

This section of Council Briefing brings together all the latest information issued by HEFCE. It covers events, publications, R&D reports, circular letters, electronic messages, announcements, and updates to the HEFCE web-site.

Research reports

Copies of the full reports are available on the web-site under Publications/Research and evaluation.

Impact of quality-related (QR) funding for research in English higher education institutions

January 2007

Report to HEFCE by SQW Ltd

In 2005-06 HEFCE allocated quality-related (QR) research funding totalling £1.2 billion as a block grant, which HEIs are free to spend according to their own priorities.

HEFCE commissioned SQW Ltd to review the impact of this funding. The study, based on case studies of 11 HEIs, found that the attractions of QR are its relative predictability and stability, at least between the periodic Research Assessment Exercises. HEIs felt that internal allocations of QR funds could be aligned with institutional priorities and contributed to developing and sustaining research capabilities.

Global innovation environments (Study A)

February 2007

Report to HEFCE by Quotec Ltd and SPRU, University of Sussex

HEFCE aims to support 'third stream' activities which enhance the contribution made by the higher education knowledge base to economic development and the strength and vitality of society. To inform its policies and funding it commissioned Quotec Ltd together with SPRU at University of Sussex to undertake three studies.

Study A looks at the policy actions taken in some countries to create leading-edge environments where

Deadlines

5 April: online responses to the second consultation on the changes to the teaching funding method (HEFCE 2007/02)

4 June: HEIs to submit the results of their self-assessment of people management (CL 02/2007)

academics and businesses can interact, share knowledge and develop partnerships. It focuses on six examples of global innovation environments.

The three studies are:

- global innovation environments (A)
- experimental third stream Strategic Development Fund projects (B) to be published shortly
- the impact of the Higher Education Innovation Fund (C).

Higher Education Innovation Fund impact survey (Study C)

February 2007

Report to HEFCE by Quotec Ltd and SPRU, University of Sussex

See summary for Study A above. Study C is an initial review of activities funded under the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF). Of 128 English higher education institutions approached to complete the online HEIF impact survey, 76 responded (59 per cent). The survey results indicated that HEIF funding has made a considerable contribution to higher education institutions' knowledge transfer activities and outputs.

HEFCE publications

Available in print or on the web-site under Publications. All documents are free.

2006/50 2005-06 statistics derived from HESA data for monitoring and allocation of funding (web only)

This document describes how HEFCE will reconcile 2005-06 data returns made to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) with other returns made to HEFCE. It also describes how HEFCE will use HESA data to inform the widening participation allocation for 2007-08.

2007/01 The HEFCE Equality Scheme (web only)

The HEFCE Equality Scheme explains how HEFCE will meet its statutory duties to promote race, disability and gender equality.

2007/02 Review of the teaching funding method: second consultation

This is the second consultation on HEFCE's plans for changing the method for allocating HEFCE funds for teaching. Responses are due by 5 April.

2007/03 Foundation degrees: key statistics 2001-02 to 2006-07 (web only)

This Issues paper describes the key characteristics of foundation degree programmes and students (see article on page 13). It covers the trends in student numbers, the characteristics of programmes, attributes of students, students' feedback, progression and qualification rates, progression to further study and employment outcomes, and support from employers.

2007/04 Contacts in higher education

This guide lists the 132 universities and colleges in England directly funded by HEFCE, with contact details. It also includes useful sources of information on higher education.

2007/05 2005-06 statistics derived from ILR data for the monitoring and allocation of funding in FECs (web only)

This document describes how HEFCE will reconcile 2005-06 data returns made to the Learning and Skills Council with other returns made to HEFCE. It also describes how HEFCE intends to use Individualised Learner Record data to inform the widening participation allocations for 2007-08.

2007/06 Recurrent grants for 2007-08

This document summarises provisional allocations of HEFCE recurrent funding to institutions for the academic year 2007-08. Final allocations will be announced in July 2007.

Circular letters

Available in print or on the web-site, under Publications/Circular letters.

New Year 2008 Honours list

CL 01/2007 30 January 2007 [Letter not available]

Self-assessment of people management in HEIs

CL 02/2007 21 February 2007

This letter reminds higher education institutions that the deadline for submitting the results of their self-assessment of progress in people management is Monday 4 June 2007.

Allocation of additional student numbers in 2008-09 for employer engagement

CL 03/2007 28 February 2007

This letter sets out how institutions can request additional student numbers for 2008-09 that are co-funded by employers, and provides an update on employer engagement following the publication of the Leitch Review of Skills.

Allocation of funds for additional student numbers in 2008-09

CL 04/2007 28 February 2007

This letter sets out HEFCE's plans for the distribution of funding for additional student numbers for the academic year 2008-09.

RAE publications

Available on the web at www.rae.ac.uk.

Electronic mailing list (admin-hefce)

This list is used to send information on minor procedural changes, announcements, and news about the latest publications on the web-site.

Anyone can join or leave admin-hefce at any time from the Jiscmail site: www.jiscmail.ac.uk/admin-hefce

To join admin-hefce, send an e-mail message to jiscmail@jiscmail.ac.uk. Leave the subject field blank, and in the body of the message put:

Join admin-hefce [first name last name]

For example: Join admin-hefce Jane Brown

To leave admin-hefce, send a similar e-mail, but in the body of the message put:

Leave admin-hefce

Announcements/press releases

Available on the web-site under News and events.

HEFCE welcomes challenges of Leitch Review

6 December 2006

The review of future skills needs in the UK, by Lord Leitch, has now been published. It is available at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk under Independent reviews.

Grant announcement for higher education 2007-08

12 January 2007

The Secretary of State for Education and Skills has set out the funding for higher education in 2007-08 in the annual grant letter to HEFCE.

Electronic access to RAE 2008 articles

5 February 2007

An innovative partnership will enable free electronic access to journal articles submitted to the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

Updates to the web-site

The following updates or additions have been made to the HEFCE web-site.

Mainstreaming of model 2 LLN funding

Guidance for 'model 2' Lifelong Learning Networks (LLN) on their funding for additional student numbers.

www.hefce.ac.uk under *Widening participation/Monitoring & evaluation /Monitoring LLNs*

Quality assurance of TRAC - fifth round

UK HEIs were asked to submit benchmarking data in regard to the Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) by 31 January.

www.hefce.ac.uk under *Finance & assurance/Finance and funding/Transparency review/details of the quality assurance process*

Supporting professionalism in admissions

The programme is to act as a central source of expertise and advice on admissions for UK institutions.

www.hefce.ac.uk under *Widening participation/Fair access*

HE-BCI survey FAQs

Answers to questions on completing the survey of business and community interaction (HE-BCI) links.

www.hefce.ac.uk under *Questions/HE-BCI survey FAQs*

Events

HEFCE Annual Conference

University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, Herts

18-19 April 2007

Delegates have been invited to register online. E-mail hefceconf2007@hefce.ac.uk or contact Kathryn Mills on 0117 931 7035.

HEFCE/AoC Conference

Paddington Hilton, London

17-18 May 2007

Full details will be available soon from the Association of Colleges.

If you have any queries please contact Philip Walker, e-mail p.walker@hefce.ac.uk, tel 0117 931 7363.

Equal opportunities monitoring

Monitoring information is available for HE sector staff and students for 2003-04 and 2004-05, related to ethnicity, disability and gender.

www.hefce.ac.uk under *Leadership, governance & management/Equality and diversity/Equal opportunities monitoring*

Corporate Social Responsibility policy and plan

HEFCE has published an updated Corporate Social Responsibility policy, with a detailed plan and targets for 2007-08.

www.hefce.ac.uk under *About us/Corporate Social Responsibility*

Strategic alliance with South West RDA

HEFCE has agreed a strategic alliance with the South West Regional Development Agency.

www.hefce.ac.uk under *Regions/Regional teams/South West*

Invitation to tender for evaluation

This invitation to tender is for an evaluation of the effectiveness and role of HEFCE/Office of Science and Innovation third stream funding to date. The deadline for tenders is Friday 20 April 2007.

www.hefce.ac.uk under *Business & community/Future third stream strategy/invitation to tender*

Procurement in higher education

An analysis of responses from the consultation has been published.

www.hefce.ac.uk under *Finance & assurance/Funding higher education in England/Procurement*

New name for JMAC

The Joint Medical Advisory Committee (JMAC) has become the UK Healthcare Education Advisory Committee.

www.hefce.ac.uk under About us/Healthcare, medical and dental education and research

Targeting the Aimhigher and widening participation resource

HEFCE has set up a task group to review how widening participation activity in HE, including Aimhigher, is targeted.

www.hefce.ac.uk under Widening participation/Targeting the Aimhigher and WP resource

TRAC default cost rates announced

Indirect and estates cost rates have been announced for 2007-08; they will apply from March 2007.

www.hefce.ac.uk under Finance & assurance/Funding HE in England/Transparency review

Guidelines for related bodies

Comments are invited on guidelines for appointments to the boards of related bodies, by 4 May 2007.

Research and evaluation in progress

HEFCE now publishes details of its research and evaluation projects that are in progress.

www.hefce.ac.uk under Publications/Research & evaluation

Championing equality

HEFCE's commitment to equality and diversity is laid out in its recent Equality Scheme publication which explains how it intends to promote equality in three areas – race, disability and gender.

The Equality Scheme has been published following widespread consultation with the sector and recognises the Council's positive statutory duties for the three areas in one merged scheme. The scheme sets out its approach to promoting equality and diversity as an employer of 260 staff, and as a major funder of higher education in England.

HEFCE is also aiming to go beyond its positive statutory duties and promote equality on the basis of sexual orientation, age, religion and belief. The Council is committed to integrating these strands into its future plan of work outlined in the Equality Scheme so that it reflects the spirit, as well as the letter, of the law.

'The HEFCE Equality Scheme' (HEFCE 2007/01) and HEFCE's equality monitoring data are available on the HEFCE web-site under Leadership, governance and management/Equality and diversity.

Teaching funding: views sought

Feedback is being sought on HEFCE's second round of consultation on proposals to develop the funding method for teaching from 2008.

The Council is reviewing the funding method because it wants to ensure it remains fit for purpose – both in the short term following the introduction of variable tuition fees, and after the Government's review of fee regulations in 2009.

The balance between public and private funding is changing, with more private funds particularly from higher tuition fees. This change means that HEFCE is taking a more strategic approach in order to support priorities that might be compromised in a market-based system.

The strategic aims of the method are to support a diverse range of institutions and provision, and to protect certain characteristics of higher education that HEFCE believes are in the public interest.

The proposals include: the development of a new system of targeted allocations that will provide more effective support for particular aspects of HE, recognising flexible study patterns and the further application to teaching of the Transparent Approach to Costing.

Proposals are set out in HEFCE 2007/02. Responses should be made by 5 April using the on-line form available with the document at www.hefce.ac.uk under Publications.

Further details

Most of the information listed in this Update is available on the web-site at www.hefce.ac.uk under Publications.

To order publications, contact Kathryn Mills, tel 0117 931 7035, e-mail publications@hefce.ac.uk

For all other enquiries, contact the helpdesk on 0117 931 7438, e-mail hefce@hefce.ac.uk