

# Challenging minds in challenging times.

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

Chris Fuller, Learn with US Coordinator and Lecturer  
April 2011

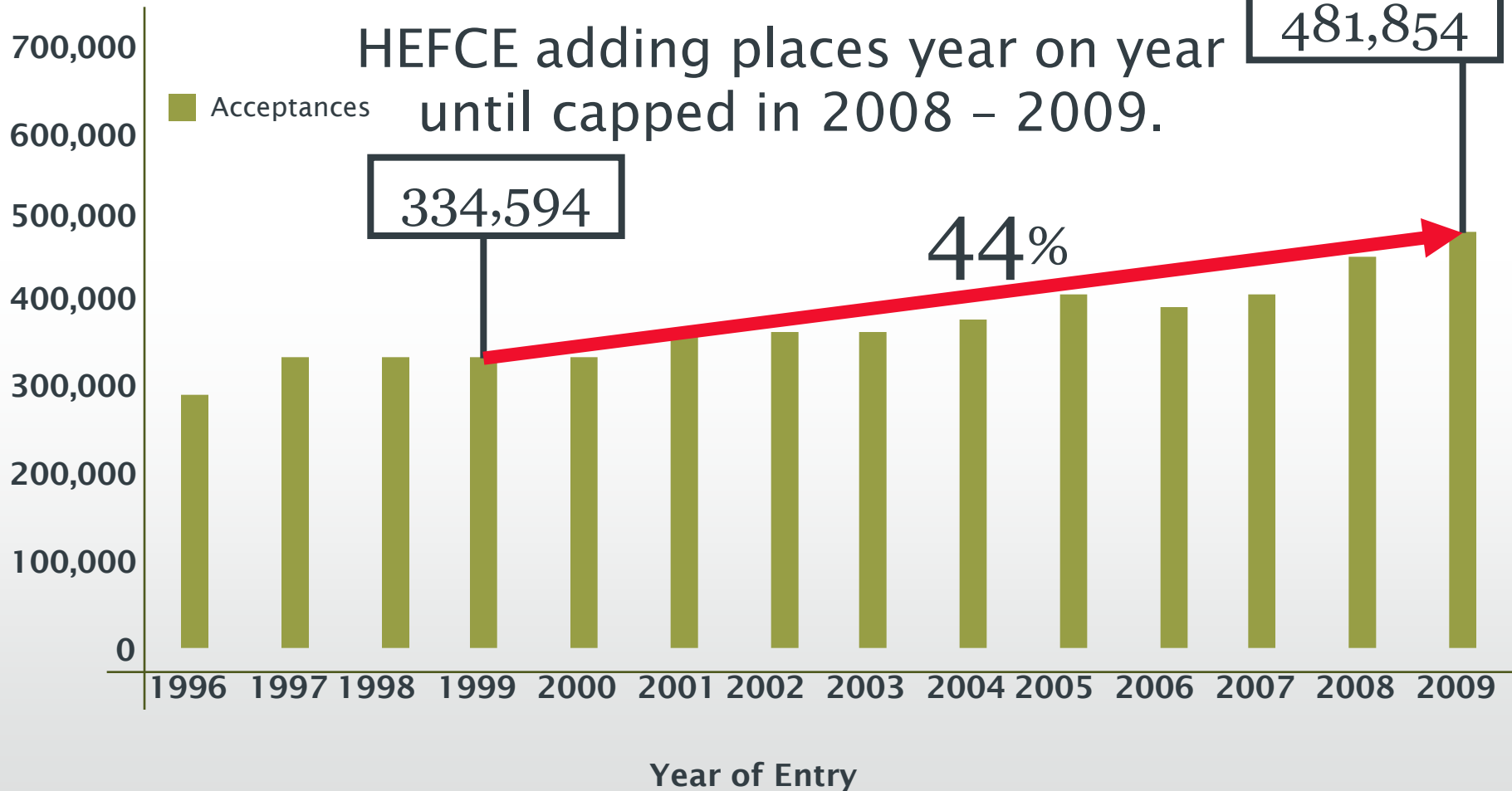
# Challenging minds in challenging times

- Trends in Higher Education
  - Applications and admissions
  - Globalization of Higher Education
- The implications of budget cuts and fee increases
- State verses independent intake
- Summary of factors to consider

# The Growth of Higher Education in the UK

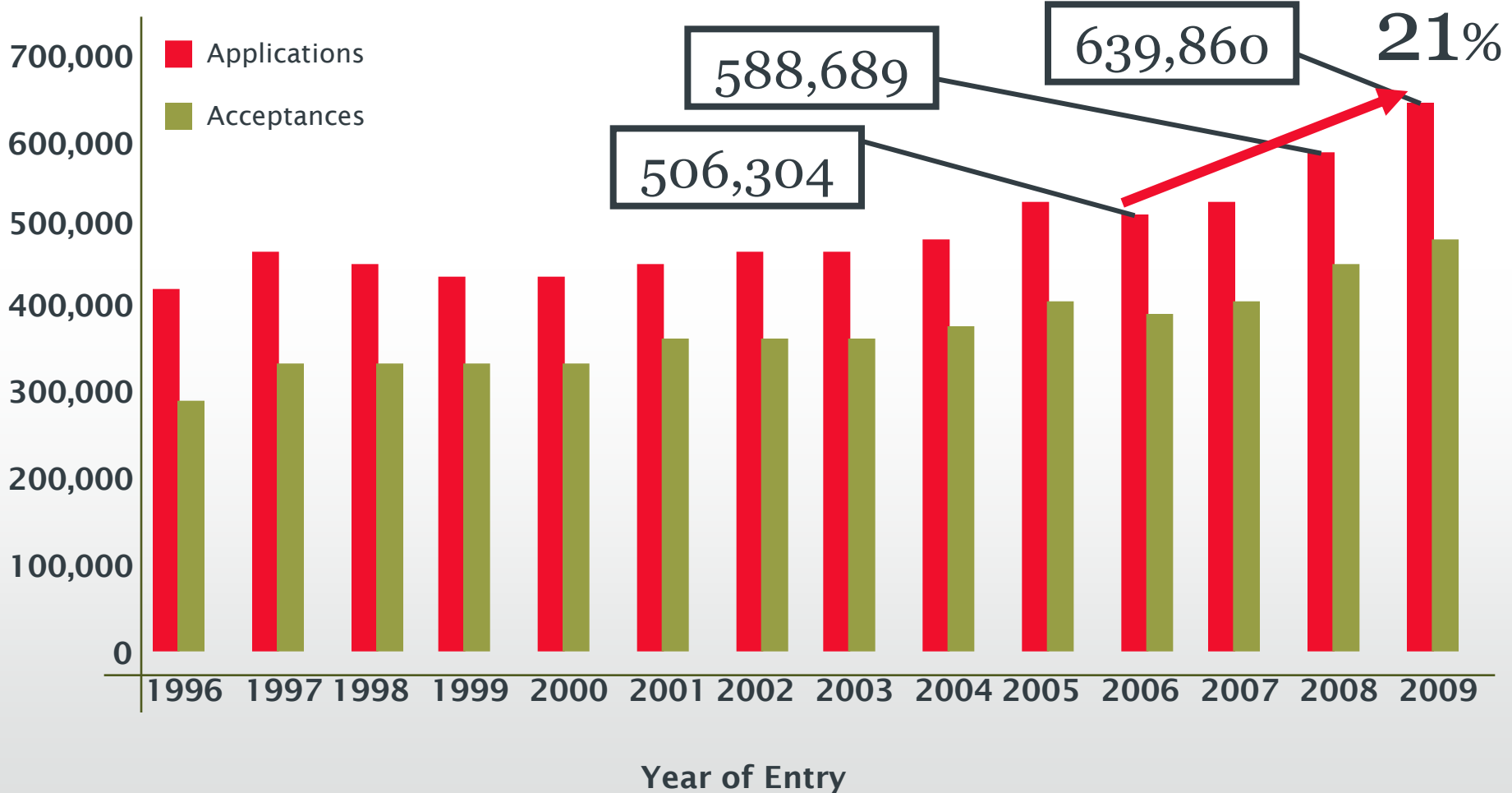
UCAS Applications and Acceptances 1996 - 2009

HEFCE adding places year on year until capped in 2008 - 2009.



# The Growth of Higher Education in the UK

UCAS Applications and Acceptances 1996 - 2009



## 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 Telegraph can disclose.

*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*

# Russell Group applications per places

	Applications	Places / Offers	Ratio
London School of Economics	19,672	1,416	13.9
University of Bristol	43,800	3,846	11.4
The University of Edinburgh	48,808	4,481	10.9
King's College London	32,584	3,281	9.9
The University of Warwick	33,756	3,717	9.1
University College London	31,338	3,569	8.8
The University of Manchester	64,291	8,501	7.6
The University of Liverpool	33,166	4,344	7.6
University of Leeds	54,052	7,056	7.7
The University of Birmingham	40,964	5,335	7.7
Cardiff University	37,274	5,305	7.0
The University of Sheffield	34,823	5,005	7.0
University of Southampton	31,511	4,516	7.0
The University of Nottingham	41,357	5,917	7.0
Newcastle University	27,834	4,370	6.4
Imperial College London	14,654	2,374	6.2
University of Glasgow	26,695	4,360	6.1
Queen's University Belfast	22,005	3,671	6.0
University of Oxford	14,333	3,259	4.4
University of Cambridge	14,300	3,381	4.2
AVERAGE	33,361	4,485	8.0

15%    11%

08-09   09-10

AAB    2%

## Reduction in clearance places

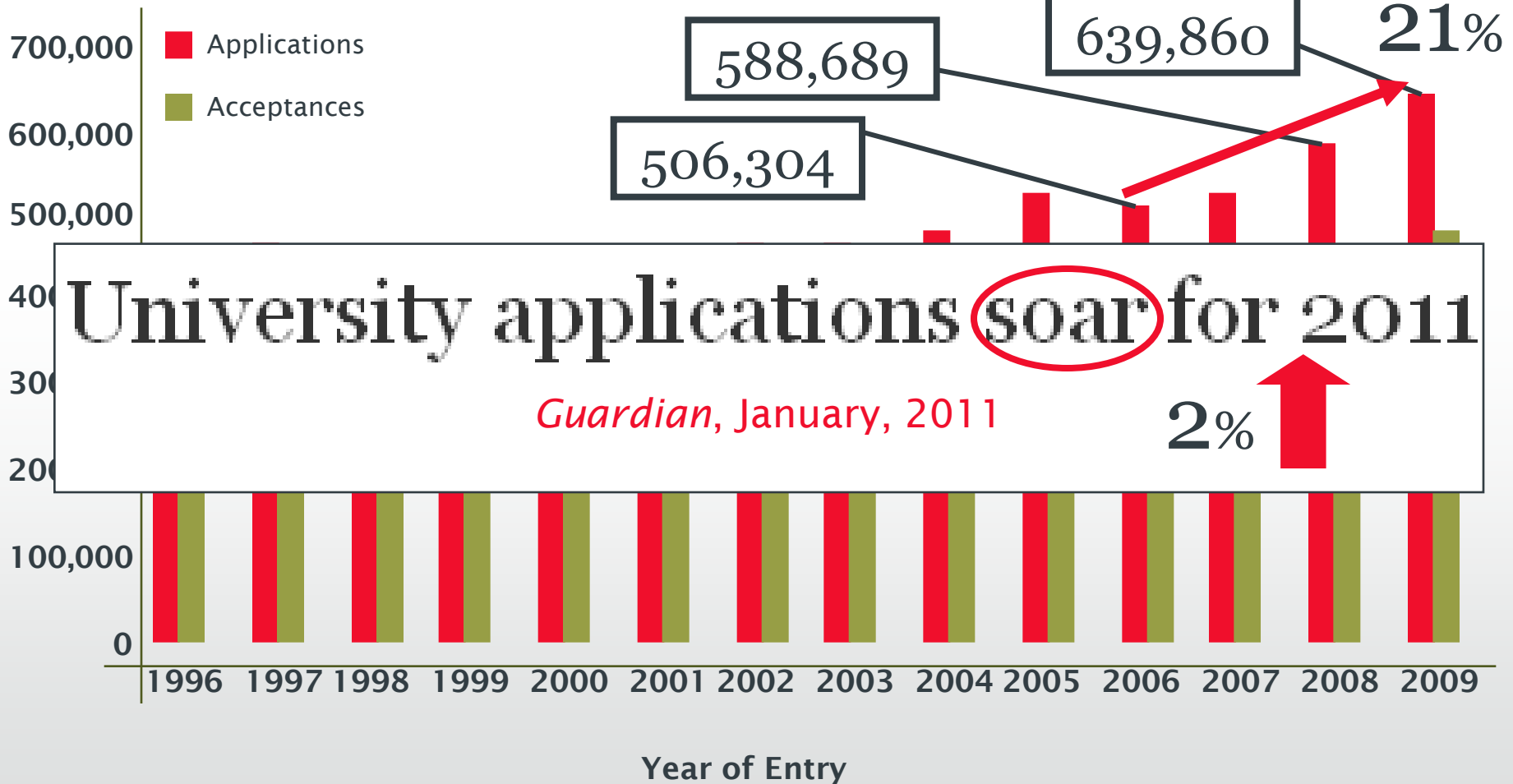
10.2% of the University of  
Southampton's 2006/07  
intake came through  
clearing.

2.5% of the University's 2009/10 intake  
came through clearing.\*

\* STEM places granted by the government *after* the admissions cycle.

# The Growth of Higher Education in the UK

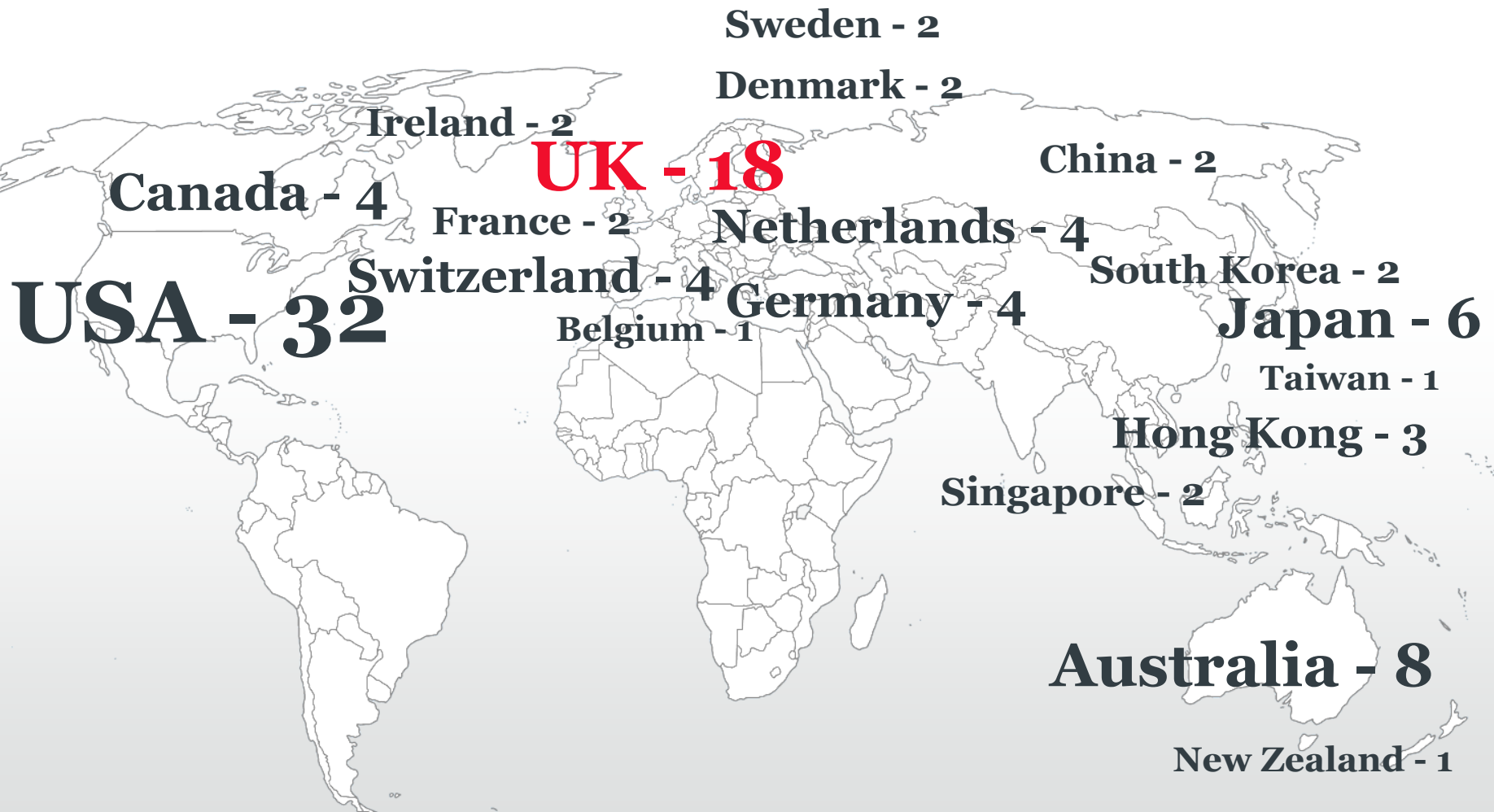
UCAS Applications and Acceptances 1996 - 2009



# Challenging minds in challenging times

- Trends in Higher Education
  - Applications and admissions
  - The globalization of Higher Education

# The globalization of Higher Education



# Global graduates



# Domestic vs. international intake

‘Universities realise that the public purse is constrained [...]. International students are perhaps the most obvious source of income.’

Les Ebdon, Vice-Chancellor, University of Bedfordshire, Chair of Million+

‘Some universities are very reliant on international students, and should learn from institutions that have had their fingers burned by relying on this source of income.’

John Craven, Vice-Chancellor, University of Portsmouth

‘HESA figures have reignited concerns that universities rely too heavily on international students. One in five degrees—undergraduate and postgraduate—went to students who came from outside the UK.’

Jessica Shepperd, *Guardian*, January 14, 2010<sup>12</sup>

# International competition

[Home](#) | [Undergraduate study](#) | [Course details](#)

## BSc/MPhys Physics F300/F303

School of Physics and Astronomy



Intake: 120

Average applicants per place: 6

Course  
overview

Entry  
requirements

Course content

Related  
courses

Scholarships

### Typical entry requirements

A levels: AAB, including mathematics and physics

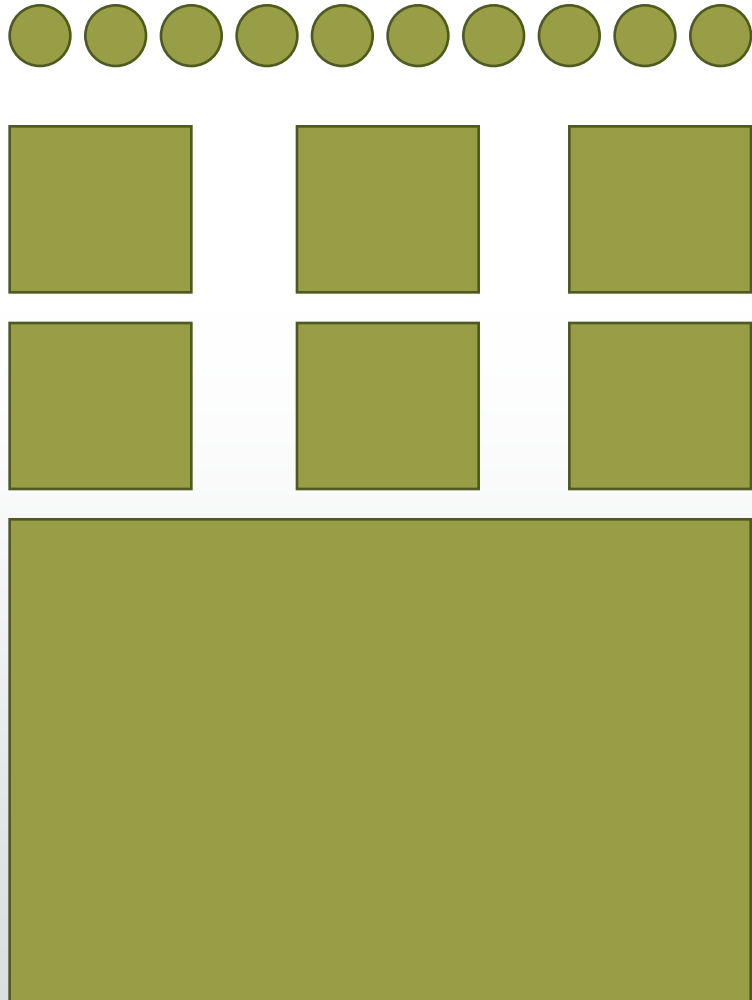
IB: 36-34 points, 18-17 at higher level

Intake: 120

Average applicants per place: 6

Selection process: UCAS application, with invitation to visit the School

# International competition



Staff, space and resource capacity  
for 160 undergraduates.

HEFCE funding for 120 places.

University would seek to fill  
remaining spaces with  
international students.

These places ARE NOT  
AVAILABLE to UK  
undergraduates.

# Domestic vs. international intake

Rank	University name	Overall score	Respondents	Weighting					2
				High-quality staff/lectures	Helpful/Interested staff	Well-structured courses	Good social life	Good community atmosphere	
1	Loughborough University	86.21	153	6.2	6.0	6.0	6.4	6.3	
2	University of Oxford	82.53	276	6.5	6.5	6.2	5.8	6.1	
3	University of Cambridge	81.72	317	6.5	6.5	6.2	5.6	6.0	
4	University of Sheffield	81.65	228	6.0	5.9	5.8	6.3	6.1	
5	University of St Andrews	81.60	112	6.5	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.4	
6	University of East Anglia	81.36	123	6.0	6.0	5.8	6.1	6.2	
7	University of Exeter	81.05	228	6.1	6.0	5.8	6.0	6.0	
8	Aberystwyth University	80.93	78	6.1	6.1	5.9	6.2	6.3	
9	University of Southampton	80.90	229	6.0	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.9	
10	Swansea University	80.08	77	5.9	5.9	5.8	6.2	6.3	

Source: Times Higher Student Experience Survey 2009

# Challenging minds in challenging times

- Trends in Higher Education
  - Applications and admissions
  - Globalization of Higher Education
- The implications of budget cuts and fee increases

# The implications of budget cuts and fee increases

80%

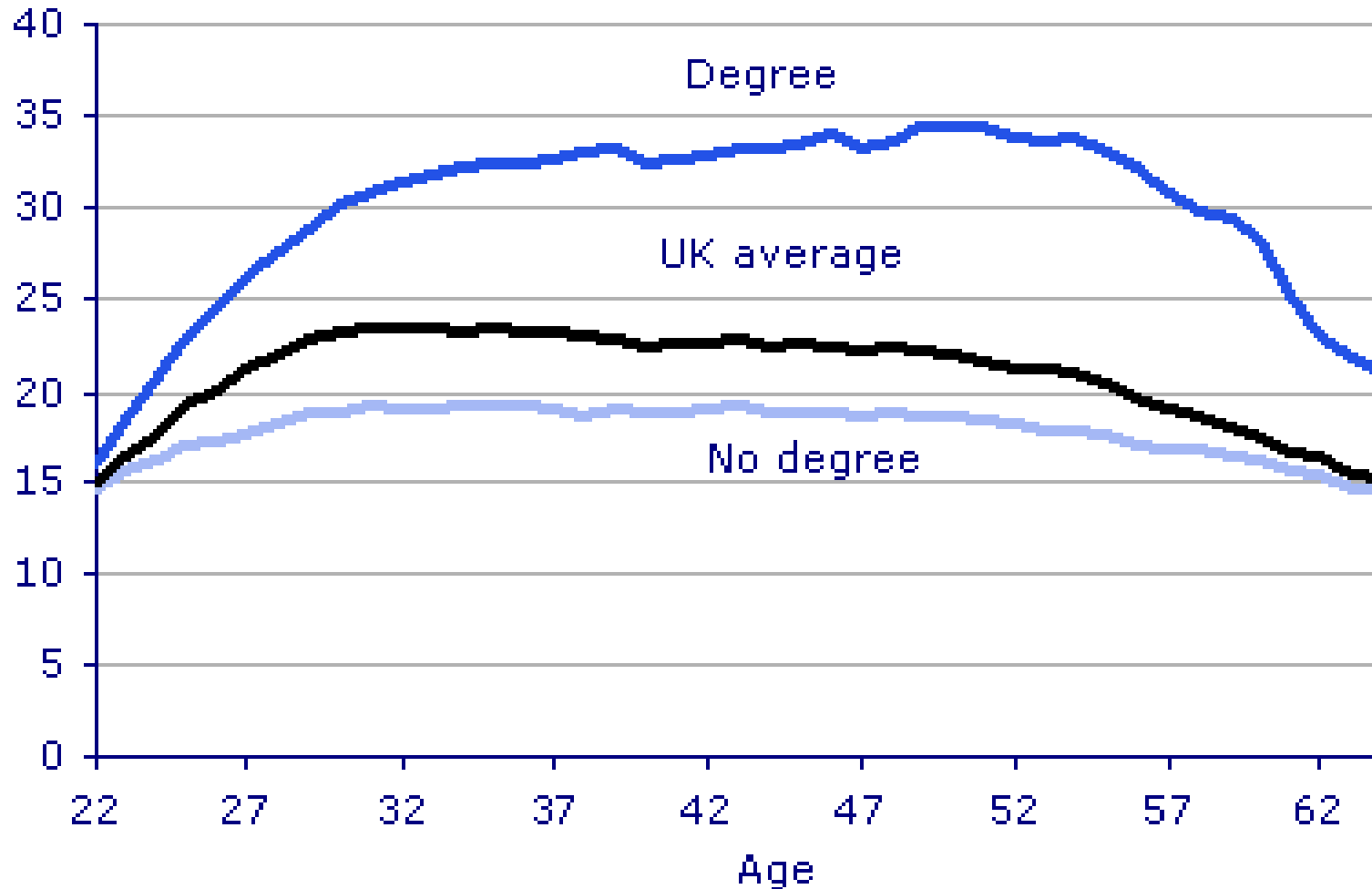
reduction in teaching budget

## Financial value of a degree (p.a.)

Age in 2008	Degree or equivalent	A-level, GCE or equivalent
21-22	£17,472	£15,912
23-24	£20,696	£18,200
25-26	£24,960	£20,436
27-28	£28,912	£22,256
29-30	£32,916	£24,180
31-32	£34,632	£24,336
32-33	£37,960	£27,768
<b>All ages (21 -34)</b>	<b>£28,860</b>	<b>£21,268</b>

# Average graduate earnings, 2000 - 2010

£ thousands



Source: ONS <<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=1166>>

# The implications of budget cuts and fee increases

## Fees

£6,000 – £9,000 p.a.

(£8,629p.a.\*)

- All fee costs covered up front by government loans
- Fee waivers, scholarships and bursaries become key
- Students need to be more critical in selecting choices

## Research

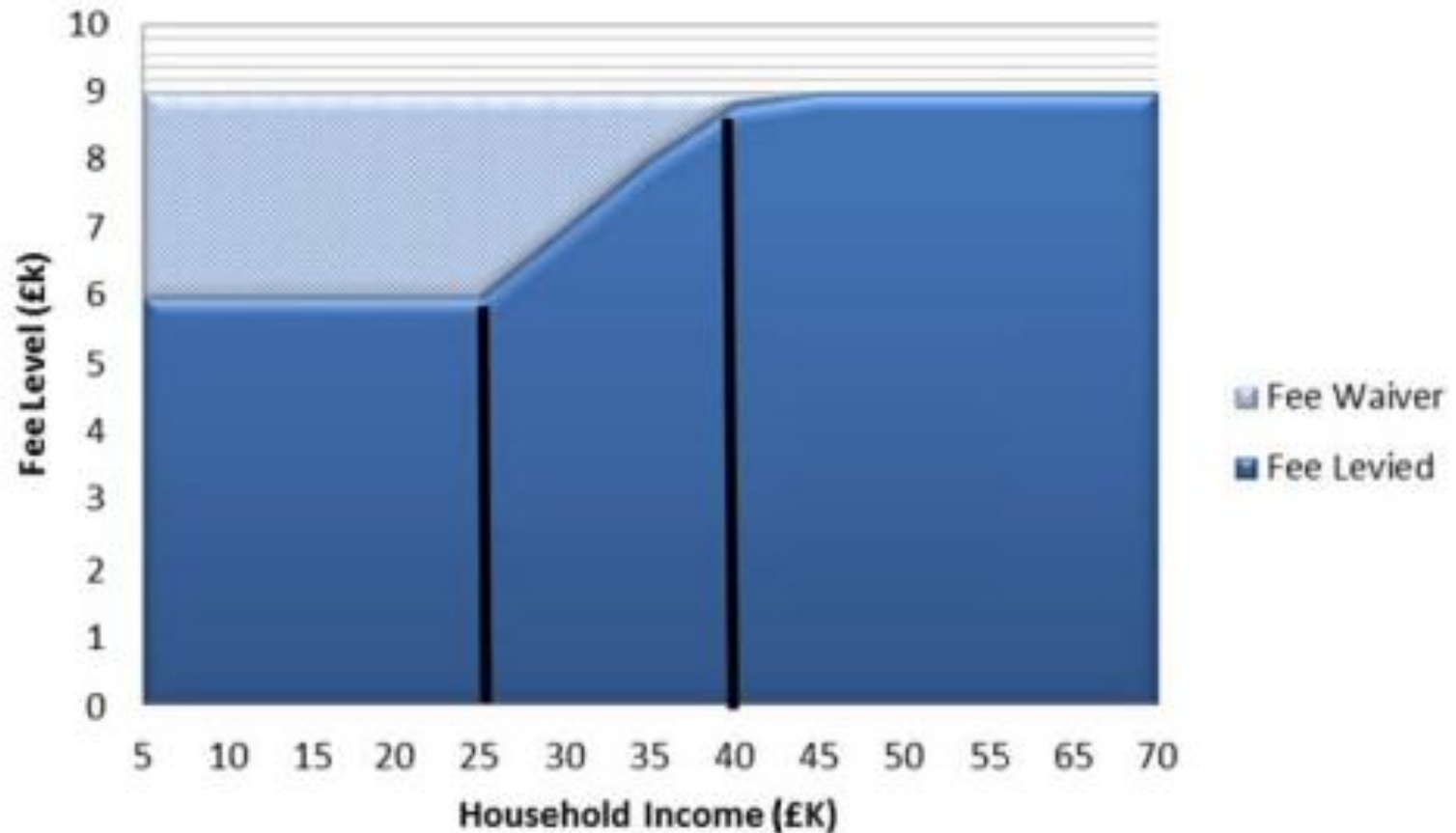
\*Based upon those universities which have made their fee structures public. Source: *Guardian*, 18 April, 2011 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/apr/20/tuition-fee-charges-universities-2012>

# Fees

The University of Southampton is charging £9,000 fees:

- In order to maintain current standards the University would have needed to charge approximately £8,000
- In order to maintain a world class position, research universities must continually invest
- The government also withdrew all funding for outreach activities (Aimhigher etc.), which help diversify the intake of our HE institutions. Fee funding helps sustain this practice
- Higher fees enable greater use of targeted wavers, scholarships, bursaries etc.

## Graduate Contribution to Tuition Fee dependant on Household Income



# Fees

Household Income	Annual Fee Waiver	Fee
£25,000 or less	£3,000 <b>20% of our intake is eligible for this</b>	£6,000
£25,001 - £30,000	Between £2,800 and £2,000, falling by £200 per £1,000 of household income	£6,200 - £7,000
£30,001 - £35,000	Between £1,800 and £1,000, falling by £200 per £1,000 of household income	£7,200 - £8,000
£35,001 - £38,000	Between £800 and £400, falling by £200 per £1,000 of household income	£8,200 - £8,600
£38,001 - £42,600	£200	£8,800
Over £42,600	£0	£9,000

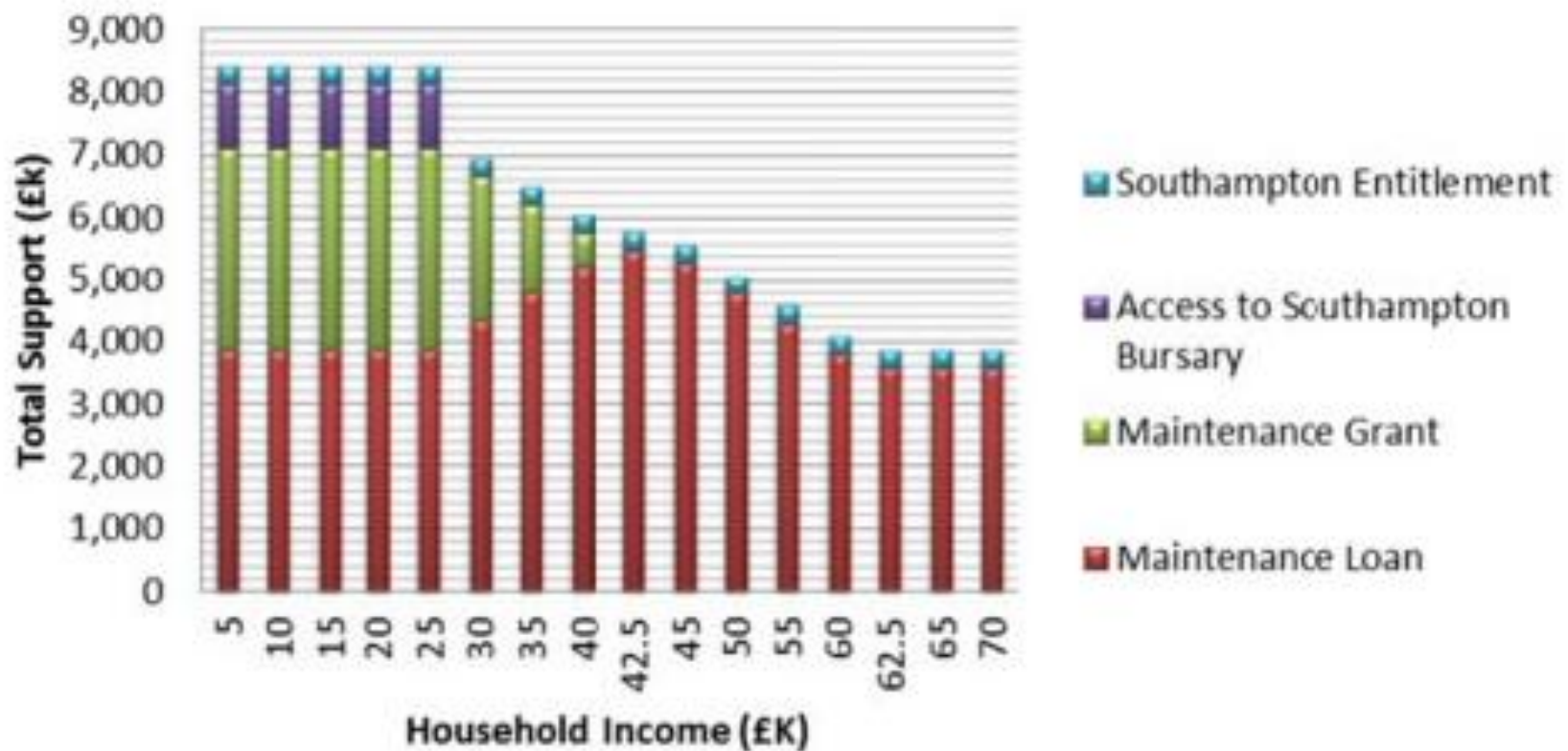
**Bursaries** – focused non-repayable funds

**Scholarships** – differ from course to course

In addition, all students will receive the **Southampton Entitlement** of £300 to spend on services such as local transport, sports membership etc.

<b>Household income</b>	<b>Package of Government support for 2012/13</b>		
	<b>Non-repayable grant</b>	<b>Living cost loan</b>	<b>Total</b>
£25,000 or less	£3,250	£3,875	£7,125
£30,000	£2,341	£4,330	£6,671
£35,000	£1,432	£4,784	£6,216
£40,000	£523	£5,239	£5,762
£45,000	£0	£5,288	£5,288
£50,000	£0	£4,788	£4,788
£55,000	£0	£4,288	£4,288
£60,000	£0	£3,788	£3,788
Over £62,500	£0	£3,575	£3,575

## Typical u/g Financial Support Package 2012/13



## Repayment (cancelled after 30 years)

Repayment only begins once student has graduated and is earning **£ 21,000+ p.a.**

Interest is charged **during study** at  
**rate of inflation + 3% (7%)**

**After graduation** interest is charged at  
**under £21,000=rate of inflation**  
**£21,000-£41,000=rate of inflation+1-3%**  
**£41,000+=rate of inflation+3%**

## Repayment (cancelled after 30 years)

A study by the consultants London Economics, conducted for parliament based upon an fee average of £7,500 has predicted that

**30-40%** of men will not finish repaying their loan before it is cancelled (currently 10%).

**70-80%** of women will not finish repaying their loan before it is cancelled (currently 20%).

# 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: Sunday Times League Table, 2010

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

A degree, even from a good institution, is no longer enough to guarantee employment in an internationally competitive job market. Universities must offer their undergraduates more.

Curriculum Innovation Network, University of  
Southampton, 18 January 2011




# Twenty-first century graduates

The ideal graduate is "intellectually flexible", a critical thinker and a team player; someone who could see their discipline in a wider context; someone who is, above all, employable.

intellectually flexible

team player

critical thinker

see their discipline in a wider context

# Twenty-first century graduates

Check what different universities offer in terms of broader opportunities for students to stand out and improve their employability.

For example...

Mathematics and science education

# Global, interdisciplinary themes

Ethics

International Perspectives on Global Issues

Digital Scenarios: The impact of the Internet

Global Health

Sustainable Development

Work futures

The Human Brain in Society

Crime, Security and the EU

Marine Safety and Environmental Engineering

Sink or Swim: the role of water

Business skills for employability

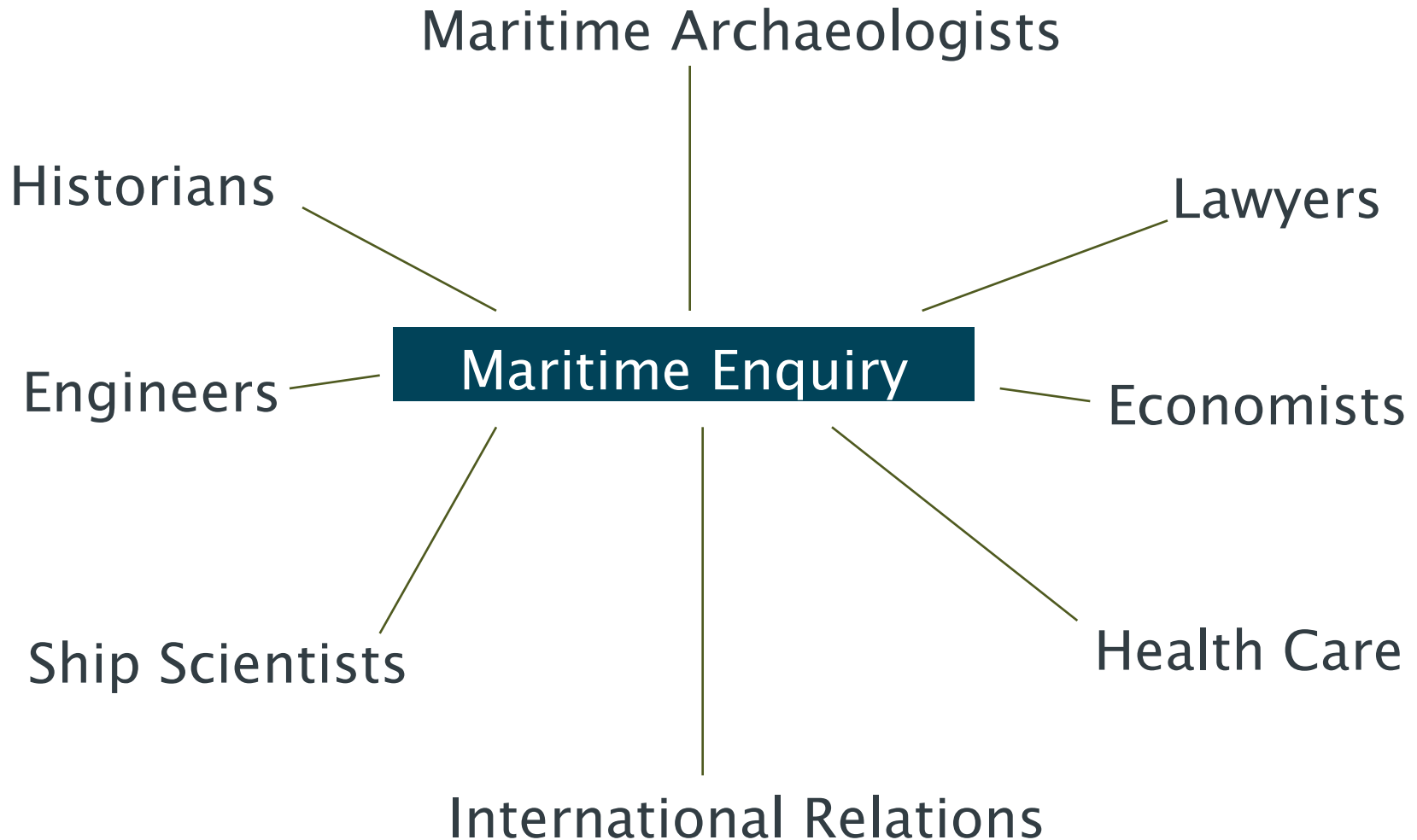
Education for health & wellbeing

Dependence and the global market place

Communication Interface Design

Maritime Enquiry

# Global, interdisciplinary themes



An Award open to all students to recognise extra curricular activities and develop students' graduate attributes

# GRADUATE PASSPORT

Where will yours take you?  
Stand out from the crowd



Giving formal credit to extra-curricular activities

Core Programme

Active Citizen Package

Global Graduate Package

Entrepreneur Package

Developing Professional Package

## The implications of budget cuts and fee increases

### Fees

£6,000 – £9,000 p.a.

(£8,629p.a.\*)

### Research

£88m\*

\*2009 - 2010

## Cuts to the research grant

 £27.6<sub>m</sub>

£1.6<sub>bn</sub>

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

# Global graduates

Cambridge

Southampton

16

UCL

Bristol

Imperial

Kings

Leeds

Warwick

Oxford

Nottingham

Edinburgh

Birmingham

Manchester

Glasgow

RG universities in

World Top 100

*QS World University Ranking 2009 - 10*

LSE

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

# How to find out about research income

- University websites
- University press releases
- Prospectus
- League Tables
- Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

# How to find out about research income



The University of Southampton combines academic excellence with an innovative and entrepreneurial approach to research, supporting a culture that engages and challenges students and staff in their pursuit of learning.

Redefining business and  
university relationships.  
World-leading collaboration

[Find out more...](#)

## Latest News

05 January 2011

Southampton professor leads global project to track astrophysical events as they happen

[Find out more](#)

31 December 2010

New Year Honour for renowned asthma scientist

[Find out more](#)

23 December 2010

New high-energy scanner enables large-scale 3D imaging

[Find out more](#)

## How to find out about research income

### 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.

# How to find out about research income

[← BACK TO MAIN TABLE](#)
[KEY TO TABLES >](#)

Tick two or more check boxes below and click compare

**COMPARE**

		Student satisfaction (250)	Heads'/peer assessments (100)	Research quality (200)	A/A-level/Higher points (250)	Employment (100)	Firsts/2:1s awarded (100)	Student/staff ratio (100)	Dropout rate	Total
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# How to find out about research income

73	<input type="checkbox"/> University of Salford	138	25	118	123	56	55	54	-11	558
74	<input type="checkbox"/> University of Lincoln	173	16	71	130	57	57	44	8	557
75	<input type="checkbox"/> University of Huddersfield	163	19	79	128	56	52	61	-2	556
76=	<input type="checkbox"/> University of Teesside	182	16	50	125	56	52	52	17	549
76=	<input type="checkbox"/> Bath Spa University	170	21	47	142	41	68	46	14	549
78	<input type="checkbox"/> Manchester Metropolitan University	136	26	108	131	52	57	51	-14	546

# Challenging minds in challenging times

- Trends in Higher Education
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- The implications of budget cuts and fee increases
- State verses independent intake

# State and independent sectors

**guardian.co.uk**

Universities must cut private schools  
intake, says Simon Hughes

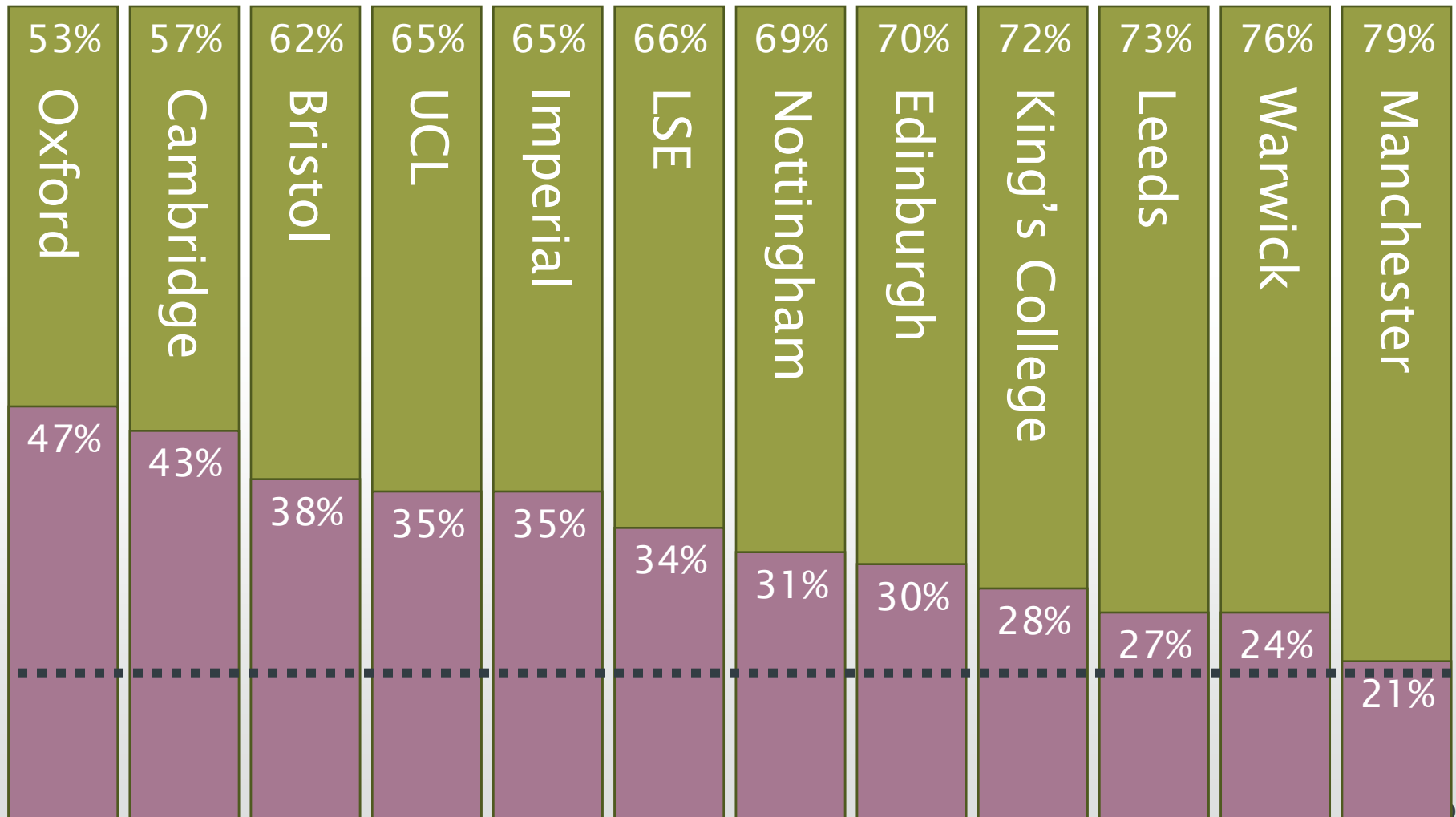
Jeevan Vasagar, *Guardian*, 7 January 2011

# State and independent sectors



# Intake 2010\*

■ 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**

# ‘Hard’ A-levels verses ‘soft’ A-levels

There is much confusion on this issue.

Typically subjects considered as ‘hard’ or ‘preferred’ are those more traditional, theoretical subjects.

University of Southampton  
Law  
3 year full-time Degree

## Additional Information

At least two traditional, academic A level subjects are preferred

‘Soft’ or ‘non-preferred’ subjects are usually regarded as those with a more vocational bias (e.g. Media Studies, Sports Studies, Photography)

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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](#)



**Informed  
choices**

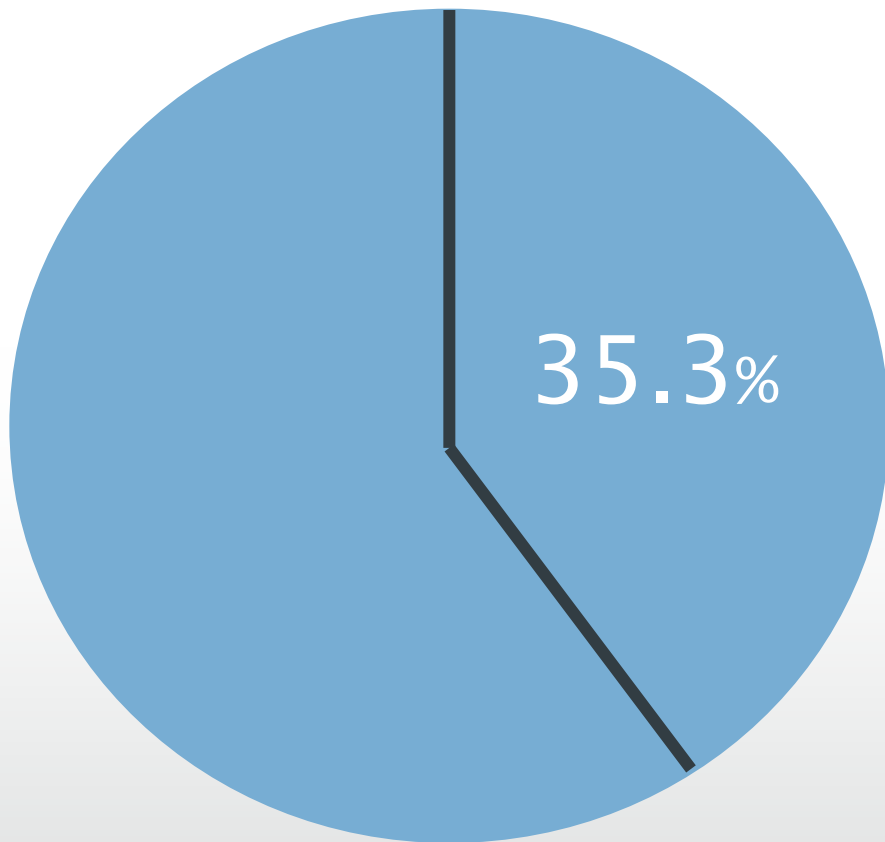
A Russell Group guide  
to making decisions about  
post-16 education

2011

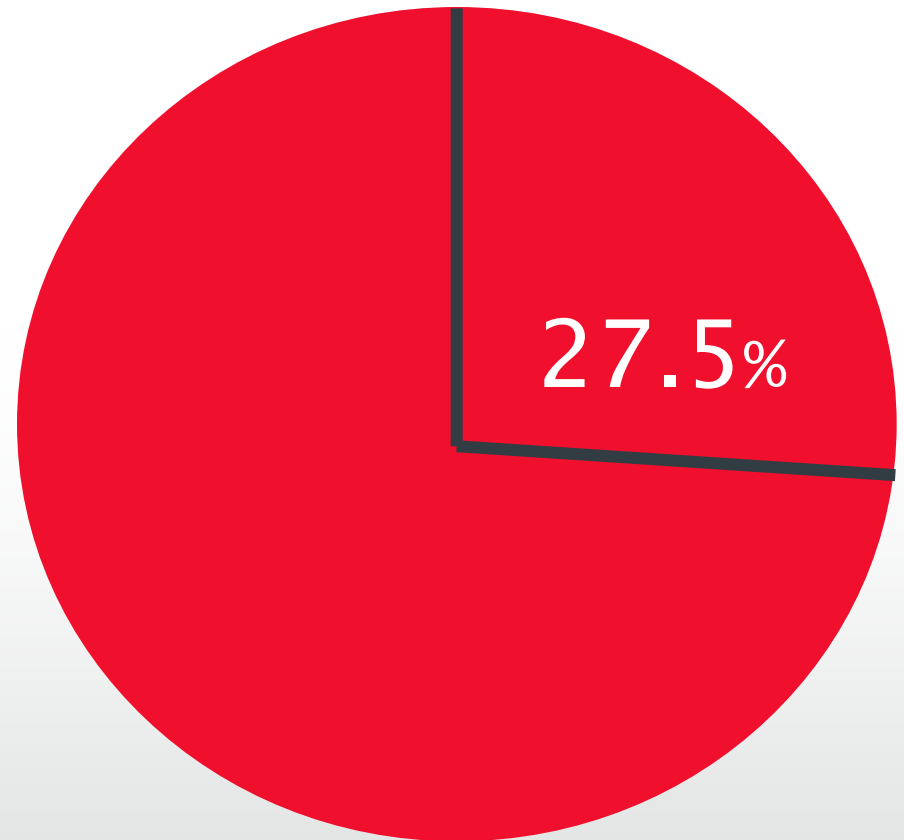


**RUSSELL  
INTERNATIONAL  
EXCELLENCE  
GROUP**

## A-level exam performance A / A\* ratio

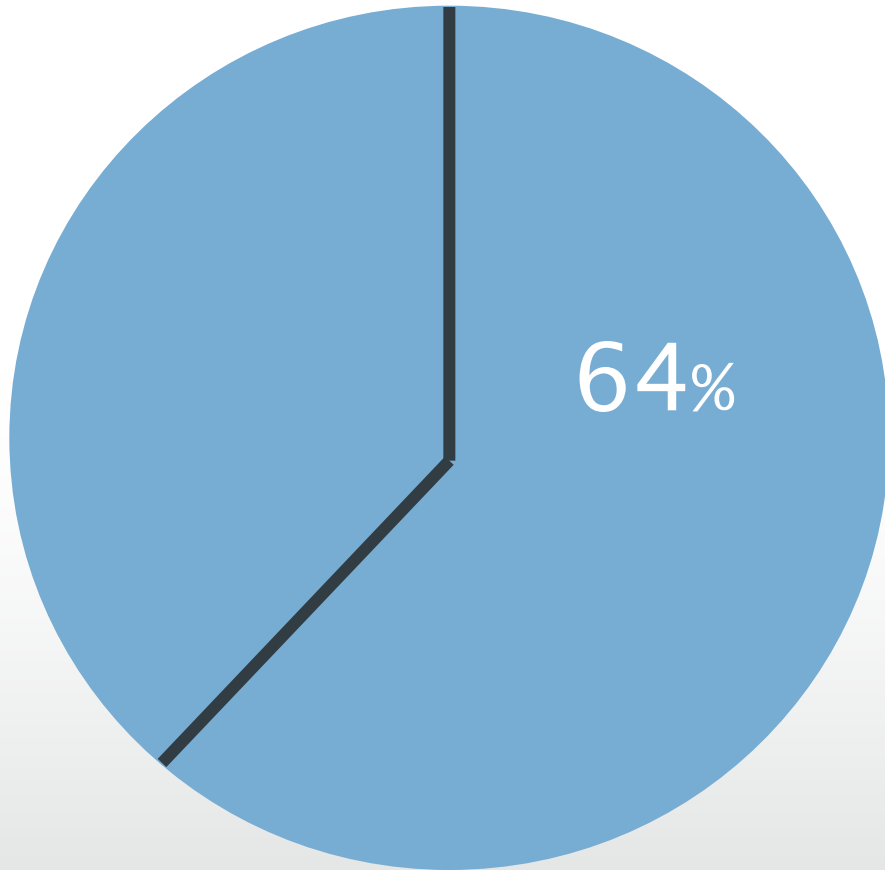


Independent sector

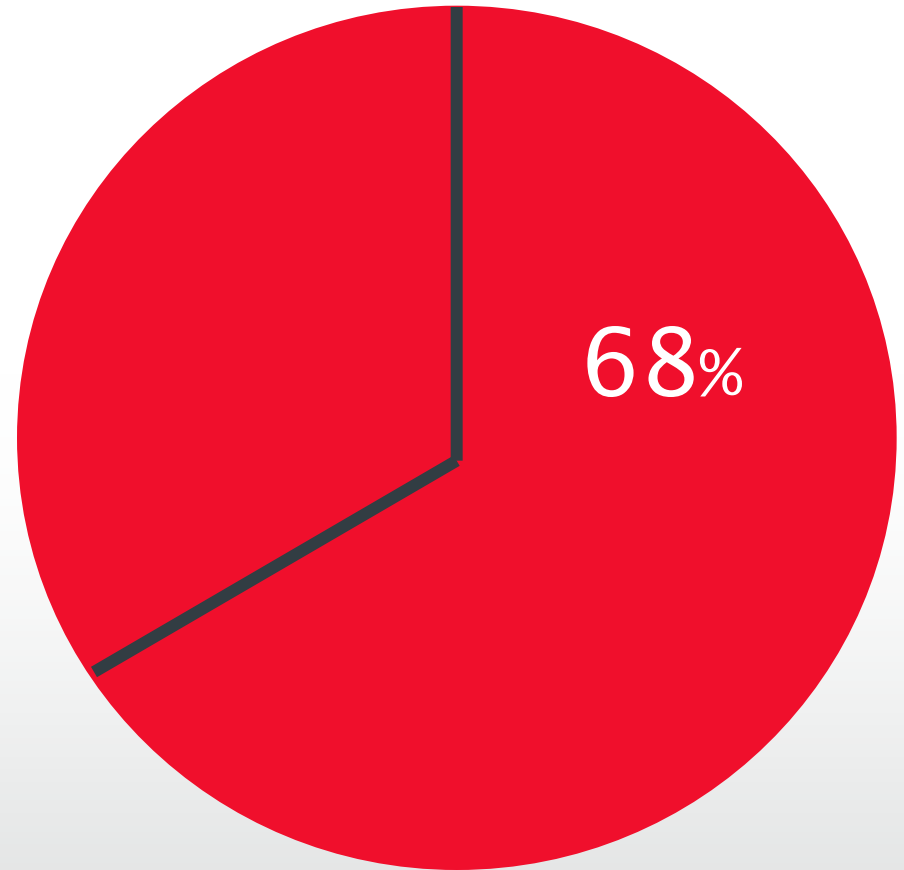


State sector

## 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)**

[www.southampton.ac.uk/schoolsandcolleges/post16/a2s.html](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/schoolsandcolleges/post16/a2s.html)

## **Pathways to Law**

[www.soton.ac.uk/law/ugopportunities/pathways.html](http://www.soton.ac.uk/law/ugopportunities/pathways.html)

## **BM6 Medicine degree**

[www.soton.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/2011/medicine/bm\\_medicine\\_bm6.html](http://www.soton.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/2011/medicine/bm_medicine_bm6.html)

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 in 2008
- 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

# Challenging minds in challenging times

- Trends in Higher Education
  - Applications and admissions
  - Globalization of Higher Education
- The implications of budget cuts and fee increases
- State verses independent intake
- Summary of factors to consider

## Factors for your son or daughter to consider when researching institutions to apply to

- Course and curriculum structure (e.g. flexible or rigid, research intensive, suitable requirements)
- League table position (in particular student satisfaction and employability)
- Fees structure (in particular fee waivers, scholarships, bursaries and fee reinvestment)
- Income (research verses student fees)
- Size (comprehensive, broad institution or small and focused?)
- Location and transport links