

# hefce UPDATE

A digest of the latest information available from HEFCE

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.**

### Independent review of HEPI

*March 2007*

### Report to HEFCE by SQW Ltd

The review aimed to evaluate the extent to which the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) has achieved its mission and objectives, and provide evidence to enable HEFCE to assess HEPI's capability to do so in the future.

### Sustainable foundation degrees: a case study of Northamptonshire

*March 2007*

### Report to HEFCE by the Knowledge Exchange, University of Northampton

This report presents the findings of research into the issues and obstacles surrounding the successful and sustainable implementation of foundation degrees in small and medium-sized enterprises and larger organisations, principally in Northamptonshire.

### TRAC EC-FP7 guidance: draft

*March 2007*

### Report by JM Consulting for Universities UK, the four UK HE funding bodies and the Office of Science and Innovation

This draft report considers the adaptation of TRAC for use with the EU Framework Programme. It provides guidance on adjustments to be made. The report is available at [www.universitiesuk.ac.uk](http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk)

### Demand for foundation degrees and engaging employers in the East Midlands

*April 2007*

### Report to HEFCE by the Centre for Labour Market Studies, University of Leicester, and University of Derby

This research involved gathering and analysing data regarding the demand for foundation degrees, and

## Deadlines

**27 July:** institutions to submit annual monitoring statement, corporate planning statement and financial forecasts (HEFCE 2007/10)

**3 December:** institutions to submit annual monitoring statement, corporate planning statement and financial forecasts if they did not make a submission by the July deadline (HEFCE 2007/10)

using this to focus on four key employment sectors where there appears to be low demand for and uptake of these programmes in the East Midlands region.

### Aimhigher area studies

*April 2007*

### Report to HEFCE by EKOS Consulting

The Aimhigher programme aims to widen participation in higher education (HE) by under-represented groups. HEFCE commissioned independent consultants EKOS Consulting to give a clear picture of how Aimhigher partnerships work, what ways of working are successful and how the programme could be more effective.

### Experimental Third Stream Strategic Development Fund Projects – Study B

*April 2007*

### A 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 HEFCE policy-making and funding, the Council commissioned Quotec Ltd and SPRU at University of Sussex to undertake three studies:

- Global Innovation Environments (A)
- Experimental Third Stream Strategic Development Fund Projects (B)

- Higher Education Innovation Fund Impact Survey (C). Study B analyses six business cases from higher education institutions (HEIs) seeking project funding under the Strategic Development Fund.

### Evaluation of HEFCE's investment in good management practice development in the HE sector

April 2007

#### Report to HEFCE by Oakleigh Consulting

HEFCE aims to promote value for money in the higher education sector. It has invested in good practice through the Good Management Practice Fund and the Leadership, Governance and Management (LGM) Fund. This review looks at the impacts and outcomes of this investment, the administrative arrangements for the funds, and how they were viewed by applicants.

### Personalised learning plans in Lifelong Learning Networks

April 2007

#### Report by the Centre for Recording Achievement

HEFCE funds a number of Lifelong Learning Networks (LLNs) across the country (see supplement). Personalised learning plans (or individualised learning plans as they were originally termed) were seen as a key way for networks to focus on the needs of the learner. This report presents the outcomes of a study to help LLNs to develop good practice in personalised learning plans.

### Review of provision for land-based studies

May 2007

#### Final report to HEFCE by JM Consulting and SQW Ltd

See article on page 4.

## HEFCE publications

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

### 2007/07 Students registered at one institution but taught by another 2005-06: tables of franchised students (web only)

This document gives tables of higher education students who are registered at one institution but taught by another.

### 2007/08 Performance in higher education estates: EMS annual report 2006

See article on page 7.

### 2007/09 HEFCE strategic plan 2006-11: updated April 2007

This strategic plan sets out a widely shared vision for the development of higher education in England to 2011, and HEFCE's strategy for moving towards that vision. It was developed through extensive consultation and discussion with a wide range of stakeholders and has now been updated for 2007.

### 2007/10 Annual monitoring and corporate planning statements, and financial forecasts 2007

This document asks higher education institutions to send HEFCE an annual monitoring statement and a corporate planning statement for 2006-07, and financial forecasts for the period up to 2010-11.

### 2007/11 Accountability for higher education institutions: new arrangements from 2008

See article on page 5.

## Circular letters

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

### CL 05/2007 Procurement in the higher education sector: next steps

This circular letter outlines the next steps following the outcomes of the consultation (HEFCE 2006/33a) and discussions with the Scottish and Welsh higher education funding councils.

### CL 06/2007 Future framework for research assessment and funding

In December 2006, the Government announced that HEFCE would develop a new framework for the assessment and funding of research, to come into effect after the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise. This letter outlines its plans to develop and implement the new framework, in consultation with the sector.

### CL 07/2007 Reprofiting of learning and teaching grant for the 2006-07 academic year

This letter announces a change to the profile of the basic grant for learning and teaching for the 2006-07 academic year.

### CL 08/2007 Development of TQI and the NSS: outcomes of consultation

This letter summarises responses to HEFCE's consultation on developing Teaching Quality Information (TQI) and the National Student Survey (NSS). It also sets out the decisions made by the TQI/NSS steering group (see front page article).

### CL 09/2007 Shared services: invitation to submit expressions of interest

This letter invites expressions of interest from HEIs in: leading feasibility studies and/or participating in shared services where these are being developed or might be developed in the future.

### CL 10/2007 Implications of the Charities Act 2006

This letter informs institutions of the changes to the arrangements for the oversight of exempt charities in England as a result of the Charities Act 2006. It requires a response.

### CL 11/2007 Implementing a capital investment framework for higher education institutions

We received strong support for our proposals to adopt a new framework for capital investment for higher education

institutions. This letter explains how we are taking forward the proposals, and summarises key messages from recent reviews of capital investment and planning, which institutions may find helpful.

#### **CL 12/2007 Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme (ORSAS): arrangements for 2007-08 and 2008-09**

This letter updates the arrangements for the ORSAS scheme outlined in HEFCE Circular Letter 21/2005.

#### **CL 13/2007 Additional funding for very high cost and vulnerable laboratory-based subjects**

In January 2007 the HEFCE Board agreed to allocate £75 million in time-limited core funding to secure the provision of very high cost laboratory-based subjects. This letter shows the breakdown of the institutional allocations between the four subject areas concerned.

#### **CL 14/2007 Invitation to take part in research assessing the impact of reviews of collaborative arrangements on higher education institutions**

This letter, sent on behalf of the Quality Assurance Framework Review Group, describes the next phase of the review of the Quality Assurance Framework, concerning collaborative provision, and invites volunteers to take part in this review.

#### **CL 15/2007 Advance notice of changes to HESES07**

Advance notice of the main changes to the 2007-08 Higher Education Students Early Statistics survey (HESES07).

#### **CL 16/2007 Transparency Review data reported for 2005-06**

A report on data received for 2005-06 from universities and colleges under Transparency Review reporting.

## **RAE publications**

#### **RAE 2008: Updated equality briefing for panel chairs, members, advisors and secretaries**

*RAE 02/2007*

This briefing updates and supersedes 'Equality briefing for panel chairs, members and secretaries' (RAE 02/2005).

Available on the web at [www.rae.ac.uk](http://www.rae.ac.uk).

## **Board business**

Details of HEFCE's Board members and how the Board conducts its business are available on the HEFCE web-site under About us/HEFCE's Board.

Papers that are brought before the Board for consideration are posted on the site three months after the relevant Board meeting.

The next meeting of the Board is 5 July 2007.

## **Events**

#### **HEFCE Annual Meeting 2007**

School of Oriental and African Studies, London

16 November 2007

Meeting for HEI chairs of governing bodies and anyone with an interest in higher education to discuss developments in higher education and present the current activities of the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Contact Kathryn Mills (e-mail [k.mills@hefce.ac.uk](mailto:k.mills@hefce.ac.uk)) for details.

## **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](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/admin-hefce)

#### **EP 02/2007 Financial health of the higher education sector in England**

This electronic publication (EP) gives feedback on the 2005-06 financial performance of the sector as a whole, and includes an overview of the forecast financial health until 2010, based on forecasts sent to HEFCE in July 2006. It also incorporates comments on institutions' annual monitoring statements and corporate planning statements for the academic year 2005-06.

To join admin-hefce, send an e-mail message to [jiscmail@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto: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.**

#### **Funding of over £7 billion supports strong growth in student numbers in higher education**

*1 March 2007*

HEFCE announced that it will make available £7,137 million in funding for 2007-08 to universities and colleges in England.

## Updates to the web-site

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

### Funding data for quality-related research (QR) funding

2007-08 data have been added to the web-site.

[www.hefce.ac.uk](http://www.hefce.ac.uk) under *Research/Funding/Quality-related funding data*

### Grant letters to institutions

Standard recurrent grant letters and summary tables for 2007-08 are available.

[www.hefce.ac.uk](http://www.hefce.ac.uk) under *Finance & assurance/Finance and funding*

### Sustainability – report on progress

A report to show progress on actions outlined in HEFCE's Sustainable Development Action Plan 2006.

[www.hefce.ac.uk](http://www.hefce.ac.uk) under *Leadership, governance & management/Sustainable development/Context*

### Higher education in further education colleges

Next steps following the end of the consultation.

[www.hefce.ac.uk](http://www.hefce.ac.uk) under *Learning and teaching/HE in FECs*

### Sector impact assessment of Lifelong Learning Networks

[www.hefce.ac.uk](http://www.hefce.ac.uk) under *Widening participation/Lifelong Learning Networks*

### Flexible learning pilot projects

Details of five pathfinder projects, including provision of 'fast-track' degrees.

[www.hefce.ac.uk](http://www.hefce.ac.uk) under *Learning and teaching/Flexible learning*

### Research and evaluation in progress

[www.hefce.ac.uk](http://www.hefce.ac.uk) under *Publications/Research & evaluation*

## Further details

Most of the information listed in this Update is available on the web-site at [www.hefce.ac.uk](http://www.hefce.ac.uk) under Publications.

To order publications, contact Kathryn Mills, tel 0117 931 7035, e-mail [publications@hefce.ac.uk](mailto:publications@hefce.ac.uk)

For all other enquiries, contact the helpdesk on 0117 931 7438, e-mail [hefce@hefce.ac.uk](mailto:hefce@hefce.ac.uk)

## Education funding update

**Funding available for education as announced in the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown's, last Budget statement shows an increase from £64 billion for 2007-08 to £75 billion in 2010-11 (see Table 1). This represents a rise of 2.5 per cent in real terms.**

The distribution of these funds across the education sector will be determined later this year. The next recurrent grant letter from the Department of Education and Skills (DfES) will inform HEFCE of its funds for higher education for 2008-09 to 2010-11.

The Chancellor also announced funding for research which is ring-fenced within the DfES and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) spending review settlements (see Table 2).

Table 1 Funding for education across the sectors 2007-08 to 2010-11

£M	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Recurrent funding	57,050	60,088	62,912	66,378
Capital funding	8,315	8,565	9,065	10,165
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,101</b>	<b>67,298</b>	<b>70,622</b>	<b>75,188</b>

Table 2 Research funding for 2007-08 to 2010-11

£M	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
DTI research funding	3,383	3,525	3,746	3,971
DfES research funding	1,655	1,710	1,775	1,926
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,038</b>	<b>5,235</b>	<b>5,521</b>	<b>5,897</b>