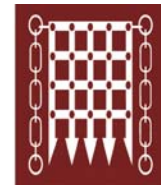


Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar: The future of postgraduate taught education

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 23rd January 2014

Venue: ICO Conference Centre, 22 Berners Street, London W1T 3DD



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Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Lord Sutherland of Houndwood, Fellow, Birkbeck, University of London and former Vice Chancellor and Principal, University of Edinburgh
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Challenges facing the taught postgraduate sector**
Professor Mick Fuller, Chair, UK Council for Graduate Education and Head of Graduate School, Plymouth University
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.30 **Funding postgraduate taught (PGT) courses**
Perspectives on the emerging challenges for PGT funding at a time of considerable change in the HE sector. How can universities encourage more businesses to invest in sponsoring students or whole PGT courses? What are the likely effects of increased tuition fees at undergraduate level - for students starting in Sept 2012 - on the number of students continuing onto PGT courses; what steps can universities take to forecast and prepare for any impact? To what extent is the new PGT-only focus of the National Scholarship Programme likely to achieve its aim of increasing the participation of students from low-income backgrounds? Should Government and the HE sector do more to improve awareness of the various existing funding streams available for those seeking to study PGT courses, for example scholarships, bursaries, Professional and Career Development Loans etc.? What would be the benefits and risks of adopting a state-backed, universal student loan system for PGT courses? How reliant on revenue from overseas students is the current funding of PGT courses in the UK, and how can universities meet the challenge of maintaining demand from overseas students in an increasingly competitive global HE market?
Professor Sir Bob Burgess, Vice Chancellor, University of Leicester
Dr Adam Wright, Research and Policy Officer (Higher Education), NUS
Cameron Stevens, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, Prodigy Finance
Dr Malcolm Skingle, Director of Academic Liaison, GSK UK
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 - 11.00 **'Understanding and stimulating taught postgraduate education'**
Christopher Millward, Associate Director, North, HEFCE
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Lord Sutherland of Houndwood, Fellow, Birkbeck, University of London and former Vice Chancellor and Principal, University of Edinburgh
- 11.05 - 11.30 Coffee
- 11.30 - 11.35 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Ann McKechin MP, Member, Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee
- 11.35 - 12.05 **The PGT taught student experience**
Dr Paul Bennett, Head of Surveys, Higher Education Academy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 - 12.55 **Student progression into PhD study, employment and Higher Apprenticeships**
How can institutions encourage the best PGT students to progress to postgraduate doctoral courses and how much of a factor is financial pressure for those who don't go onto further study? How can universities ensure that the content of PGT courses balances preparation for PhD study and employability skills for those moving into work? What further steps should universities be taking to build up links with employers to provide placement opportunities for PGT students and ensure courses take account of the latest developments in industry and employers' skills expectations? Are universities prepared for the expansion of Higher Apprenticeships - designed to be equal in status with Master's level study - both in the sense of additional competition as an alternative to PGT and as a progression route for after completion of a Master's?
Bill Rammell, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, University of Bedfordshire
Aaron Porter, Director, External Affairs, National Centre for Universities and Business
Professor Katie Normington, Vice Principal and Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, Royal Holloway University of London and Director, TECHNE Doctoral Training Partnership
Patrick Kniveton, Head of Engineering Improvement, Rolls-Royce Marine Power and President, Institution of Mechanical Engineers
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Ann McKechin MP, Member, Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee
Jonny Roberts, Associate Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum