Update on UK Higher Education

Jonathan Tinnacher
University of Leicester

www.le.ac.uk
The Telegraph

- More than 115,000 students could miss out on university place
- Middle class students ‘should pay higher university tuition fees’
Bright pupils are rejected in scramble for university

100 universities suffer as Government announces £450 million of cuts
The Guardian

- Admissions tutors face squeeze on university places
- Budget 2010: Promise of 20,000 extra university places 'misguided' as lecturers face cull
Daily Mail

- £3,000 tuition fees ‘put middle classes off university’
- Middle-class students face university place struggle as Mandelson gives poorer students two-grade ‘head start’
- Students to get minimum teaching hours under new university ‘charters’
The Mirror

- University cuts threaten places
Who will decide the future of H.E.?
Update on UK Higher Education

- Higher Ambitions: A framework for Higher Education
- UCAS: update on 2009 & 2010
- Issues for the future
- Time for questions
Higher Ambitions: Background

- **Strength in research**
  - 1% of world's population: 12% of academic citations
- **Growth in student numbers**
  - 921,000 new entrants in 1997: over 1.1M in 2009
- **Increased investment**
  - Total funding in HE doubled since 1997
- **But... constraints in future public funding**
Higher Ambitions: Themes

• Widening participation to Higher Education
• Economic impact of Higher Education
• Information provision for applicants
• Internationalism
• Future of funding
Widening participation

- Some indications of success across sector - but not enough at “top” universities
- Use of contextual data in admissions
Economic impact

• Growth in STEM subject provision
• More concentration on employability
Information provision for applicants

• More clarity from universities on:
  - What and how students learn (inc. contact time)
  - What they will be qualified to do
  - What are the study responsibilities of students
  - What facilities are available to them
  - International opportunities
  - What past graduates do

• HEFCE/QAA/UKCES to draw up new guidelines
Internationalism

- Continue to attract international students
- More emphasis on collaborations
  - Deeper, more strategic, research as well as teaching
- Providing UK students with a global perspective and encourage language learning and study abroad
Future of funding

- Maintaining growth through public funding not an option
- No/limited growth in full-time undergraduate study
- New priorities to be funded through redistribution of existing funds
- Tuition fees structure
  - Independent review to report in summer (after election)
  - Government view: variable fees brought in £1.3billion, with “no apparent negative impact on access”
UCAS review of 2009

- Growth in applications
- Restrictions on growth in places
- Electronic clearing
- New Adjustment period
2009 headline figures
Clearing

2007

2008

2009
But...

- **Speed of clearing**
  - By 24th August: 12,000 applicants placed in clearing
  - Compared to: 5,000 on same day in 2008

- **Unplaced students**
  - 55 days after clearing: 140,000 unplaced
  - Compared to: 114,000 in 2008
Adjustment

- 40% of applicants were eligible (ie. 250,000)
- 3,600 students registered for adjustment
- 384 were placed in adjustment choice
- 2,355 placed in original choice
- 442 through clearing
- 419 unplaced
Confirmation

- Confirmation generally quicker - more students places confirmed on results day than previous year (fewer remained conditional firm)
- Consequences for individuals, however, more severe, as could miss out on clearing if no decision made.
2010 preliminary application figures

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>% change</th>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>+ 36.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>+ 21.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>+ 22.9</td>
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- As at January 22\textsuperscript{nd} 2010
Issues for next year

• Very few additional places for Home/EU students
  - Some in STEM
  - Not equally shared across sector

• Likely repeat of conservative approach at confirmation

• Increased importance of making right choices - particularly the insurance choice
Issues for the longer term

- Tuition fees?
- More competition for places will lead to rise in entry grades
Conclusions

• Now is a good time to be going to university
  - Good recent investment in universities
  - New focus on employability

• But...
  - Demand means more and more competitive entry
Time for questions?