

Challenging minds in challenging times.

A brief overview of some key issues with
Higher Education applications and
admissions

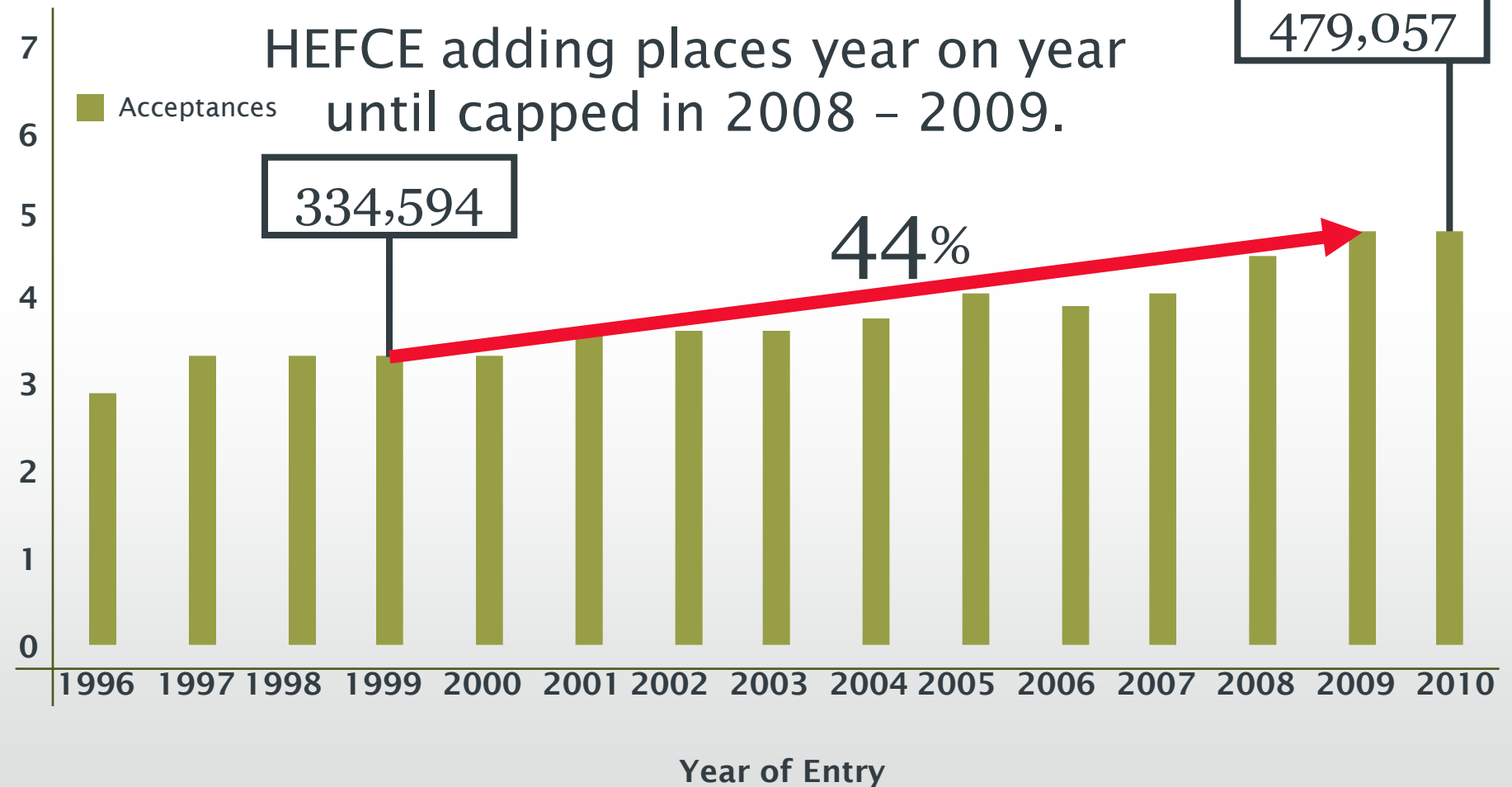
Chris Fuller, Learn with US Lecturer
February 2011

Challenging minds in challenging times

- Application and admission figures
- The globalization of HE and Russell Group universities
- League tables
- Fees
- State verses independent intake

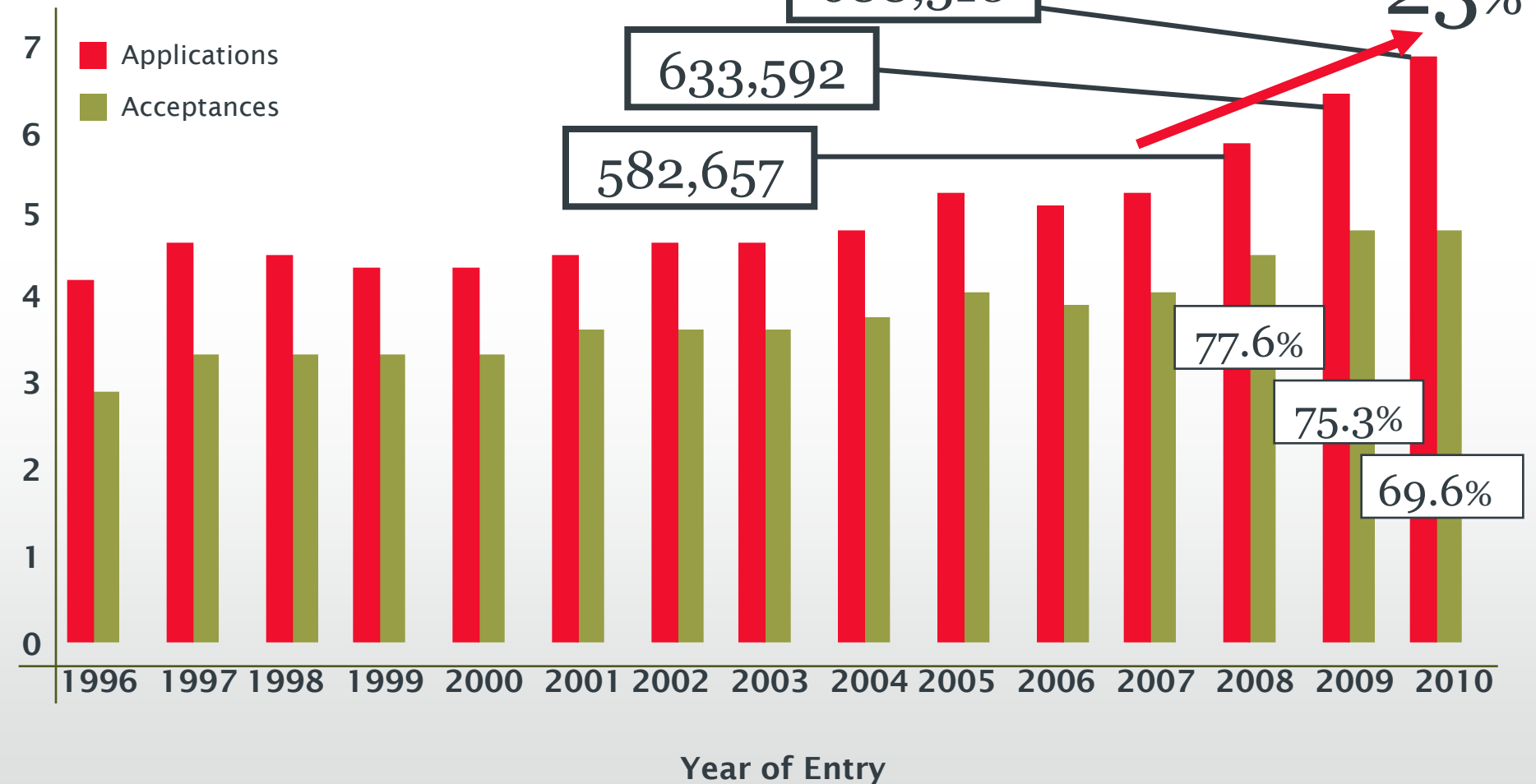
UCAS Applications and Acceptances 1996 - 2010

Hundreds of thousands



UCAS Applications and Acceptances 1996 - 2010

Hundreds of thousands



Cap on student numbers means one in three applicants will not get university places

Guardian, January 14, 2010

Up to 200,000 would-be students will be turned away this year because of unprecedented demand

Thousands of teenagers miss out on university place in wake of spending cuts

Thousands of teenagers will this week be rejected by top universities who have toughened entry criteria in the wake of spending cuts ordered by Lord Mandelson, The Daily

Daily Telegraph, January 8, 2010

Be afraid, parents

Universities are at risk of 'meltdown' from swingeing cuts, and our children will suffer, says a vice-chancellor

Sunday Times, January 17, 2010

One in three to miss out on university: Surge in applications will leave 250,000 out in the cold

Daily Mail, February 1, 2011

200,000 face university disappointment


Independent, 1 August 2011

Russell Group applications per places 2011-12

	Applications	Places / Offers	Ratio
London School of Economics	18,693	1,290	14.5
University of Bristol	39,420	3,849	10.2
The University of Edinburgh	45,868	3,868	11.9
King's College London	37,046	4,059	9.1
The University of Warwick	34,868	4,178	8.3
University College London	34,559	4,031	8.6
The University of Manchester	58,252	8,942	6.5
The University of Liverpool	32,022	4,431	7.2
University of Leeds	52,823	7,462	7.1
The University of Birmingham	43,383	5,480	7.9
Cardiff University	33,054	4,892	6.8
The University of Sheffield	39,920	5,048	7.9
University of Southampton	38,410	5,404	7.1
The University of Nottingham	48,904	6,898	7.1
Newcastle University	28,639	4,678	6.1
Imperial College London	14,935	2,477	6.1
University of Glasgow	29,851	4,432	6.7
Queen's University Belfast	21,195	3,733	5.7
University of Oxford	17,895	3,214	5.6
University of Cambridge	16,225	3,378	4.8
AVERAGE	34,298	4,587	7.5

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The University of York	34,109	4,031	8.6
The University of Exeter	34,000	8,942	6.5
The University of Liverpool	44,431	4,431	7.2
The University of Birmingham	52,103	7,462	7.1
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 15% 11%
 08-09 09-10


 AAB 2%

Reduction in clearance places

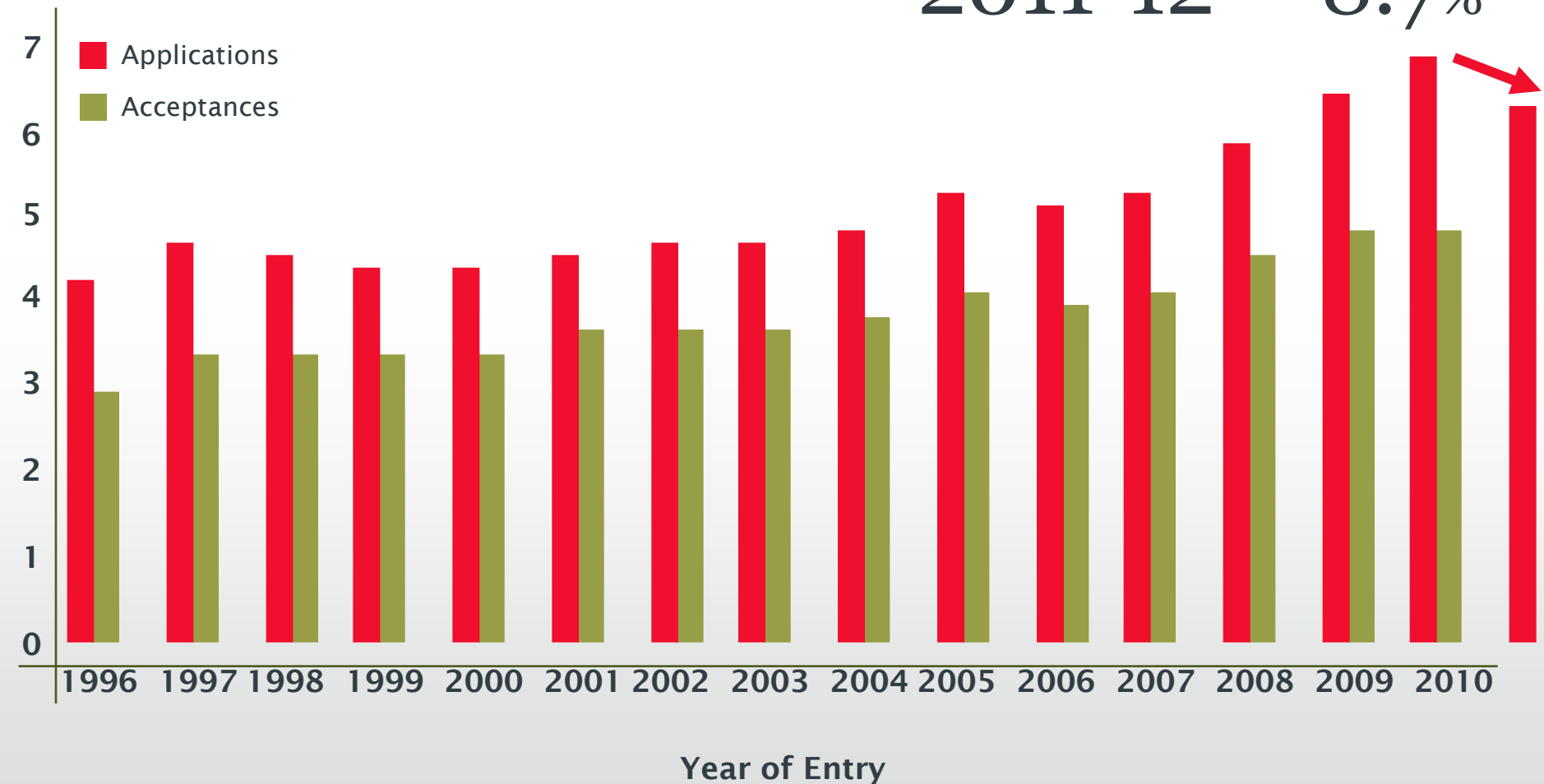
10.2 % of the University of
Southampton's 2006/07
intake came through
clearing

1 % of the University's 2010/11 intake
came through clearing

UCAS Applications and Acceptances 1996 - 2010

2011-12 8.7%

Hundreds of thousands



Challenging minds in challenging times

- Application and admission figures
- The globalization of HE and Russell Group universities

The globalization of Higher Education



Global graduates

Cambridge

Southampton

Oxford

Nottingham

109

UCL

Edinburgh

St. Andrews

Bristol

York

Manchester

Birmingham

Glasgow

Imperial

Leeds

UK universities in the
World Top 100

QS World University Ranking 2010-11

LSE

Kings

Durham

Sheffield

Warwick

Global graduates

Cambridge

Southampton

16

UCL

Bristol

Oxford

Nottingham

Edinburgh

Birmingham

Manchester

Glasgow

Imperial

RG universities in

World Top 100

QS World University Ranking 2010 - 11

LSE

Kings

Warwick

Sheffield

Research intensive universities

- University of Birmingham
 - University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
 - Cardiff University
- University of Edinburgh
 - University of Glasgow
- Imperial College London
 - King's College London
 - University of Leeds
- University of Liverpool
- London School of Economics (LSE)
 - University of Manchester
 - Newcastle University
 - University of Nottingham
 - Queen's University Belfast
 - University of Oxford
 - University of Sheffield
 - University of Southampton**
- University College London (UCL)
 - University of Warwick

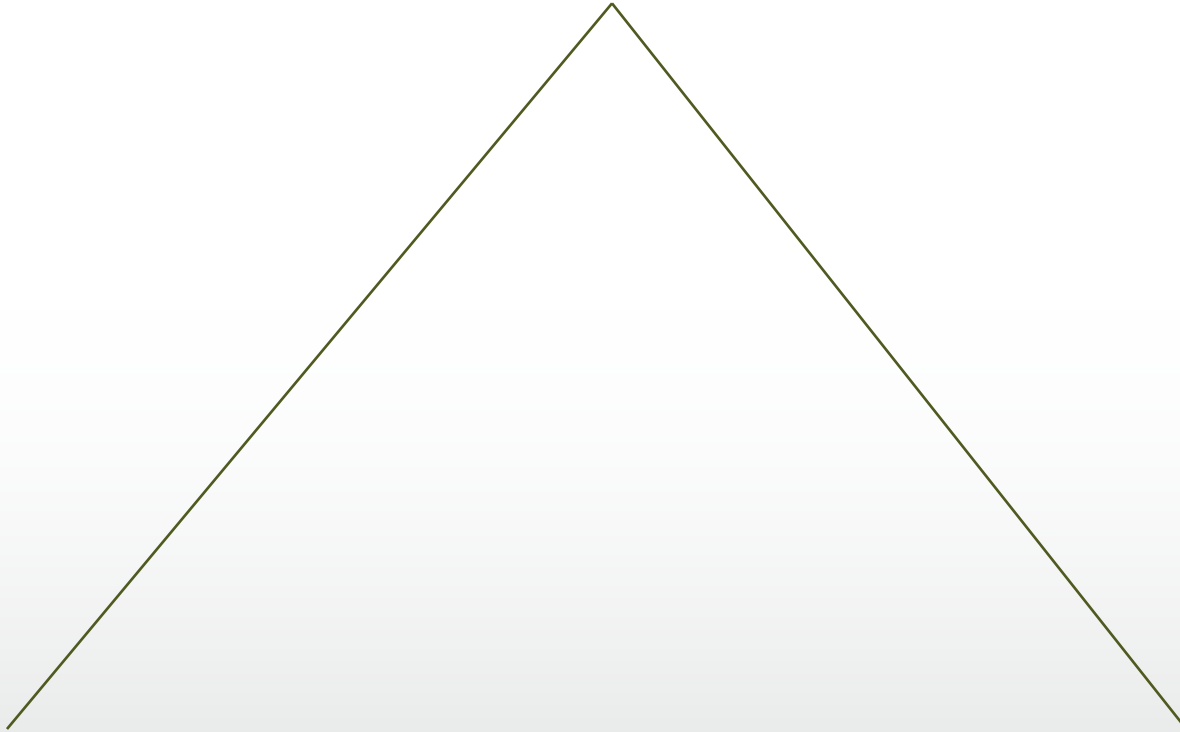
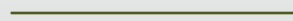
Research

Education — Enterprise

Problems

Solutions

Jobs



The research grant

 £27.6_m

£1.6_{bn}

‘Funding is being allocated more selectively by **prioritising internationally excellent and world leading research.**’

Research intensive education

Pioneering research aims to make the internet faster

Ref: 11/09
28 January 2011

David Willetts, Minister for Universities and Science, today announced £7.2 million of investment in research that could revolutionise the internet.

Southampton joins global race to commercialise algae biofuels

Ref: 10/32
25 March 2010

£1.25m to kick-start two projects researching the sustainable fuel of the future.

Broadlands Archives campaign hits target after £1.99m NHMF grant

Ref: 10/56
04 June 2010

Historical archive of documents relating to Earl Mountbatten, Lord Palmerston and others.

Challenging minds in challenging times

- Application and admission figures
- The globalization of HE and Russell Group universities
- League tables

THE GUARDIAN UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2011

EDITED BY KRISTEN HARRISON

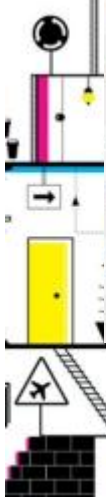
- WHAT TO STUDY
- WHOSO TO GO
- HOW TO GET THERE



INTRODUCTION BY
CHRIS ADDISON

RANK	INSTITUTION	COUNTRY / REGION	OVERALL SCORE
	California Institute of Technology	United States	94
	Harvard University	United States	93.8
	Stanford University	United States	93.9
	University of Oxford	United Kingdom	93.6
	Princeton University	United States	92.9
	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	92.4
	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States	92.3
	Imperial College London	United Kingdom	90.7
	University of Chicago	United States	90.2
	University of California, Berkeley	United States	89.8
		United States	89.4

	Satisfied with feedback	Spend per student (FTE)	Student: staff ratio	Career prospects	Value added score/10	Average Entry Tariff
	67	10	10.4	82	5	547
		10	9	72	4	444
			10.7	71	7	517
		10	8.3	71	5	384
4	St Andrews	84.4	94	63	8	443
6	Imperial College	79.7	89	49	9	463
7	Sussex	79.6	94	57	7	365
8	Bristol	79.1	92	58	7	439
9	Edinburgh	78.4	93	37	10	426
10	Surrey	77.5	85			



Graduate employability

guardian.co.uk

Graduates facing 'slim' job market in
downturn

Telegraph.co.uk

Graduate job scramble continues despite
recovery in recruitment market

BBC NEWS

'Tough jobs market' for graduates

Tick two or more check boxes below and click compare

COMPARE

	Student satisfaction (250)	Heads'/peer assessments (100)	Research quality (200)	A/AS-level/Higher points (250)	Employment (100)	Firsts/2:1s awarded (100)	Student/staff ratio (100)	Dropout rate	Total
1 <input type="checkbox"/> University of Oxford	208	71	148	250	78	91	92	4	943
2 <input type="checkbox"/> University of Cambridge	206	75	149	250	78	86	87	12	941
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Imperial College London	148	61	147	243	88	69	98	5	859
4 <input type="checkbox"/> University College London	166	56	142	225	80	81	100	-1	849
5 <input type="checkbox"/> University of St Andrews	199	44	136	233	64	84	80	2	842
6 <input type="checkbox"/> University of Warwick	171	53	140	230	74	80	75	8	830
7 <input type="checkbox"/> Durham University	180	53	136	228	71	78	68	11	823
8 <input type="checkbox"/> University of York	192	47	139	215	64	75	76	6	814
9 <input type="checkbox"/> London School of Economics and Political Science	134	60	148	241	78	76	75	1	813
10 <input type="checkbox"/> University of Bristol	149	62	136	222	73	82	76	3	803
11 <input type="checkbox"/> University of Bath	171	50	136	218	80	75	67	5	802
12 <input type="checkbox"/> University of Southampton	169	43	136	202	73	75	72	13	783



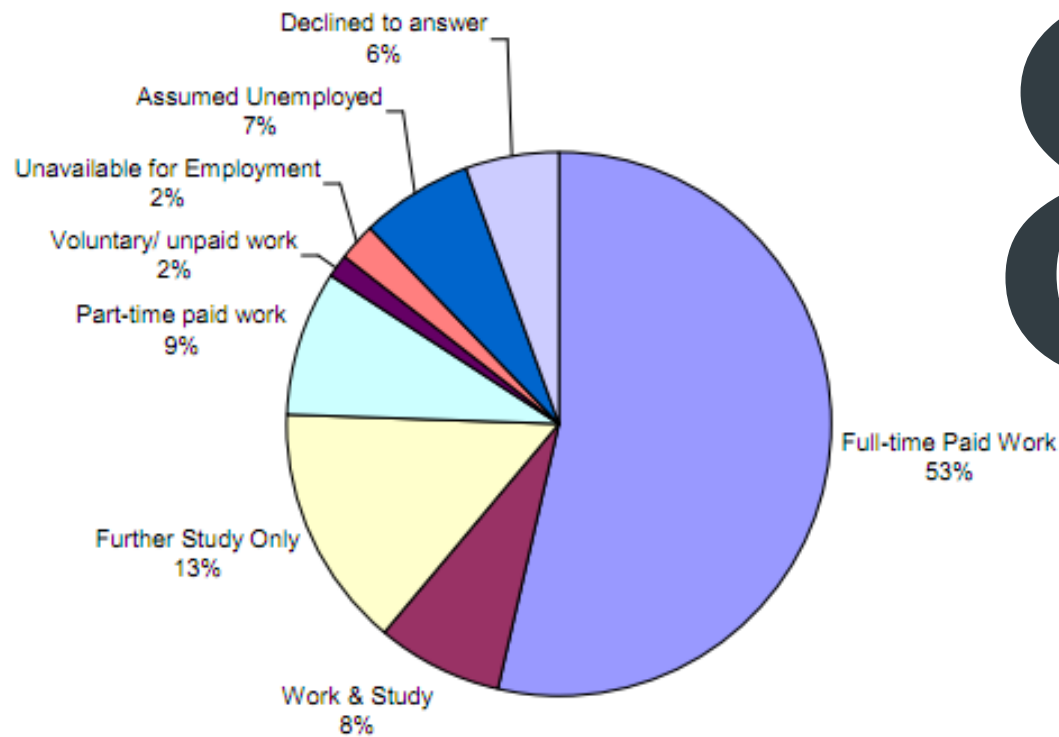
Percentage of students in full time graduate employment within six months of leaving university.

Score awarded by students for quality of education, facilities, support and social life.

Source: The Sunday Times League Table, 2010-2011

111 <input type="checkbox"/> Anglia Ruskin University	121	16	52	126	54	56	51	-29	446
112 <input type="checkbox"/> University of Derby	153	19	24	114	52	47	53	-17	445
113 <input type="checkbox"/> Glyndwr University	159	9	21	97	67	51	51	-13	441
114 <input type="checkbox"/> Leeds Trinity & All Saints	148	16	23	112	61	49	44	-12	440
115 <input type="checkbox"/> London South Bank University	140	14	56	88	56	54	37	-10	435
116 <input type="checkbox"/> University of Worcester	148	14	19	116	59	48	50	-21	434
117 <input type="checkbox"/> Middlesex University	105	21	82	95	46	51	43	-14	428
118 <input type="checkbox"/> University College Plymouth St Mark & St John	159	17	14	107	58	47	43	-17	426
119 <input type="checkbox"/> Buckinghamshire New University	122	16	21	103	39	46	49	25	421
120 <input type="checkbox"/> University of Bolton	133	12	44	102	46	53	53	-26	417
121 <input type="checkbox"/> University College Birmingham	165	17	0	110	43	42	38	0	415
122 <input type="checkbox"/> Southampton Solent University	134	13	19	104	45	46	47	-6	400

Employability – Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey



85%

of our graduates were
employed or
undertaking further
study six months after
graduation

Electronic and Electrical Engineering University of Southampton

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON: Electronic and Electrical Engineering (f/t, f/d)	
Add to shortlist	
Employment prospects (visit the Employment prospects section for more)	
% with a job or doing further study	95% 95%
% of employed with grad job	95% 95%
National Student Survey (visit the National Student Survey section for more)	
Staff are good at explaining things- % agree	86%
Staff have made the subject interesting- % agree	79%
Feedback on my work has been prompt- % agree	70%
Feedback on my work has helped me clarify things I did not understand- % agree	53%
I have received sufficient advice and support with my studies- % agree	73%
The library resources are good enough for my needs- % agree	96%
I have been able to access general IT resources when I needed to- % agree	98%
Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of my course- % agree	86% 86%

Electronic and Electrical Engineering Birmingham City University

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY: Electronic and Electrical Engineering (f/t, f/d)	
Add to shortlist	
Employment prospects (visit the Employment prospects section for more)	
% with a job or doing further study	79% 79%
% of employed with grad job	53% 53%
National Student Survey (visit the National Student Survey section for more)	
Staff are good at explaining things- % agree	84%
Staff have made the subject interesting- % agree	73%
Feedback on my work has been prompt- % agree	53%
Feedback on my work has helped me clarify things I did not understand- % agree	66%
I have received sufficient advice and support with my studies- % agree	74%
The library resources are good enough for my needs- % agree	85%
I have been able to access general IT resources when I needed to- % agree	84%
Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of my course- % agree	74% 74%

History University of Southampton

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON: History (f/t , f/d)	
Add to shortlist	
Employment prospects (visit the Employment prospects section for more)	
% with a job or doing further study	86% 86%
% of employed with grad job	52% 52%
National Student Survey (visit the National Student Survey section for more)	
Staff are good at explaining things- % agree	94%
Staff have made the subject interesting- % agree	98%
Feedback on my work has been prompt- % agree	63%
Feedback on my work has helped me clarify things I did not understand- % agree	71%
I have received sufficient advice and support with my studies- % agree	82%
The library resources are good enough for my needs- % agree	81%
I have been able to access general IT resources when I needed to- % agree	82%
Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of my course- % agree	95% 95%

- Large numbers going on to postgraduate study due to high levels of satisfaction
- Non-vocational focus provides flexibility and choice, but less direction
- Ability to carve out specific career paths

Overlap and interdisciplinary study

Language – Beginners Arabic

History

America's War
on Terror

The Rise of
Islam

The First
Crusade

Iran and the
West

Politics

From Empire to
Globalisation

Issues in Third
World Politics

International
Relations

American Power
and World
Order

International
Security

Year 3

Specialist Subject and dissertation of 10,000 words

Sources for checking on university performance

The Good University Guide, *The Times* (paysite)

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/public/gug/?CMP=KNGvccp1-sunday+times+university+guide>

Guardian University Guide

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/universityguide>

The Complete University Guide (with *Independent*)

<http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk>

QS Top Universities

<http://www.topuniversities.com/>

Times Higher Education World University Rankings

<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings/2010-2011/top-200.html>

Unistats

<http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/>

Challenging minds in challenging times

- Application and admission figures
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- League tables
- Fees

Budget cuts and fee increases

£3.7 bn

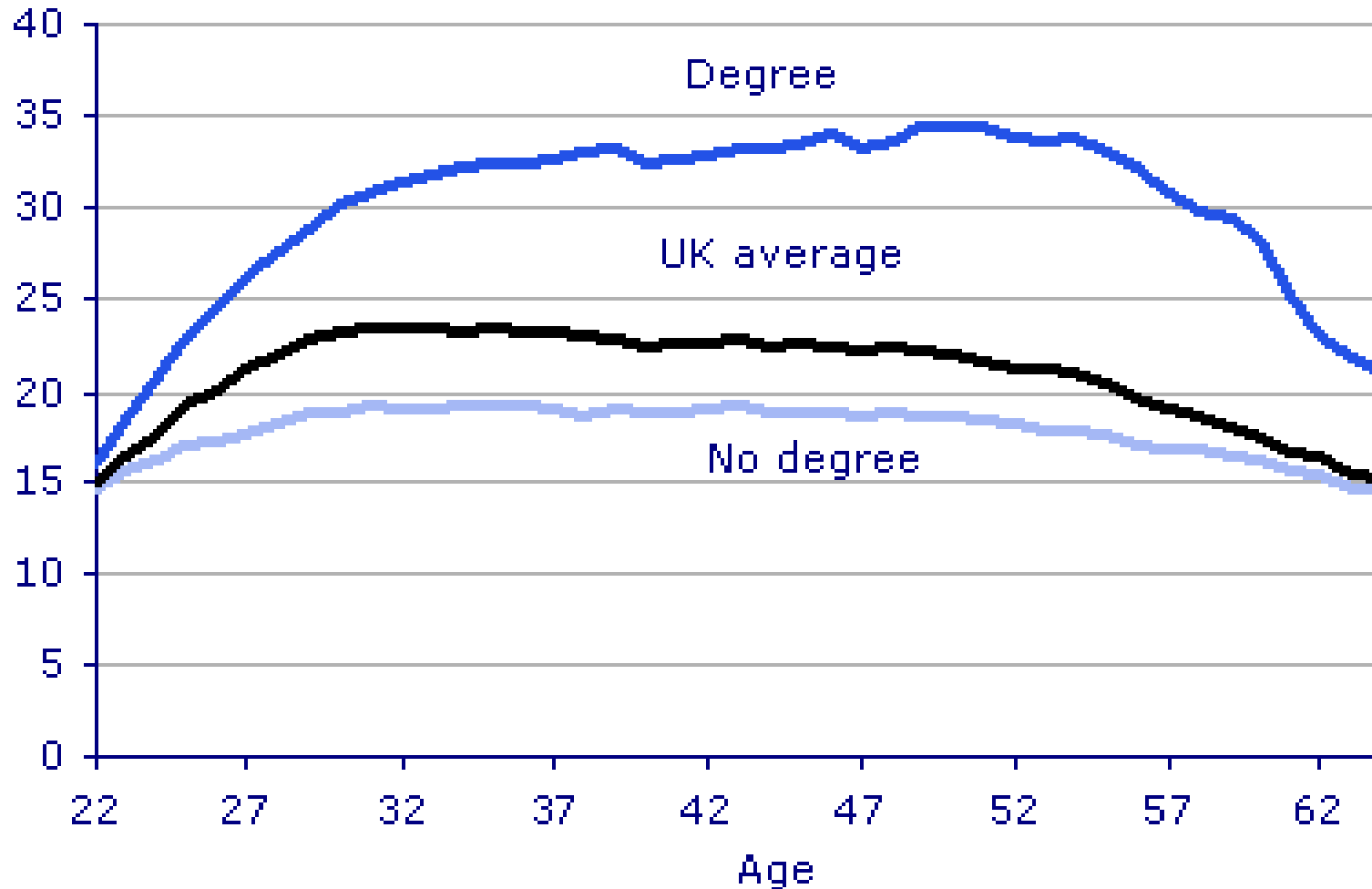
reduction in
teaching budget

80%

cut in government funding, replaced by
graduate contributions (loan repayments)²⁹

Average graduate earnings, 2000 - 2010

£ thousands



Comprehensive support package

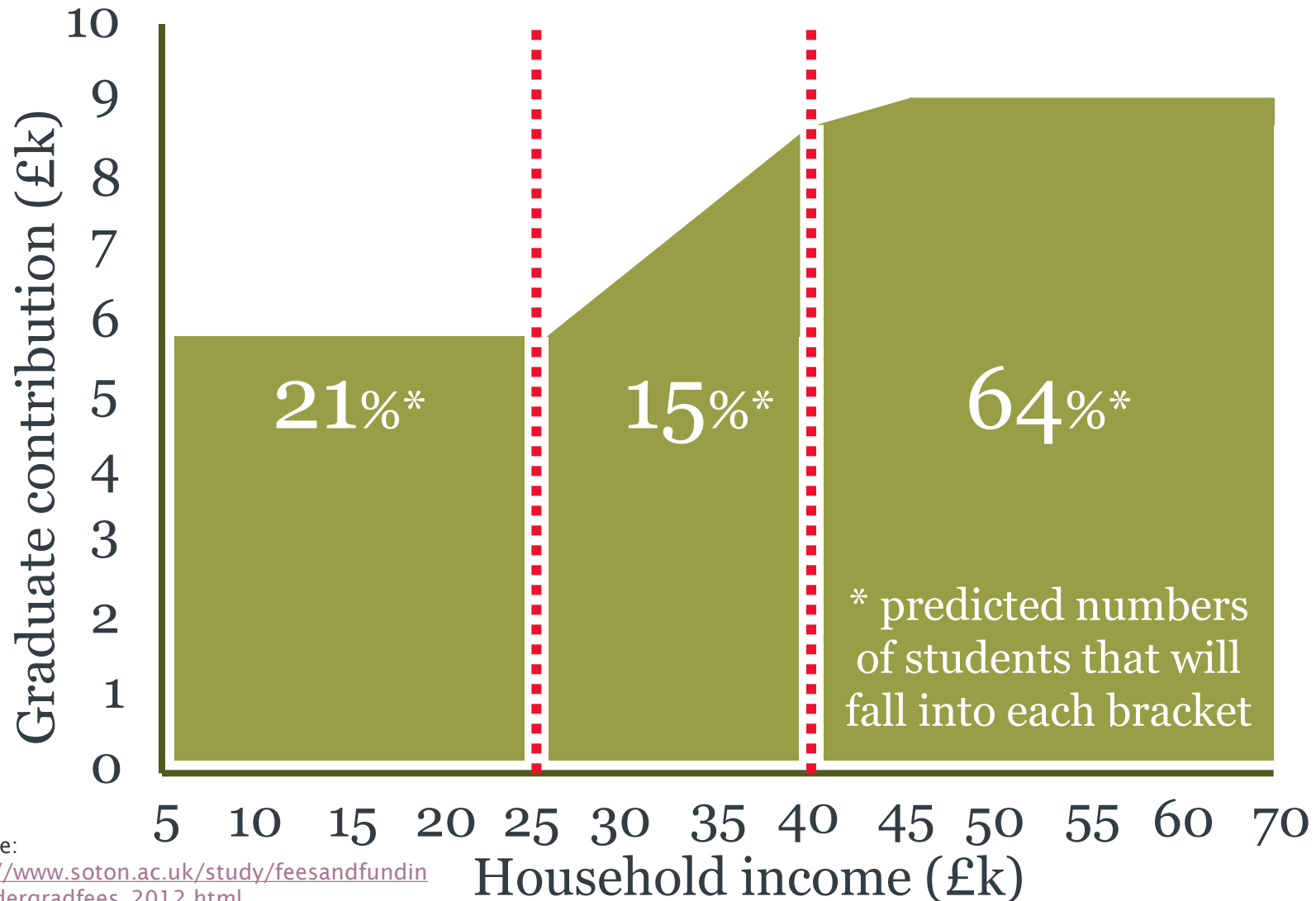
Those institutions asking for full fees are required to provide the most generous financial support packages

Fee waivers

Southampton Entitlement

Bursary support

University of Southampton fee waiver



Electronic and Electrical Engineering University of Southampton 2012 fees - £6,000 – £9,000

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON: Electronic and Electrical Engineering (f/t, f/d)	
Add to shortlist	
Employment prospects (visit the Employment prospects section for more)	
% with a job or doing further study	95% 95%
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Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of my course- % agree	86% 86%
Graduate Salary Data (visit the Employment prospects section for more)	
This Institution's Median Salary (6 months)	£25,000 £25,000

Electronic and Electrical Engineering Birmingham City University 2012 fees - £7,500 – £8,200

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY: Electronic and Electrical Engineering (f/t, f/d)	
Add to shortlist	
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Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of my course- % agree	74% 74%
Graduate Salary Data (visit the Employment prospects section for more)	
This Institution's Median Salary (6 months)	£15,000 £15,000

Fees and loans

- Full cost of tuition can be borrowed upfront
- Maintenance grants and loans available on means tested sliding scale
- Repayments only begin once graduate is earning over £21,000
- Repayments are 9% of income *over* £21,000
- Interest during study charged at 3% plus rate of inflation
- Interest once graduated charged on sliding scale from 1-3% plus rate of inflation

Researching fees and finances

- Government website
<<http://studentfinance-yourfuture.direct.gov.uk/?>>
- Martin Lewis, heading independent “fees taskforce”
<<http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes>>
- Individual institutions own sites e.g. ‘University of Southampton Student Finance Calculator’
<http://www.soton.ac.uk/calculator/index_2012.html>

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State and independent sectors

guardian.co.uk

Universities must cut private schools
intake, says Simon Hughes

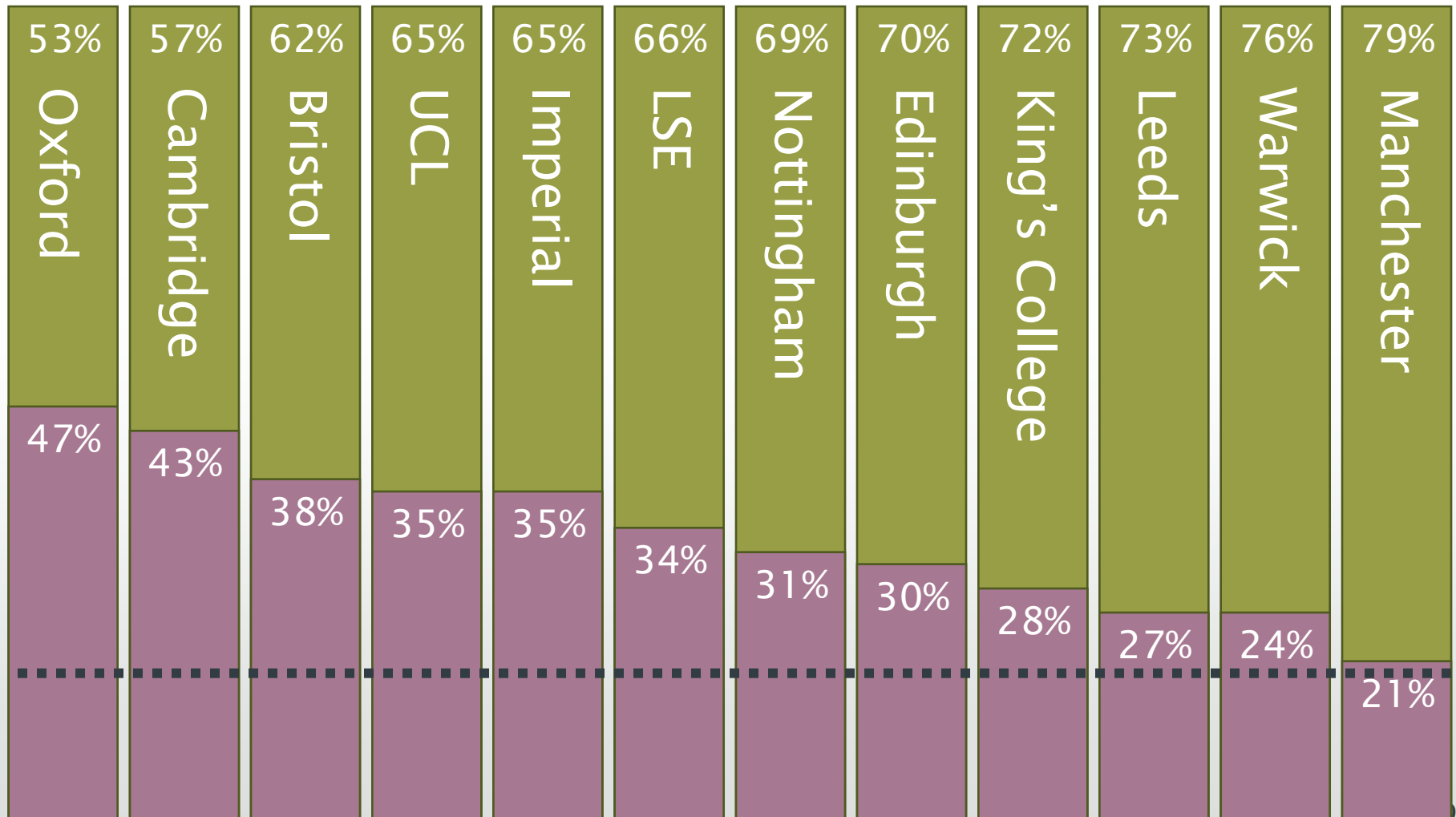
Jeevan Vasagar, *Guardian*, 7 January 2011

State and independent sectors



Intake 2010-11*

■ State
■ Independent



The reasons for independent school success

1) Less state school students apply to Russell Group universities

‘Low aspirations, lack of guidance and, most important, under-achievement [...] remain significant barriers.’

Dr Wendy Piatt, Director General of the Russell Group, quoted in Rowenna Davis, ‘Working-class revolution not reaching ‘posh’ universities’,

Guardian, 28 September, 2010

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2010/sep/28/working-class-students-posh-universities>> [accessed 30 September, 2010].

The reasons for independent school success

2) Subject choice at GCSE and sixth-form

‘Non-selective state school students are far more likely to take non-traditional A-levels [...].’

‘The hard truth about “soft” subjects’, Fazackerley and Chant,
Policy Exchange, December 2008

'Hard' A-levels verses 'soft' A-levels

BBC NEWS

University 'soft' A-level warning

Telegraph.co.uk

Top universities 'closing the door' to soft A-levels

TES *Connect*

Debate on 'soft' A-levels is a hard nut to crack

guardian.co.uk

Vocational A-levels may hamper university chances, report warns

- Home
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- Policies
- Study
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 - Postgraduate
 - Schools
- Research
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Informed Choices

Informed Choices

The Russell Group of 20 leading UK universities has published its first ever guide to post-16 subject choices.

Informed Choices, produced in collaboration with the Institute of Career Guidance, is aimed at all students considering A-level and equivalent options. It includes advice on the best subject combinations for a wide range of university courses as well as advice on the best choices if you don't know what you want to study after school and need to keep your options open.



At present Informed Choices is only available electronically.

Search

Useful links

[Connexions - post-16 choices](#)

[Conservatoires Admissions Service \(UK\)](#)

[Directgov Careers Advice](#)

[It's your choice: options after 16](#)

[14-19: your life, your options](#)

[LearnDirect](#)

[National Apprenticeship Service](#)

[Skills Funding Agency](#)

[Student Awards Agency for Scotland](#)

[Student Finance in England](#)

[Student Finance NI](#)

[Student Finance Wales](#)

[Total Professions](#)

Source:

<http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices.aspx>



**Informed
choices**

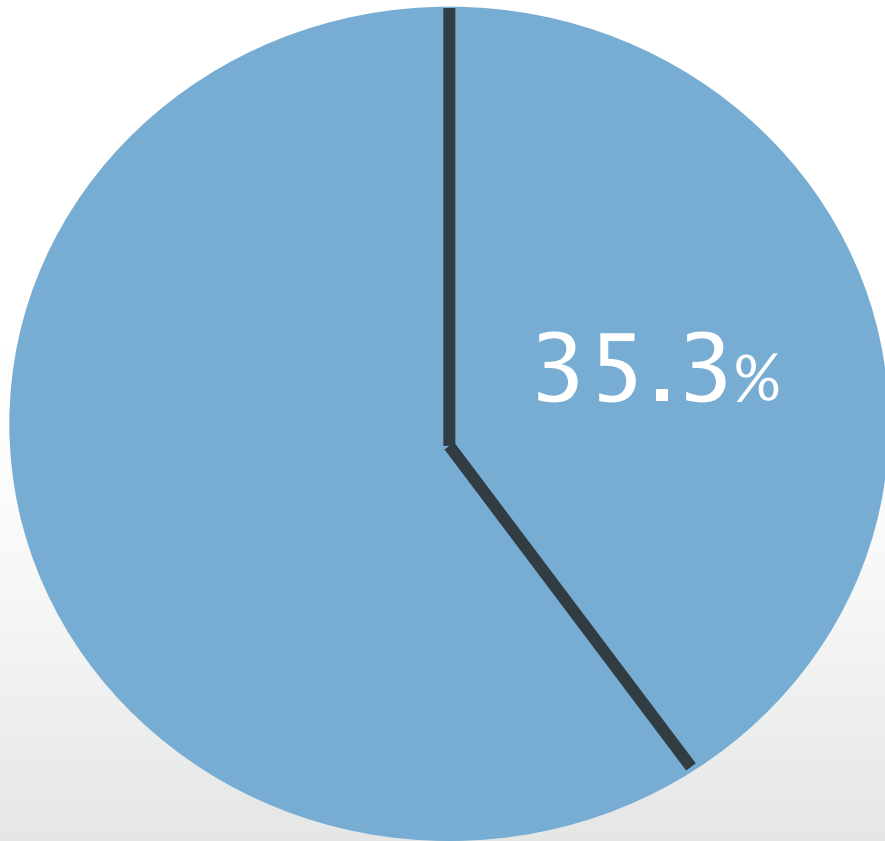
A Russell Group guide
to making decisions about
post-16 education

2011

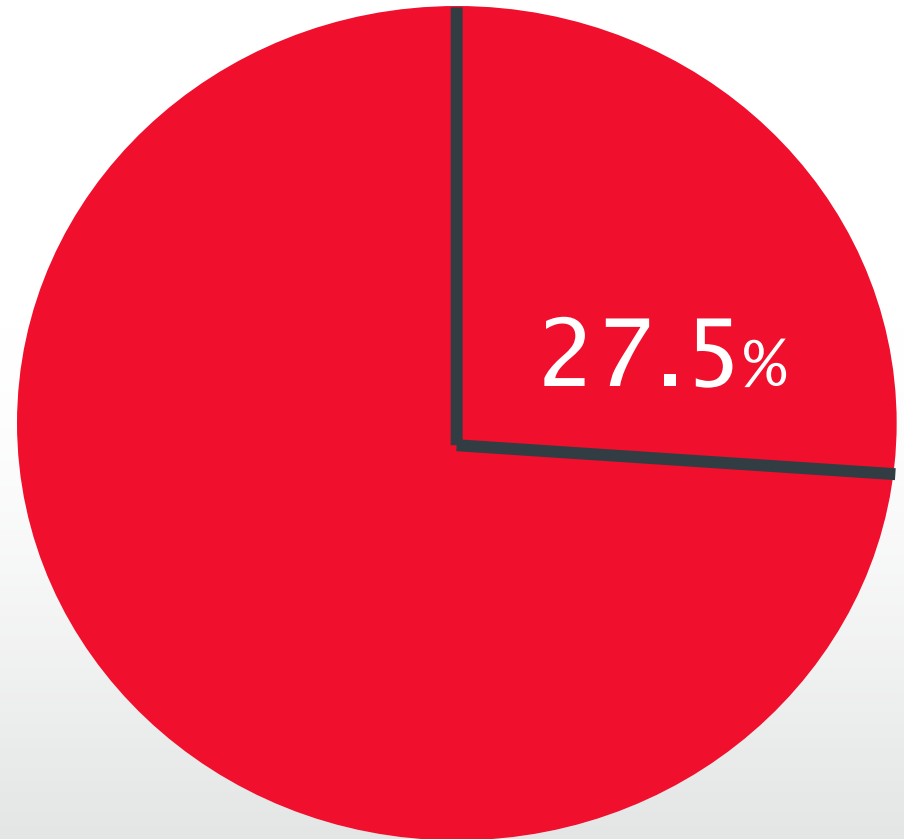


**RUSSELL
INTERNATIONAL
EXCELLENCE
GROUP**

A-level exam performance A / A* ratio

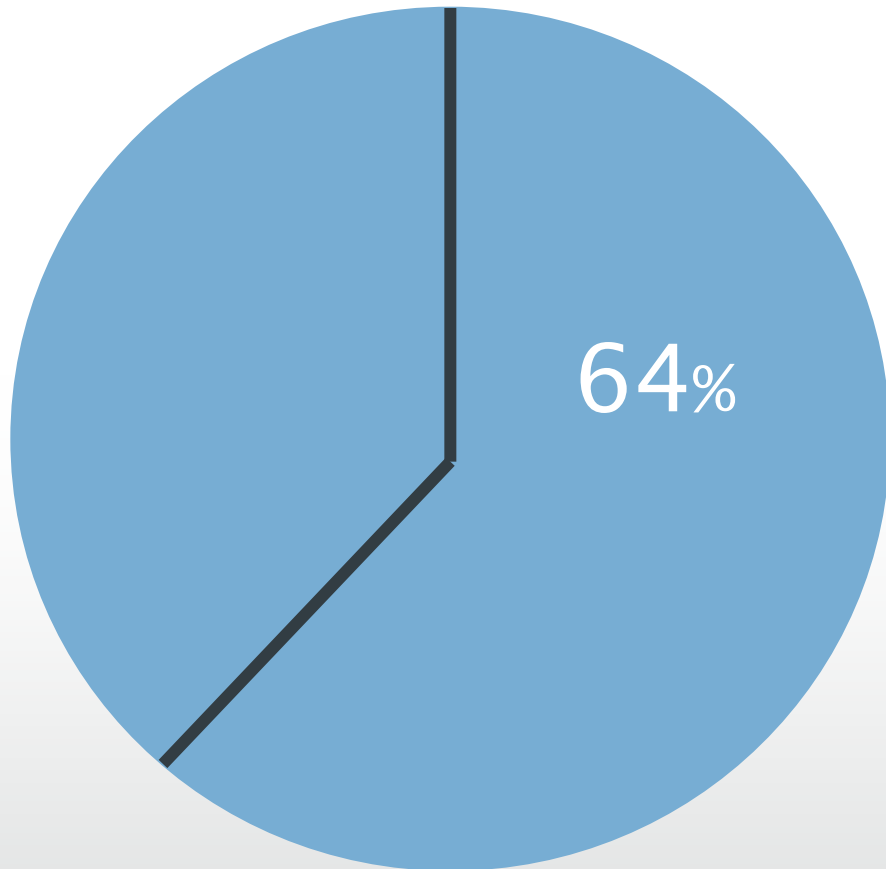


Independent sector

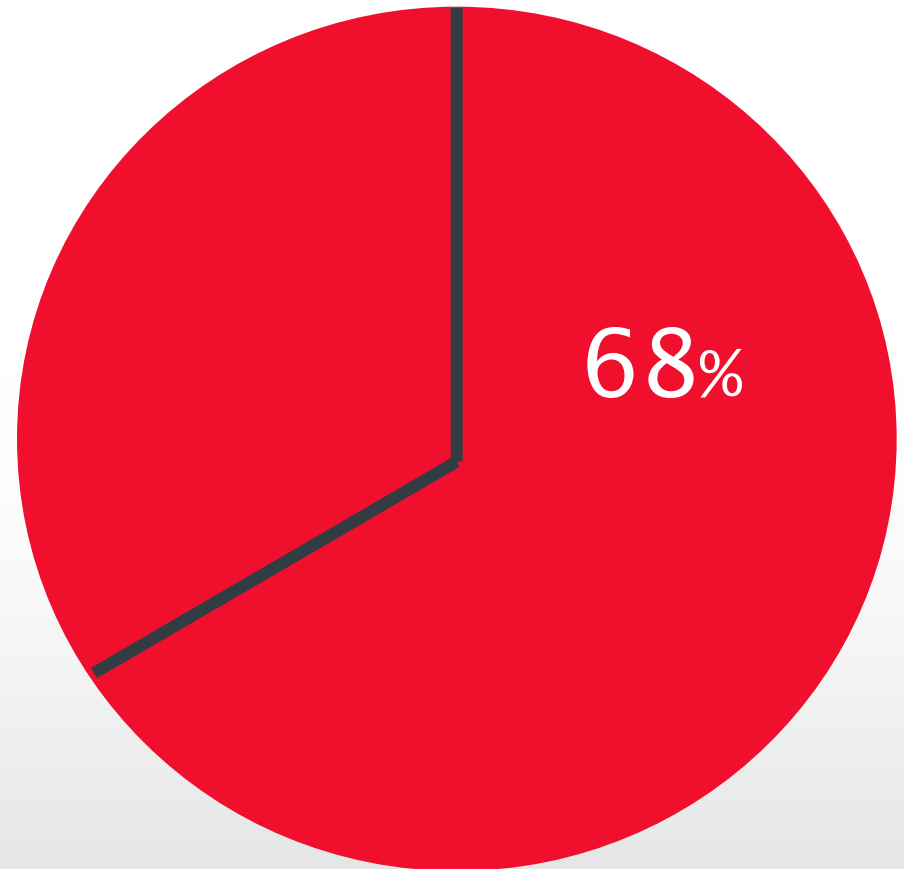


State sector

Degree performance 1 / 2:1 ratio



Independent sector



State sector

Degree performance 1 / 2:1 ratio

‘In the state sector there's more **independent learning**. Students are more used to working things out on their own rather than having a teacher giving them individual attention. **When they get to university**, where the classes are much larger than at school, **they're better equipped to cope** than those from private schools.’

Richard Murphy, Research Economist, LSE, Friday 23 July, 2010

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2010/jul/23/state-school-pupils-better-university>

[accessed 16 September 2010].

Widening Participation Programmes

Access to Southampton (A2S)

<http://www.soton.ac.uk/schoolsandcolleges/post16/a2s/>

Pathways to Law

http://www.soton.ac.uk/law/outreach/pathways_to_law.page

BM6 Medicine degree

<http://www.soton.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/2012/medicine.shtml>

Programmes that offer different entry routes, lower grade offers, summer school support etc. for applicants.

- Be in receipt of an Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) of £20 or £30 a week (to be replaced)
- Be in the first generation of immediate family to apply to Higher Education
- Have attended a secondary school which achieved less than 48% 5 A to C passes (including English and Maths) at GCSE
- Only option is to attend a local University
- Studies disrupted by circumstances in their personal, social or domestic life
- Living or grew up in public care

Summary

- More places available than ever before, for those that achieve the grades
- UK students have access to world-class institutions
- Careful use of league tables, in particular the combination of student satisfaction and employability, is vital
- A degree from a good university will recoup its costs, which can be reduced or subsidised depending upon circumstances
- Take full advantage of Access programmes
- One of the biggest obstacles to progression into RG universities is a lack of confidence – work hard and apply!