

Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar:

Competition and regulation in Higher Education - new models of delivery, new providers and changing structures

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 1st July 2015

Venue: Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR

Agenda subject to change



WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Triesman, Member, All-Party Parliamentary University Group
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Regulation for competition and choice**
Heather Fry, Director (Regulation and Assurance), HEFCE
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.10 **The changing structures of Higher Education**
What potential consequences do university mergers have for competition and choice between institutions? To what extent do recent mergers pave the way for a more federal structure of Higher Education institutions, what would be the benefits and drawbacks of such a model? How is the increasing number of branch or satellite campuses in London or across other parts of the UK as well as overseas affecting the Higher Education market and what are the potential long-term effects if these trends continue?
Professor Sir Peter Scott, Professor of Higher Education Studies, Institute of Education, University College London
Carol Burns, Registrar and Secretary, University of Brighton
- What do we need from the Higher Education sector?**
Mike Boxall, Higher and Further Education Consultant, PA Consulting
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.10 - 10.40 **'Cold spots': causes, consequences and solutions**
To what extent are areas without a local university negatively affected, for example, in terms of social mobility or economic growth? Should universities from the wider region be encouraged to engage with schools and businesses in these communities, to mitigate such issues? Should Government take steps to encourage more FE colleges in these areas to offer HE provision and expand? Might satellite campuses provide a solution? How can new HE providers be encouraged to start-up in 'cold spots' instead of areas of existing provision?
Clare Hagerup, Director of Higher Education, Wakefield College, West Yorkshire
Isobel Brown, Director, Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 - 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Triesman, Member, All-Party Parliamentary University Group
- 10.45 - 11.10 Coffee
- 11.10 - 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**
Jenny Bradley, Assistant Director - Higher Education Strategy, Department for Business Innovation and Skills
- 11.15 - 11.55 **New forms of Higher Education provision: challenges and opportunities for the sector**
In what ways will the expansion of Degree Apprenticeships affect the number of people opting to study vocational subjects in a more traditional undergraduate degree programme? How can more universities be encouraged to play a greater role in the delivery of Degree Apprenticeships? Is the 15% cap on tuition fees for years abroad and 'sandwich' years in industry leading to an increase in the number of these opportunities being provided by universities; what more could Government do to encourage this? Does the current funding model for HE restrict the growth of different models of courses such as 2-year degrees? Are MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) a potential threat to the traditional university model? What can be learned from the way HE providers are utilising MOOCs to increase the range of distance learning they offer?
Professor Mike McLinden, Programme Lead (Visual Impairment) and Co-Director of Education, University of Birmingham
Mike Thompson, Director of Early Careers, Barclays
Mark Lester, Global Head of Education Partnerships, FutureLearn
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 - 12.35 **New entrants to the market: accreditation, regulation and support**
What impact has the recent growth in numbers of private providers, and those from FE, had upon competition between institutions and student choice? How should Government and the sector ensure that new entrants to the market are appropriately regulated and supported to ensure a level-playing field and quality across the sector? How can HE institutions and alternative providers work with professional bodies to provide accreditation for new entrants before they gain their own awarding powers? Should the £6,000 cap on fees for alternative providers be raised, and what would be the impact?
Carl Lygo, Vice-Chancellor, BPP University
Adam Birt, Head of ACA Development, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Ian Kimber, Director of Quality Development, Quality Assurance Agency
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.35 - 12.55 **Supporting regulation for the HE sector**
Helen Fleming, Project Director, Competition and Markets Authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Jenny Bradley, Assistant Director - Higher Education Strategy, Department for Business Innovation and Skills
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum