = £nil	2.1 = £500	First = £1000
	Salary for 8-week Summer internship (year 1 & 2)		
<2.1 = £2800	2.1 = £2800	First: £2800	
Academic Year 3	Annual Fixed Bursary		
	£1500 paid to each student (subject to achieving min 2.1 at year 1 or 2)		
	Academic variable award paid after exam results (year 3 only)		
<2.1 = £nil	2.1 = £1000	First = £1500	
Prizes awarded upon Graduation			
Lloyds Champion: £2000 Runner Up: £1000	Chief Executive's Challenge: £2000 Runner Up: £1000	Lloyds Entrepreneur: £2000 Runner Up: £1000	Lloyds Teambuilder: £3000 individual or £1000 per scholar for group award

Lloyds Banking Group in the community:

- London 2012 – bringing the Games to communities across the UK
 - *Lloyds TSB National School Sport Week* is Britain's biggest school sport event, delivered in Partnership with the Youth Sport Trust.
 - Last year we saw 14,000 schools and 5 million young people being inspired to do more sport. We will look to replicate this in 2011, the third year of our sponsorship.
 - *Local Heroes* – is an initiative to support Britain's most talented developing athletes at a time when they need it most. Working in Partnership with SportsAid, the programme has already provided funding for over 600 emerging young sports people across Britain to support their journey to London 2012 and beyond. This year the programme will support a further 330 Olympic and Paralympic prospects across Britain.

- Commitment to helping colleagues embrace opportunities to support charities and communities where they live
 - Employee volunteering: our employees are our strongest link with the local communities in which we operate. We are committed to enabling employees to make a contribution to communities.
 - As one of the UK's biggest employers, our colleague volunteering initiatives can make a real difference. In 2010, we launched our Day to Make a Difference volunteering programme. This enables all Lloyds Banking Group employees to spend one day a year during work time volunteering for a charity or local community project of their choice. Over 7,300 employees volunteered during 2010 in their local communities, through this programme and other volunteering initiatives.
 - Matched giving: through our Matched Giving scheme, operated by our charitable Foundations, we enable employees to maximise their contributions to the charities and causes that are important to them. In 2010, employees could claim up to £500 from the Foundations to match funds they raised for charity, including our Charity of the Year, or time given in volunteering. This has been raised to £1,000 per employee in 2011. In 2010, our colleagues claimed £1.3 million in matched funding, raising £3.2 million for charities in the process.
 - Making a Difference Awards: our annual Making a Difference Awards celebrate employees who make an exceptional contribution to charities and community groups. There are seven different award categories, ranging from 'best individual fundraisers' to 'most supportive managers' – those who have supported colleagues and built community activity into business activity.
 - In 2011, Lloyds Banking Group was awarded Business in the Community's CommunityMark, the national standard that publicly recognises excellence in community investment.
 - In the last 25 years, more than £480 million has been invested in small, grassroots charities across the UK through the Lloyds TSB Foundations.