

Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Accelerated degrees and credit transfer - putting the Higher Education and Research Act into practice

Timing: Morning, Monday, 22nd January 2018

Venue: Hallam Conference Centre, 44 Hallam Street, London W1W 6JJ

Agenda subject to change



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- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Rt Hon the Baroness Garden of Frognal, House of Lords Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Higher & Further Education, Skills and Apprenticeships
- 9.05 - 9.45 **The vision for flexible provision in UK universities - accelerated degrees and credit transfer**
Ben Coates, Deputy Director, New Student Finance Products, Department for Education
Professor Andy Collop, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, De Montfort University
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.45 - 10.30 **Two-year degrees: greater flexible learning opportunities and the challenges posed by accelerated provision**
In light of the Higher Education and Research Act encouraging universities to offer more accelerated or flexible courses, what is the likely take-up amongst universities and students, and impact on access, academic success and social mobility for students? What is the demand for two-year degrees amongst employers? How can two-year degrees effectively be regulated, including with regard to the higher fee cap? How should HEIs approach dealing with the challenges of offering accelerated and flexible courses, for instance in the use of facilities outside the traditional academic calendar, the creation of new assessment arrangements and issues surrounding academic and non-academic staffing? What are the implications of accelerated degrees on sandwich courses and similar, or on the development of student's academic skills such as writing and on the overall student experience? Will two-year degrees also impact the postgraduate market as universities can offer a 'three-year' degree including a masters degree, particularly in light of the introduction of PGT loans?
Lucy Hodson, Director of Planning, Aberystwyth University
Stephen Isherwood, Chief Executive, Institute of Student Employers
Kezia Fentiman, Student Representative, University of Buckingham
Caitlyn Morrison, Student Representative, University of Buckingham
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 - 10.55 **Two-year degrees in practice**
Sir Anthony Seldon, Vice-Chancellor, University of Buckingham
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Rt Hon the Baroness Garden of Frognal, House of Lords Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Higher & Further Education, Skills and Apprenticeships
- 11.00 - 11.25 Coffee
- 11.25 - 11.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
Viscount Younger of Leckie, Spokesman for Higher Education and Government Whip for Education, International Trade, Scotland, Wales and NI
- 11.30 - 12.10 **Switching university or degree: the practicalities of credit transfer in flexible course delivery**
The European experience of flexible learning: best practice and key lessons
Dr Howard Davies, Senior Adviser, Higher Education Policy, European University Association
Regulating credit transfer in the UK: challenges in equating two and three year degrees
Maureen McLaughlin, Head of Universities and Standards, QAA
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.10 - 12.55 **Addressing the practical challenges of supporting credit transfer and the possible impact on the higher education market**
What are the key drivers for credit transfer and how can Government best support students in these circumstances? What are the implications of the drive for standardised credit across modules, courses, faculties and institutions, for institutional autonomy and the diversity of provision in the higher education sector? How can policy best respond to the technical challenges of facilitating credit transfer and reconcile the differences in teaching and learning styles across different courses? What implications could greater flexibility for students to transfer credit from one university to another have on university marketing strategies and competition for students?
Amerjit Basi, Head of Policy and Projects, University of Sheffield
Dr Liz Marr, Director of Learning and Teaching, The Open University
Dr Chris Chapleo, Acting Head of Department - Marketing, Bournemouth University
Helen O'Sullivan, Lecturer in Marketing, Bournemouth University
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Viscount Younger of Leckie, Spokesman for Higher Education and Government Whip for Education, International Trade, Scotland, Wales and NI
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum