

# HE reforms: the impact on admission to university and the student academic experience

Wednesday 15 May 2013  
The Royal Society, London

This conference examines the impact of the changes in higher education policy on university admissions. Universities are now unconstrained in their admission of students with the highest grades at A level; but at the same time they are under tighter constraints than ever in their recruitment of students with lower grades. And there are signs that demand for higher education may be reducing. On top of all this universities are being encouraged to take into account 'contextual information' in deciding which students to admit.

Meanwhile a recent Which? survey revealed many prospective students have no access to independent advice and guidance when making their applications. And once at university, how will students benefit from the increased investment in HE that the higher tuition fees provide? Are universities improving the overall student learning experience as fees are increasing?

The HEPI Spring Conference, organised in partnership with the Higher Education Academy, will bring together senior HE leaders and policy-makers who have been central to shaping and responding to the strategic direction of the policy environment for HE and provides an opportunity for their colleagues in schools, colleges and universities to discuss the new landscape. The conference will also hear results of the HEPI/Which? survey of the academic experience of students.

**Rt Hon David Willetts MP**, Minister for Universities and Science; **Liam Burns**, President NUS; **Rob Behrens**, Chief Executive, Office of the Independent Adjudicator; **Bahram Bekhradnia**, Director, HEPI; **Mark Corver**, Head of Analysis & Research, UCAS; **Mary Curnock Cook**, Chief Executive, UCAS; **Professor David Eastwood**, Vice Chancellor, University of Birmingham & Chair of the Russell Group; **Professor Les Ebdon**, Director, Office for Fair Access; **Mike Griffiths**, Head, Northampton School for Boys & President, Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL); **Professor Mary Stuart**, Vice Chancellor, University of Lincoln; **Dr Tim Hands**, Master, Magdalen College School and Chairman-elect, HMC; **Professor Craig Mahoney**, Chief Executive, HEA; **Professor Stephanie Marshall**, Deputy Chief Executive, HEA; **Peter Vicary-Smith**, Chief Executive, Which?

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## Agenda (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>09.00</b> | <b>Registration and refreshments</b>  |
| <b>09.45</b> | <b>Welcome &amp; introduction by the conference chair</b><br><b>Professor Craig Mahoney</b><br>Chief Executive of the Higher Education Academy  |
| <b>09.50</b> | <b>Rt Hon David Willetts MP</b><br>Minister for Universities and Science  |
| <b>10.15</b> | <b>Questions and discussion</b>   |
| <b>10.25</b> | <b>Recent developments in applications and admissions</b><br><b>Mark Corver</b><br>Head of Analysis & Research, UCAS  |
| <b>10.40</b> | <b>Questions and discussion</b>   |
| <b>10.50</b> | <b>University admissions- the view from the universities</b><br><b>Professor David Eastwood</b><br>Vice Chancellor, University of Birmingham & Chair of the Russell Group<br><b>Professor Mary Stuart</b><br>Vice Chancellor, University of Lincoln   |
| <b>11.30</b> | <b>Break for coffee</b>   |
| <b>11.45</b> | <b>University admissions - the view from schools</b><br><b>Mike Griffiths</b><br>Head, Northampton School for Boys & President, Association of School and College Leaders<br><b>Dr Tim Hands</b><br>Master, Magdalen College School and Chairman-elect, Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) |
| <b>12.25</b> | <b>Questions and discussion on previous two sessions</b>  |
| <b>12.45</b> | <b>Lunch</b>  |

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|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 13.45 | <p><b>What's important to applicants and students – how do students decide?</b></p> <p><b>Peter Vicary-Smith</b><br/>Chief Executive, Which?</p> <p><b>Liam Burns</b><br/>President, National Union of Students</p>   |
| 14.25 | <b>Questions and discussion</b>   |
| 14.35 | <p><b>The student learning experience - what can young people now expect when they get to university</b></p> <p><i>The results of the HEPI/Which? survey of the student learning experience</i></p> <p><b>Bahram Bekhradnia</b><br/>Director, HEPI</p> <p><i>Response to the HEPI/Which? survey</i></p> <p><b>Professor Stephanie Marshall</b><br/>Deputy Chief Executive, Higher Education Academy</p> <p><i>When things go wrong</i></p> <p><b>Rob Behrens</b><br/>Chief Executive, Office of the Independent Adjudicator</p> |
| 15.35 | <b>Questions and discussion</b>   |
| 15.50 | <p><b>University admissions – the changing landscape &amp; the future</b></p> <p><b>Mary Curnock Cook</b><br/>Chief Executive, UCAS</p> <p><b>Professor Les Ebdon</b><br/>Director, Office for Fair Access</p>  |
| 16.40 | <b>Questions and discussion</b>   |
| 17.00 | <b>Refreshments and depart</b>  |

## Conference Booking Form

Please complete this form and return it to the address below. We will confirm your booking within two weeks of receipt.

An invoice will be sent with your booking confirmation. We can only accept payment by cheque or bank transfer – sorry, no cards.

The closing date for registration is **Thursday 10 May**. After this date, we advise you to contact us first to check availability of places.

### Delegate details:

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Name:                           |  |
| Job title:                      |  |
| Organisation:                   |  |
| Address:                        |  |
| Telephone number:               |  |
| Email address:                  |  |
| Dietary or access requirements: |  |

### Invoicing details:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Purchase order number (if any):               |  |
| Address for invoice, if different from above: |  |

### Fee rate:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Private sector bodies, government departments/agencies<br>£395 + VAT (£474) |  |
| Universities, colleges, LEAs, public sector bodies<br>£295 + VAT (£354)     |  |
| Schools, voluntary bodies, trades unions<br>£225 + VAT (£270)               |  |

Higher Education Policy Institute  
99 Banbury Road  
Oxford OX2 6JX

Or send your booking by email: [info@hepi.ac.uk](mailto:info@hepi.ac.uk)

### Terms and conditions

Payment is to be made in full before the event. Cancellations must be received *in writing* by 8 May to qualify for a refund. We regret that no refund can be made for cancellations received after this date, though substitute delegates will be accepted. By completing and returning this form, you signify your agreement to these terms and conditions.

**Enquiries: 01865 284450 (but please note that registrations cannot be taken by telephone)**

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## Who should attend?

- Vice-Chancellors and Principals
- Registrars & senior academic managers
- Pro-Vice-Chancellors
- University staff with responsibility for admissions
- Head Teachers & Principals of FE and Sixth Form Colleges
- Heads of Sixth Form
- Careers Teachers & Careers Advisors
- Senior staff of Local Education Authorities
- Staff with responsibility for learning and teaching
- Staff with responsibility for widening participation
- Student leaders & Student union officers and staff
- Those in Government and in agencies with an interest in admissions, learning and teaching, and student-related issues

## Principal speakers

**Rt Hon David Willetts MP**, Minister for Universities and Science

**Liam Burns**, President NUS

**Bahram Bekhradnia**, Director, HEPI

**Rob Behrens**, Chief Executive, Office of the Independent Adjudicator

**Mark Corver**, Head of Analysis & Research, UCAS

**Mary Curnock Cook**, Chief Executive, UCAS

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## Specifically the conference will:

- Provide an opportunity to examine and discuss changing practices in university applications and admissions
- Hear from the Government about its proposals for the development of admissions, including the use of contextual information
- Hear the reaction to these from university, school and college leaders
- Enable participants to make an input into official thinking on university applications and admissions
- Hear from those who have led the debate and are leading the implementation of the changing process and practice of university admissions
- Discuss with school, college and university leaders what implications they see arising from the changes
- Provide a networking opportunity for all those with an interest in the transition from school and college to university; and for those in universities concerned with admissions
- Provide an exclusive account of the most recent survey of the student academic experience
- Provide an opportunity to learn how universities are working to improve the student learning experience
- Provide an opportunity to share best practice
- Provide a networking opportunity for all those with an interest in learning and teaching, admission to university and other aspects of the student experience

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