



# Higher Education at the Crossroads: Redrawing the Roadmap for Growth, Excellence and Fair Access

A Public Policy Exchange Conference

**Wednesday 7th July 2010**

**10:15am – 4:45pm**

**One Whitehall Place  
Westminster, London**

Public Policy Exchange, in association with the Centre for Parliamentary Studies, holds regular interactive seminars which provide an invaluable interface for policy discussion, debate and networking. These special events offer local practitioners, civil servants and other stakeholders not only an insight into current policy thinking, but also the opportunity to feed into future development across all areas of public policy.

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# Higher Education at the Crossroads: Redrawing the Roadmap for Growth, Excellence and Fair Access

## Overview

With Lord Browne's eagerly awaited final report on higher education funding expected later in the year, there will be huge implications for the university sector. The new coalition Government has already stated that it will take the report's findings into account as it shapes its policy priorities for the future of higher education in this country. As part of its broader policy pledges, the Government recently outlined a series of commitments for universities and further/higher education in 'The Coalition: Our Programme for Government'. Key influences shaping the Government's thinking are the need to:

- increase social mobility
- take into account the impact on student debt
- ensure a properly funded university sector
- improve the quality of teaching
- advance scholarship
- attract a higher proportion of students from disadvantaged backgrounds

This special one-day conference offers a timely opportunity for universities, colleges and schools to help shape the new policy priorities for the future of higher education. The conference will examine the potential impact of structural change, tackle issues around funding and standards and assess the consequences for fair access programmes and the widening participation agenda.

With a great deal of change expected within the higher education sector, planning and preparation starts now to redraw the roadmap for growth, excellence and fairer access. Delegates will have the opportunity to debate, share good practice and network with colleagues from across the academic, funding, local authority and government landscape.

***"The Government believes that our universities are essential for building a strong and innovative economy. We will take action to create more college and university places, as well as help to foster stronger links between universities, colleges and industries"***

'The Coalition: Our Programme for Government', May 2010

## Venue & Accommodation

**One Whitehall Place at the Royal Horseguards Hotel,  
London SW1A 2EJ**

Located near Trafalgar Square and near the Strand, The Royal Horseguards hotel in London has graced the banks of the River Thames for more than 100 years. Situated on Whitehall Place, The Royal Horseguards hotel is close to the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey as well as near Buckingham Palace and near Covent Garden.

Through our partnership with HotelMap, we are able to offer our delegates heavily discounted hotel rates at a wide range of London hotels. To view hotel availability and rates and to book online, visit [www.HotelMap.com/parlicentre](http://www.HotelMap.com/parlicentre)

Alternatively, if you would like to book your accommodation by phone, you can call **Daniel Spinner at HotelMap**, on **020 7292 2335 quoting Special Reference Code M3958**.



***"Whilst overall participation in higher education has increased since 1999–2000, particular groups remain underrepresented... Socioeconomic background, gender, ethnicity and place of residence all influence the likelihood of an individual attending higher education..."***

'Widening Participation in Higher Education'  
Report, House of Commons Public Accounts  
Committee, May 2010

## Why Attend?

- ✓ Examine the potential impact of structural change
- ✓ Tackle issues around funding and standards
- ✓ Assess the consequences for fair access programmes and the widening participation agenda

## Who Should Attend?

- Widening Participation Practitioners
- AimHigher Co-ordinators
- Registrars and Senior University Administrators
- Faculty Deans
- Admissions Bodies
- Research Councils
- Schools and FE Colleges
- Careers Services and Advisers
- IAG Advisers
- Connexions Partnerships
- Key Strategic Partners (incl. HEFCE, UCAS, OFFA, BIS)
- Funding Bodies
- Local Authority Education Officers
- Representatives of Industry and Commerce
- Education Charities
- Lifelong Learning Practitioners
- Equal Opportunities Officers
- Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Practitioners
- Access Officers
- Disability Practitioners
- Campaigning Organisations
- Third Sector Practitioners

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## Programme

- 09:30** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:15** Chair's Welcome and Introduction
- 10:30** **New Government, New Parliament - Policy Priorities for Higher Education in a Changing World**  
– The Next Five Years for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education  
– Streamlining for Success: Implications of Structural Change in the Education Sector
- 11:15** Morning Refreshments
- 11:35** **Universities Challenged - A New Direction for Widening Participation?**  
– Looking Back to Move Forward: Acknowledging Achievements, Addressing Gaps  
– Aiming Higher: The Future of Fairer Access  
– The Ties That Bind: Working More Closely with Schools and Colleges
- 12:20** **Open Floor Discussion and Debate**
- 13:00** Networking Lunch
- 14:00** **Standards in Higher Education - Maintaining a Competitive Edge in a Global Market**  
– Funding for Higher Education: Key Priorities  
– Flexibility, Widening Participation and the 'Gold' Standard: Mutually Exclusive?  
– The Relevance of National, European and Global University Ranking Systems
- 14:45** Afternoon Refreshments
- 15:05** **Open Floor Discussion and Debate**
- 15:45** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 16:00** Networking Reception
- 16:45** Close

**\*\*Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice\*\***



If you would like us to send you a certificate of attendance for CPD points please email your name and details of the event to [info@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk](mailto:info@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk)

## Event Details

**Date:** Wednesday 7th July 2010  
**Time:** 10:15am – 4:45pm  
**Venue:** One Whitehall Place,  
Westminster, London

## Forthcoming Events

The 3rd Sexual Health and Young People Symposium: The Next Steps in the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy  
*15th June 2010*

The 3rd Annual Domestic Violence Symposium: Addressing Gaps, Building Capacity  
*17th June 2010*

Child Health and Well-Being: Improving Services for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children  
*22nd June 2010*



Employing Non-UK Nationals Workshop: Practical Guidance on Working with the Points Based Immigration System  
*23rd June 2010*

Child and Adolescent Health and Well-Being: Revitalising Front-Line Mental Health Services  
*30th June 2010*

Tackling Health Inequalities and Delivering Fairer Health Outcomes for All: The Next Steps  
*1st July 2010*

## Sponsorship and exhibitors opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

For further information please contact **Parvin Madahar** on **020 7840 6081** or email [parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk](mailto:parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk)



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**Delegate Fees**

Local Voluntary/Community Organisations	£195 per delegate (1 Place)	£175 per delegate (2+ Places)
Academic/National Charities/Local Authorities/NHS	£295 per delegate (1 Place)	£265 per delegate (2+ Places)
Central Government/Business Sector	£395 per delegate (1 Place)	£345 per delegate (2+ Places)

**Conference materials**

If you are unable to attend the conference but would like to receive the supporting documentation, then please send back this form with payment details and indicate the number of copies you would like to receive. (PDF = £95 & VAT, Hard Copy = £95 (VAT not applicable).

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**Terms & Conditions:** By returning this registration form to Public Policy Exchange, you agree to comply with the Terms and Conditions below.

Cancellations are to be submitted in writing no later than 30 days prior to the event. All cancellations carry an administration charge of £100 + vat. Cancellations received within 30 days of the event will be subject to the full delegate fee; however a delegate substitute may be made if requested in writing. There will be no refunds for non-attendance. Payment is due upon receipt of invoice.

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