

Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar:

Next steps for postgraduate taught education - funding, teaching quality and student experience

Timing: Morning, Monday, 9th October 2017

Venue: Central London



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Viscount Younger of Leckie, Spokesman for Higher Education and Government Whip for Education, BEIS, Scotland, Wales and NI
- 9.05 - 9.25 **The current state of postgraduate market - key trends**
Senior speaker to be confirmed
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 - 9.55 **Postgraduate loans: lessons and key challenges so far**
Paul Williams, Deputy Director, Student Funding Policy, Department for Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.55 - 10.55 **Delivering postgraduate loans: affordability, widening participation and challenges for implementation**
With evidence suggesting that the introduction of postgraduate loans has led to an initial increase in the proportion of UK undergraduates going onto further salary, can this increase be sustained? How can it be ensured that universities have the capacity to cope with increased demand? Are postgraduate loans suitable for courses such as MBAs or, rather than making them more affordable, has their introduction led to an increase in costs for these courses in some cases? What progress has been made on widening access to postgraduate taught programmes for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and to what extent have loans contributed to improvements in this area?
Mark Bennett, Content Editor, FindA University
Professor Rosemary Deem, Professor of Higher Education Management, Royal Holloway, University of London and Chair, UK Council for Graduate Education
Professor Julia Clarke, Dean and Pro-Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Business and Law, Manchester Metropolitan University and Council Member, Chartered Association of Business Schools
Dr Tony Strike, University Secretary and Director of Strategy and Governance, University of Sheffield
Senior representative, student finance
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Viscount Younger of Leckie, Spokesman for Higher Education and Government Whip for Education, BEIS, Scotland, Wales and NI
- 11.00 - 11.30 Coffee
- 11.30 - 11.35 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve
- 11.35 - 12.25 **Quality assurance in postgraduate education: enhancing the student experience, improving employability and the feasibility of a postgraduate TEF**
What is the state of the postgraduate taught market, what strategies could be employed for ensuring quality and value for money for postgraduate students and how can student experience be improved? What might a 'postgraduate TEF' look like, and how could it best measure quality across a diversity of courses? What can current methods of gauging postgraduate student satisfaction, such as the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), contribute to quality assurance, and what alternative approaches could be pursued? In what ways can postgraduate qualifications be made more attractive to prospective employers and what further action can be taken to increase the employability of postgraduate students?
Professor Paul Ashwin, Professor of Higher Education, Lancaster University
Mags Bradley, Surveys Insight Advisor, Higher Education Academy
Dr Charlie Ball, Head of Higher Education Intelligence, Prospects
Senior representative, students' union
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.55 **Assessing the next steps for postgraduate taught policy: future challenges and opportunities**
Chris Millward, Director (Policy), Research, Education and Knowledge Exchange Directorate, HEFCE
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum