

# KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

Invest in opportunity



## Access and fees

## FUNDING OUR FUTURE ACCESS AND FEES

### SUMMARY

#### Participation by socio-economic group

- Between 2002 and 2012, the widening of participation in higher education according to socio-economic class – at least for young full-time undergraduates – was slow in England, and actually narrowed in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

#### Socio-economic 'participation gap'

- Young people from less advantaged socio-economic groups were considerably under-represented among full-time undergraduates. While 46.5% of the total UK working age population were in less advantaged socio-economic groups, only 31.2% of young full-time undergraduates were from these groups – a 'socio-economic participation gap' of -15 percentage points for the UK. The 'socio-economic participation gap' of was -14 percentage points for England, -23 percentage points for Wales, -21 percentage points for Scotland, and -15 percentage points for Northern Ireland.

#### Participation by neighbourhood

- Fewer than one in five young people in the local areas in England with lowest participation in higher education were estimated to enter higher education, compared with 57% in the highest participation areas.
- The rate of increase in participation by young people from the most disadvantaged areas has been slow. Between 2005-6 and 2011-12, the proportion of young people in local areas with the lowest rates of participation in full-time first degrees rose from 9.2% to 10.7% in England – a rise of only 1.5 percentage points. This increase represented about 8,000 additional young students. The participation level in Wales was rather fluctuating, but increased slightly; the situation in Northern Ireland showed a fluctuation around 6.5%. Comparable data were not available for Scotland.

#### Funding and access

- Despite the introduction of tuition fees of up to £9,000 and the planned 80% reduction in recurrent funding for teaching in England, the government is still having to spend more each year on higher education in England, in order to provide loans to cover the increase in tuition fees.
- Meanwhile, the government's introduction of a quasi-market in higher education fees saw full-time first degree course applications and acceptances fall in 2012, and prospective students from disadvantaged backgrounds put off higher education by the prospect of heavy and long-lasting debts.

#### Access and the introduction of top-up fees

- A number of recent reports and policy papers on higher education participation, funding and access have analysed participation in the period around the introduction of £3,000 top-up tuition fees in England in 2006, and the consensus is

that over the period the gap between participation rates by students from the most and least disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds narrowed slightly.

- Despite the slight narrowing of the socio-economic gap, Alan Milburn, the government's social mobility reviewer, reported in 2012 that 'access to university remains inequitable', and provided a number of recommendations to remedy this situation.

### 2012 entry cycle

- There was a considerable fall in acceptances by HEIs in England of English-domiciled applicants for full-time degree courses in 2012-13, the year of the introduction (albeit partial) of tuition fees of up to £9,000 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Scottish-domiciled students in Scotland are not charged fees.
- Acceptances for UK applicants domiciled in England fell by -6.6%, and by -3.7% for those domiciled in Northern Ireland; acceptances for Scottish-domiciled rose by 0.3% and by 5.3% for Welsh-domiciled. The applications organisation UCAS reported: '... around one in 20 English 18-year-olds who would have been expected to apply to higher education in 2012 (if the application rate had increased by one percentage point from 2011) did not do so'.
- However, HEFCE reported a slight increase in entry in 2012 for 18-year-olds from the most disadvantaged local area quintile in England to full-time undergraduate courses, compared, for example, with a -2.2 percentage point reduction in entry by young people from the most advantaged local area quintile.

### Mature and part-time entrants

- For older entrants to full-time higher education, the fall in acceptances in 2012 was much sharper. Meanwhile, numbers of part-time students have fallen sharply in recent years, with disadvantaged students more likely to be affected.

### 2013 entry

- There appears to have been a slight recovery in applications to full-time higher education for entry in 2013. The most recent data from UCAS, at the time of writing, for applications to full-time higher education for entry in 2013, indicated that, at 18 February 2013, total applicants were 2.5% higher than at the same stage in 2012, and that applications from those domiciled in England were 2.1% higher.
- Earlier analysis by UCAS of 2013 applications at 15 January showed that applications from 18 year olds in England from the most disadvantaged local area quintile had increased in 2013 by just over one percentage point compared with the same stage in the 2012 cycle; there were also slight increases in Northern Ireland and Scotland, but a slight decrease in Wales.

### Student support

- Analysis of universities' bursaries schemes to support disadvantaged students found there was a danger that funding under the government's new National Scholarship Programme for England, resulted in 'deadweight', because the eligibility criteria and financial support package of NSP were so opaque they

could not reasonably affect participation decisions – therefore funding went to those who would have gone to university anyway. Following on from that, the government announced in January 2013 that it will amend from 2014-15 the institutional allocation methodology for the NSP, so that funding was more targeted towards institutions according to their proportion of disadvantaged students.

### Student debt burden

- With fee and maintenance loans of up £50,000 when they graduate, the prospect of heavy debt is one that many graduates will face. This could well be discouraging potential students from higher education in 2013 and beyond, as it seems very likely to have done in 2012. Already the increase in tuition fees has had the unintended consequence of increasing the rate of inflation in the UK. Given the current problems with low growth and repeated recession in the UK economy, the government will be unwilling to see the UK experience the same dampening economic impact of student debt as now being felt in the United States, where the debt totals \$1.1tn, and where car purchases, home buying and credit card balances for those under 35 years of age have all decreased.

## 1. PARTICIPATION BY SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUP

Table 1 measures what proportion of young full-time undergraduate students in HE are from which social classes.<sup>1</sup> In 1997-8 to 2001-2, the proportion of students in UK HE from the less-advantaged social groups (IIIM, IV and V) remained unchanged at 26%. While England, Wales and Scotland had relatively similar proportions to the UK figure, the participation rate for Northern Ireland of young full-time undergraduates from a disadvantaged background was considerably higher, at 33/34%.

The adoption of the new National Statistics socio-economic classification from 2002-3 saw an increase in the proportion of students in UK HE from less-advantaged socio-economic groups (4: Small employers and own account workers; 5: Lower supervisory and technical occupations; 6: Semi-routine occupations; 7: Routine occupations) from 26% to 29%, but this increase may reflect the change in methodology rather than a genuine growth in the proportion of students from a less-advantaged background in UK higher education.

The widening of participation in higher education according to socio-economic class – at least for young full-time undergraduates - has been slow in England; it has fluctuated in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, with the proportion of disadvantaged students shrinking slightly between 2002-3 and 2011-12. The proportion of young full-time undergraduates from socio-economic groups 4-7 in the UK increased by only two percentage points over the nine-year period, from 29.2% to 31.2%. Participation by nation-region in 2011-12 for socio-economic group 4-7 students ranged from 27.2% in Scotland to 39.2% in Northern Ireland. In England the proportion of young full-time undergraduates from groups 4-7 increased by nearly three percentage points over the nine years to 2011-12, compared with a slight drop in Wales. The rate of participation by young people from socio-economic groups in Scotland actually fell by more than two percentage points, despite Scotland not charging fees to Scottish-domiciled students; the rate of participation also fell by more than two percentage points in Northern Ireland.

**Young** = aged under 21 at 30 September of the academic year in which they are recorded as entering the institution.

**Disadvantaged** = from socio-economic groups 4: Small employers and own account workers; 5: Lower supervisory and technical occupations; 6: Semi-routine occupations; 7: Routine occupations.

**Source:** Performance indicators in higher education, published by HEFCE to 2001-2 and by HESA from 2002-3; data are from Table T1b 'Participation of under-represented groups in higher education – young full-time undergraduate entrants'. Data not available in 2008-9 because the UCAS question was changed, with the result that the data were not comparable with previous years

[www.hesa.ac.uk/content/view/2072/141/](http://www.hesa.ac.uk/content/view/2072/141/)

HESA does not include NS-SEC class 8. HESA states: 'The performance indicator is the proportion of students from NS-SEC classes 4 to 7 out of those from NS-SEC classes 1 to 7. NS-SEC class 8, long-term unemployed or never worked, has been included with unknown classification for the purposes of the performance indicators.'

[www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2379](http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2379)

2009 adult population by socio-economic classification, source: ONS, United Kingdom Health Statistics 2010, Table 1.3 Adult population of working age: by sex and socio-economic classification, 2009, p6. The calculation of the percentage of the 2009 adult population from NS-SEC 4-7 excluded NS-SEC class 8, to produce a like-for-like statistic with the HESA data.

Young people from less advantaged socio-economic groups were considerably under-represented among full-time undergraduates. **Table 1** shows the proportion of the adult population of the UK and nation-regions of working age in socio-economic groups 4-7 in 2009. The proportion for the UK was 46.5%, which was considerably higher than the proportion of young full-time undergraduates in 2011-12 who were from socio-economic groups 4-7, which was 31.2%. In other words for the UK there was a negative gap of -15 percentage points between the proportion of the adult population in socio-economic groups 4-7, and the proportion of young full-time undergraduates from these groups. The 'socio-economic participation gap' was -14 percentage points for England, -23 percentage points for Wales, -21 percentage points for Scotland, and -15 percentage points for Northern Ireland.

**Table 1: Proportion of young full-time undergraduates from a disadvantaged background, UK**

	England %	Wales %	Scotland %	NI %	UK %
1997-8	25	27	24	34	26
1998-9	26	27	24	34	26
1999-2000	26	27	25	34	26
2000-01	26	27	25	33	26
2001-02	26	28	25	34	26
Series change					
2002-03	28.6	30.5	29.6	41.6	29.2
2003-04	28.8	30.0	27.5	42.8	29.2
2004-5	28.3	28.9	27.3	41.4	28.7
2005-6	29.6	29.3	28.1	41.4	29.8
2006-7	30.3	30.6	26.6	41.5	30.3
2007-8	30.0	30.8	26.6	40.6	30.1
2008-9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009-10	30.9	30.7	26.4	39.1	30.7
2010-11	31.4	31.5	27.9	39.4	31.3
2011-12	31.5	29.7	27.2	39.2	31.2
2009 adult population by socio-economic classification, socio-economic groups 4-7	45.7	52.8	48.2	53.9	46.5

## 2. PARTICIPATION BY NEIGHBOURHOOD

Another method of measuring participation by students from a disadvantaged background uses data on participation in higher education by young people from a particular local area. The areas are divided into five quintiles, ranging from local areas with the lowest levels of participation to those with the highest. To indicate the scale of differences involved, in 2009-10, 19% of young people in the lowest

participation quintile local areas in England were estimated to participate in higher education, compared with 57% in the highest quintile.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 2** shows the proportion of young people from local areas with the lowest levels of HE participation, who were full-time first degree entrants. Data for the period 2002-3 to 2005-6 used the Super Profiles methodology; data from 2005-6 used the POLAR2 methodology.<sup>3</sup> Data for the two periods are not directly comparable. From 2011-12 a new methodology, POLAR3, will be used. Data for Scotland have not been provided since 2007-8.<sup>4</sup>

As with socio-economic groups, the rate of increase in participation by young people from the most disadvantages areas was slow. Between 2005-6 and 2011-12, the proportion of young people in local areas with the lowest rates of participation in full-time first degrees rose from 9.2% to 10.7% in England – a rise of 1.5 percentage points. The picture in Wales was rather fluctuating, but increased from 8.9% to 10.2%; the situation in Northern Ireland showed a fluctuation around 6.5%.

The numerical data show how gradual the increase was. For England, where the student's local area was known, there was an increase of about 8,000 young full-time first degree entrants from lowest participation neighbourhoods between 2005-6 and 2011-12 – a rate of a little more than 1,000 a year (Table 3). Wales added about 500 students over the same period; and the number in Northern Ireland dropped a little.

Despite this evidence of a very gradual rate of change, the Higher Education Funding Council for England reported a 'rapid and significant' increase in the participation rate of students from the lowest-participation areas, 'with the chances of such students entering higher education increasing by around 30 per cent since the mid-2000s', but nevertheless concluded that the gap in participation rates between the most and least disadvantaged areas remained very wide.<sup>5</sup>

**Table 2: Participation of under-represented groups in higher education:  
Young full-time first degree entrants: % from lowest participation neighbourhoods**

	England	Wales	Scotland	NI	UK (excl Scotland from 2007-8)
	%	%	%	%	%
<b>2002-03</b>	12.5	16.0	18.6	10.1	13.3
<b>2003-04</b>	13.3	16.7	18.3	10.5	13.9
<b>2004-5</b>	13.1	16.8	18.6	9.5	13.7
<b>2005-6</b>	13.5	16.4	18.6	10.7	14.0
<b>Series change (overlap)</b>					
<b>2005-6</b>	9.2	8.9	3.3	6.5	8.6
<b>2006-7</b>	9.6	10.2	3.2	6.7	9.0
<b>2007-8</b>	9.9	9.4		6.7	9.7
<b>2008-9</b>	10.2	10.2		6.7	10.1
<b>2009-10</b>	10.5	9.8		6.2	10.3
<b>2010-11</b>	10.6	10.5		6.9	10.5
<b>2011-12</b>	10.7	10.2		6.5	10.6

**Young** = aged under 21 at 30 September of the academic year in which they are recorded as entering the institution

**Source:** Performance indicators in higher education, published by HESA from 2001-2; data are from Table T1a - Participation of under-represented groups in higher education: young full-time first degree entrants - Super Profiles low participation data to 2004-5, POLAR2 low participation data from 2005-6: % from low participation neighbourhoods [http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2064&Itemid=141](http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2064&Itemid=141)

**Young** = aged under 21 at 30 September of the academic year in which they are recorded as entering the institution

**Source:** Performance indicators in higher education, published by HESA from 2001-2; data are from Table T1a - Participation of under-represented groups in higher education: young full-time first degree entrants - Super Profiles low participation data to 2004-5, POLAR2 low participation data from 2005-6: % from low participation neighbourhoods

[http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2064&Itemid=141](http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2064&Itemid=141)

**Table 3: Participation of under-represented groups in higher education: Young full-time first degree entrants: numbers from lowest participation neighbourhoods**

	England	Wales	Scotland	NI	UK (excl Scotland from from 2007-8
	N	n	n	n	n
<b>2002-03</b>	22,160	1,925	4,195	580	28,860
<b>2003-04</b>	23,965	2,000	4,075	610	30,655
<b>2004-5</b>	23,875	2,035	3,960	565	30,440
<b>2005-6</b>	26,560	2,030	3,995	645	33,230
<b>Series change (overlap)</b>					
<b>2005-6</b>	19,660	1,320	780	510	22,270
<b>2006-7</b>	19,735	1,530	740	465	22,470
<b>2007-8</b>	21,025	1,425		505	22,955
<b>2008-9</b>	23,255	1,620		495	25,370
<b>2009-10</b>	24,740	1,680		495	26,915
<b>2010-11</b>	25,350	1,720		500	27,565
<b>2011-12</b>	27,800	1,810		470	30,075

### 3. FUNDING AND ACCESS

The controversial introduction in 2012 of annual tuition fees for full-time undergraduates of up to £9,000 has seen total public funding for higher education in England rise from £9.2 billion in 2011-12 (including £2.6bn for BIS loans on the upfront costs of tuition fees), to £10.1bn in 2012-13 (including £4.2bn for fee loans), £10.8bn in 2013-14 (including £5.8bn for fee loans) and £11.3bn in indicative amounts in 2014-15 (including £7.1bn in fee loans), in the third year of fees to £9,000. Within that total, public spending on recurrent grants for tuition in England have fallen from £4.7bn in 2011-12, to £3.8bn in 2012-13, £2.9bn in 2013-14 and £2.0bn in 2014-15 (indicative amount).

Despite the planned 80% reduction in recurrent funding for teaching as £9,000 tuition fees are introduced for full-time undergraduates, the government is still having to spend more each year on higher education in England, in order to provide upfront tuition fee loans – and this does not include the cost of maintenance grants and loans. Although graduates once earning above £21,000 will start to repay their loans, it is estimated that only 70% or even less of higher education loans will ever be repaid because of default, low graduate earnings and difficulty in getting graduates from other EU countries to make loan repayments.<sup>6</sup>

Meanwhile, the government's introduction of a quasi-market in higher education fees has seen full-time first degree course applications and acceptances fall, and prospective students from disadvantaged backgrounds put off higher education by



the fear of heavy and long-lasting debts. In order to introduce its changes to higher education funding and finance, the government has shown that it is prepared to put at risk another of its supposedly key priorities, that of increasing social mobility.

#### 4. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

There have been a number of recent reports and policy papers on higher education participation, funding and access in the UK from the government, public bodies and research organisations. Several of the reports analyse participation in the period around the introduction of top-up tuition fees in England in 2006-7, and the consensus is that over the period the gap between participation rates by students from the most and least disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds narrowed slightly.<sup>7</sup>

Despite the slight narrowing of the socio-economic gap, Alan Milburn, the government's social mobility reviewer, reported that 'Access to university remains inequitable', and provided a number of recommendations to remedy this situation.<sup>8</sup> And the financial benefits of graduate earnings may be slow in coming: the Futuretrack longitudinal study found strong evidence that graduates were taking non-graduate jobs.<sup>9</sup>

#### 5. 2012 ENTRY CYCLE

UCAS, in its 2012 end of cycle report, noted a considerable fall in acceptances by HEIs in England of English-domiciled applicants for full-time degree courses in 2012-13, the year of the introduction (albeit partial) of tuition fees of up to £9,000 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Acceptances for UK applicants domiciled in England fell by -6.6%, and by -3.7% for those domiciled in Northern Ireland; acceptances for Scottish-domiciled rose by 0.3% and by 5.3% for Welsh-domiciled. The report said: '... around one in twenty English 18 year olds who would have been expected to apply to higher education in 2012 (if the application rate had increased by one percentage point from 2011) did not do so'.<sup>10</sup>

In terms of acceptances in 2012 according to participation by the local areas that UK-domiciled applicants aged 19 and under come from, there was a mixed picture, with those from the lowest participation areas in the UK having the lowest drop in acceptances (-2.4%), and those from the two highest participation areas having the biggest drop in acceptances (-7.1% quintile 4, and -6.9% quintile 5).<sup>11</sup> However, HEFCE said that in 2012 there was a 0.3 percentage points increase in entry for 18 year olds from the most disadvantaged local area quintile in England to full-time undergraduate courses, compared, for example, with a -2.2 percentage point reduction in entry by young people from the most advantaged local area quintile. HEFCE concluded: 'Recent positive trends in widening participation for students from less advantaged groups appear to have held up in 2012'.<sup>12</sup>

#### 6. MATURE ENTRANTS

For older entrants to full-time higher education, the fall in acceptances in 2012 was much sharper. Acceptances for UK applicants aged 20 and over fell by -7.1% between 2011 and 2012.<sup>13</sup> Applications from older applicants by 15 January for 2013 entry in England had generally increased from 2012 (though not for those aged over 30), but were still lower than in 2010 and 2011. There were slight



increases in applications from older applicants in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.<sup>14</sup>

### **7. PART-TIME STUDENTS**

Numbers of part-time students have fallen sharply in recent years, with disadvantaged students more likely to be affected. For part-time students, the most recent data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency at the time of writing were for 2011-12, and indicated a sharp decrease in the numbers of UK-domiciled part-time students. Between the recent high point of 2008-9 and 2011-12, numbers of UK-domiciled part-time undergraduates fell by -12.2%, to 491,000.<sup>15</sup> HEFCE said: ‘...in 2011, young students from the most disadvantaged backgrounds were twice as likely as the most advantaged young students to choose to study part-time rather than full-time. We also know that a higher proportion of part-time students are likely to have caring responsibilities – two-thirds of part-time students have caring responsibilities. A reduction in part-time numbers will therefore have a disproportionate effect on certain groups of students, with non-traditional learners likely to be most affected.’<sup>16</sup>

### **8. 2013 ENTRY**

There appears to have been a slight recovery in applications to full-time higher education for entry in 2013. The most recent data from UCAS, at the time of writing, for applications to full-time higher education via UCAS for entry in 2013, indicated that, at 18 February 2013, total applicants were 2.5% higher than at the same stage in 2012, and that applications from those domiciled in England were 2.1% higher, Wales -3.1% lower, Scotland 0.7% higher, and Northern Ireland 6.3% higher.<sup>17</sup> There were 406,186 applications at 18 February 2013 from those domiciled in England, which was considerably below the number of applications at the same stage in 2010 (432,859) and 2011 (440,362), but higher than 397,652 in 2012. Earlier analysis by UCAS of 2013 applications at 15 January showed that applications from 18 year olds in England from the most disadvantaged local area quintile had increased in 2013 by just over one percentage point compared with the same stage in the 2012 cycle; there were also slight increases in Northern Ireland and Scotland, but a slight decrease in Wales.<sup>18</sup>

### **9. STUDENT SUPPORT**

The Institute for Fiscal Studies analysed universities’ bursaries schemes to support disadvantaged students and found there was a danger that funding under the government’s new National Scholarship Programme for England, resulted in ‘deadweight’, because the eligibility criteria and financial support package of NSP were so opaque they could not reasonably affect participation decisions – therefore funding went to those who would have gone to university anyway. Following on from that, the government announced in January 2013 that it will amend from 2014-15 the institutional allocation methodology for the NSP, so that funding was more targeted towards institutions according to their proportion of disadvantaged students. Also in January 2013 OFFA produced guidance for universities and colleges in England that wish to charge higher fees in 2014-15, with increased emphasis on the need for evidence, evaluation and collaboration in widening participation strategies.

### 10. STUDENT DEBT BURDEN

With fee loans of up to £9,000 a year for a full-time undergraduate course, plus loans for maintenance, and annual maintenance loans of up to £7,675 (for students living away from home, in London), students could be facing a debt of £50,000 when they graduate from a standard three-year course. While means-tested fee support and maintenance grants will reduce this burden for less well-off students, the prospect of heavy debt is one that many graduates will face. This could well be discouraging potential students from higher education in 2013 and beyond, as it seems very likely to have done in 2012.

Already the increase in tuition fees has had the unintended consequence of increasing the rate of inflation in the UK.<sup>19</sup> Given the current problems with low growth and repeated recession in the UK economy, the government will be unwilling to see the UK experiencing the same economic impact of student debt as now being felt in the United States. There, growing student debt has been dampening consumption and future credit creation. According to the Financial Times: 'Car purchases, home buying and credit card balances for those under 35 years of age have all decreased as overall student debt has surged to \$1.1tn, according to new data from the Pew Research Center and CFPB [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau].'<sup>20</sup> The amount of student debt in the US was the second-largest sum owed after mortgages.<sup>21</sup>

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> To 2001-2, the data refer to the proportion of students in HE from social classes IIIM, IV and V; from 2002-3, the data refer to the proportion of students in HE from National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC): classes 4 to 7; The new classification has seven analytic classes and groups 1 to 3 are used as 'high' class and 4 to 7 as 'low'. This change in methodology has increased the overall percentage from lower socio-economic classes by over 2.5 percentage points.
- <sup>2</sup> HEFCE (2010) Trends in young participation in higher education: core results for England. Bristol: HEFCE, p23
- <sup>3</sup> see [http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2379](http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2379) for further information.
- <sup>4</sup> HESA states: 'The relatively high (in UK terms) participation rate in Scotland coupled with the very high proportion of HE that occurs in FE colleges means that the figures for Scottish institutions could, when viewed in isolation, misrepresent their contribution to widening participation. Therefore, low participation data has not been produced for institutions in Scotland from 2007/08'  
[http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2379](http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2379)
- <sup>5</sup> HEFCE (2013). Higher education in England: impact of the 2012 reforms. HEFCE: Bristol, p21
- <sup>6</sup> HEPI (2012). The cost of the government's reforms of the financing of higher education. HEPI: Oxford, para. 28-30
- <sup>7</sup> <http://www.bis.gov.uk/analysis/statistics/higher-education/official-statistics-releases/widening-participation-in-higher-education/widening-participation-in-higher-education-2012>  
HEFCE: POLAR3 – Young participation rates in higher education (October 2012)  
<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/media/hefce/content/pubs/2012/201226/POLAR3.pdf>  
Institute for Fiscal Studies: Socio-economic gaps in HE participation: how have they changed over time? (November 2012) <http://www.ifs.org.uk/bns/bn133.pdf>
- <sup>8</sup> Alan Milburn: University challenge - how higher education can advance social mobility (October 2012)  
<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Higher-Education.pdf>
- <sup>9</sup> Futuretrack: Futuretrack Stage 4: transitions into employment, further study and other outcomes (November 2012)  
[www.hecsu.ac.uk/assets/assets/documents/Futuretrack\\_Stage\\_4\\_Final\\_report\\_6th\\_Nov\\_2012.pdf](http://www.hecsu.ac.uk/assets/assets/documents/Futuretrack_Stage_4_Final_report_6th_Nov_2012.pdf)
- <sup>10</sup> UCAS (2012). End of cycle report 2012. UCAS: Cheltenham, p30
- <sup>11</sup> UCAS (2012). End of cycle report 2012. UCAS: Cheltenham, p109
- <sup>12</sup> HEFCE (2013). Higher education in England: impact of the 2012 reforms. HEFCE: Bristol, p19
- <sup>13</sup> HEFCE (2013). Higher education in England: impact of the 2012 reforms. HEFCE: Bristol, p20
- <sup>14</sup> UCAS (2013). UK application rates by country, sex, age and background (2013 cycle, January deadline). UCAS: Cheltenham, p15
- <sup>15</sup> See <http://www.hesa.ac.uk/content/view/1897/239/> accessed 13 March 2013
- <sup>16</sup> HEFCE (2013). Higher education in England: impact of the 2012 reforms. HEFCE: Bristol, p21
- <sup>17</sup> [http://www.ucas.com/documents/stats/2013\\_applicantfigures\\_feb.pdf](http://www.ucas.com/documents/stats/2013_applicantfigures_feb.pdf) accessed 13 March 2013
- <sup>18</sup> UCAS (2013). UK application rates by country, sex, age and background (2013 cycle, January deadline). UCAS: Cheltenham, p10-12
- <sup>19</sup> ONS (2012). Consumer Price Indices, December 2012  
[http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778\\_294429.pdf](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_294429.pdf)
- <sup>20</sup> Shahien Nasiripour (2013). Call for action as student debt cuts demand. Financial Times, 22 February 2013, p6
- <sup>21</sup> Anjli Raval (2012). Student debt puts young people off buying homes. Financial Times, 16 May 2012, p5