

BIS | Department for Business
Innovation & Skills

HIGHER EDUCATION

Implementation Plan

JUNE 2011

Priority	Actions	Lead
Sustainable and fair funding	By September 2012: Introduce a fairer and sustainable higher education funding system.	BIS
	From June 2011: Consult on an early repayment mechanism that would allow those who wish to pay off their loans early or make voluntary contributions to do so without undermining the progressiveness of the system.	BIS
	From June 2011: Consult on whether it is possible to remove the VAT barriers which currently deter institutions from sharing costs.	HMRC
	From June 2011: Consult the sector on the method for allocating teaching grant in 2012/13, informed by the priorities set out for this funding.	Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)
	Winter 2011: Consult the sector on the method for allocating teaching grant from 2013/14 onwards, informed by the priorities set out for this funding.	HEFCE
	From 2012: Review participation in postgraduate study following changes to undergraduate funding as part of a longer term assessment and evaluation of the impact of the funding changes.	HEFCE
	By winter 2011: Explore ways government can support existing mechanisms for voluntary giving.	BIS
	In 2011: Set out further detail on how and whether Government will proceed with a monetisation of the Student Loan Book.	BIS Shareholder Executive
An excellent academic experience	By September 2012: Make the most requested items of information – the 'Key Information Set' – available on a course by course basis in a comparable format on each higher education institution's website.	HEFCE
	By April 2012: Advise on achieving the publication by higher education institutions of anonymised information about the teaching qualifications, fellowships and expertise of their teaching staff at all level.	HEFCE
	By March 2012: Consider whether data showing how students' annual graduate contributions are being invested by higher education institutions should form part of the wider set of information provided by institutions.	Higher Education Public Information Steering Group (HEPISG)
	By March 2012: Prepare proposals for the Higher Education Public Information Steering Group to consider whether a National Student Survey of taught	HEFCE

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	postgraduates should be introduced, and whether to encourage institutions to provide a standard set of information for each of their taught postgraduate courses.	
	From Summer 2011: Add graduate salary information onto the Unistats website and advise on options for improving the website's presentation.	HEFCE
	From June 2011: Ask major holders of student data – Higher Education Statistics Agency, UCAS, HEFCE and the Student Loans Company – to make more data available on their websites in a re-usable format, as the law allows.	BIS
	By September 2012: Make available, on a course by course basis, new data showing the type and subjects of the actual qualifications held by previously successful applicants.	UCAS and the higher education sector
	By 2013: Develop a single application portal for both higher education and student finance applications.	Student Loans Company and UCAS
Better courses and more qualified graduates	By September 2012: Review the extent to which student charter or similar high level statement to set out the mutual expectations of universities and students, are adopted by higher education institutions and consider whether they should be made mandatory in the future.	BIS and HEFCE
	By 2013: Provide advice, with the National Union of Students and other partners, on higher education institutions publishing summary reports of their student evaluation surveys on their websites.	HEFCE
	In 2012: Include an additional question in the National Student Survey about what students think of the impact of their students' union.	HEFCE
	From August 2011: Consider whether HEFCE would need additional legislative powers to introduce or to operate a risk-based quality assurance regime.	BIS
	Timing to be confirmed: Consult the sector on future developments that will promote and deliver early resolution of complaints.	Office of the Independent Adjudicator
	By December 2011: Provide advice to Government on how to make the UK the best place in the world for university-industry collaboration. This will inform the Government's forthcoming Research and Innovation Strategy.	Professor Sir Tim Wilson

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	From July 2011: Consider proposals by the National Consortium of University Entrepreneurs to support development activities that will deliver the ambition to embed an enterprise society in all universities in England.	National Consortium of University Entrepreneurs
	By 2012: Develop guidance for UK higher education institutions on enterprise and entrepreneurship.	Quality Assurance Agency
A diverse and responsive sector	From June 2011: Consult the sector on how proposals for freeing up student numbers will be delivered in 2012/13, as part of the consultation on teaching grant.	HEFCE
	Winter 2011: Consult the sector on longer-term options for freeing up student numbers from 2013/14 onwards.	HEFCE
	In 2012: Expand the flexibility for employers and charities to offer sponsorship for individual places outside of student number controls, provided they do not create a cost liability for Government.	BIS
	From August 2011: Consult on removing barriers to entry to the higher education sector including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - changes to the criteria and the process for the granting and renewal of taught degree awarding powers; - access to non-teaching institutions to award degrees; - changes to the criteria and process for determining which organisations are allowed to call themselves a “university”; - the extent to which institutions would welcome legislative change to make the process of changing legal status easier . 	BIS
Improved social mobility through fairer access	By April 2012: Establish a new careers service in England and a strong quality assurance framework for careers guidance, and ask the Careers Profession Alliance to develop new professional standards for careers advisers.	BIS
	From 2012: Institutions that want to benefit from their students accessing tuition fee loans of more than £6,000 have to demonstrate what more they will do to attract students from under-represented and disadvantaged backgrounds.	Office for Fair Access
	During 2012/13: Strengthen the Office for Fair Access, so that it can provide more active and energetic challenge and support to higher education institutions and colleges, and ask the new Director of Fair Access to advise on whether OFFA’s current powers are the right ones to achieve its statutory goals.	BIS

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	Autumn 2011: Provide advice following the first round of approval of Access Agreement, on what further steps might be needed to ensure the delivery of commitments made in Access Agreement.	Director of Fair Access
	From September 2012: Provide more generous package of financial support for low-income students living in England wishing to attend university in 2012/13.	BIS
	In 2012: Introduce a new National Scholarship Programme to help improve access to higher education amongst the least well off young people and adults.	BIS
	From 2012: Determine, working with the Director of Fair Access and the sector, the extent to which the introduction of a hybrid or other post-qualification application model promotes fair access and benefits potential students.	BIS and Department for Education
A new, fit-for-purpose regulatory framework	In 2012: Legislate to allow HEFCE the power to attach conditions to the receipt of grant and access to student loan funding, and to monitor institutions to ensure financial stability, and intervene if necessary.	BIS
	From 2013: Remit HEFCE to promote the interests of students, including as consumers, and to take competition implications into account when making decisions on funding.	BIS
	From August 2011: Consult the sector on the detailed proposals for a new, single regulatory framework that covers all institutions, including further education colleges and other alternative providers, that want to be part of the English higher education system.	BIS
	By November: Identify areas for deregulation across the higher education landscape whilst safeguarding students and the public interest.	Higher Education Better Regulation Group (HEBRG)
	By July 2012: Deliver a Feasibility Study and Impact Assessment into the redesign of the information landscape for higher education in order to meet the needs of a wider group of users while reducing the burdens of data collection.	Higher Education Statistics Agency; steered by the HEBRG
	In 2012: Consult with the sector on radically streamlining the reporting requirements of the Transparent Approach to Costing.	HEFCE

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