



The Changing Landscape of Higher Education in England

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Current Position in Higher Education

- Target of 50% participation at 18 achieved but decline in part time and adult study
- High cost to individuals and the state: fees up to £9,250 per annum, student debt over £47,000
- Continued dissatisfaction with graduate skills and employment prospects
- Lack of provision for higher technical skills



Current Position in Higher Education

- Very competitive market, controlled by universities
- Rise in Unconditional Offers and “Year Zero”
- Policy objective to make Higher Education more responsive via competition and easier access to degree awarding powers
- New regulatory arrangements under the Office for Students

Review of Post 18 Education and Funding: Headlines

- 53 recommendations (!)
- Fees reduced to £7,500 per annum
- Lost fee income replaced by government grant
- Loan repayment extended from 30 to 40 years
- New maintenance grants for the less well off
- New maintenance support for Level 4 and 5 qualifications
- First free full Level 2 and 3 qualifications for all learners

Review of Post 18 Education and Funding: Proposals (May 2019)

- Strengthening technical education
- Increasing opportunities for everyone
- Reforming and refunding the FE college network
- Bearing down on “low value” HE
- Addressing Higher Education funding
- Build a higher level skill base for 4IR: digitisation, automation etc

Review of Post 18 Education and Funding: Proposals (May 2019)

- Increasing flexibility and lifetime learning
- Supporting disadvantaged students
- Ensuring those who benefit from HE contribute fairly
- Improving the apprenticeship offer, especially at higher level



Institutes of Technology

- 12 new Institutes announced April 2019
- Progression from new T levels
- Partnerships of employers and providers, including colleges and universities
- Alternative to traditional university route

Level 4 and 5 Qualification Review (July 2019)

- Currently only 7 per cent study at this level
- Parity with academic qualifications
- Better options for employers and students
- New focus on higher level technical skills with a new suite of Higher Technical Qualifications

Implications

- Period of continuing change to qualifications and institutions
- Continuing commitment to widening participation in higher education but by different pathways
- Greater range of qualifications, including short cycle and non-degree
- Need for better information, advice and guidance to inform student choice
- Recruiting and retaining qualified and experienced teachers
- New definition of research and scholarship to reflect professional updating

And then Brexit... maybe

- Visa rules for international students already relaxed
- Potential flexibility on pricing for non-UK students
- Erasmus+
- An international curriculum