

Ten things that are happening

November 2022

Links in this PDF are clickable



Cost of living

- Most universities have now announced their approach
- Hub plus 50 ways article, Russell group PR
- ONS National research out – local comparison? Note link to satisfaction.
- **Food** insecurity and food banks (new inflation figures have food inflation at 16.4 per cent, higher for staples)
- Heating and campus spaces?
- Energy Bills support
 - Pass through regulation where student not billpayer
 - £400 for households – students in halls still TBC
- Thrift / second hand initiatives (books, uniform, fashion etc) proving v popular

Over **8 million** households to get new Cost of Living payment from **14 July 2022**

NSS

- Removal of community section
- Summative question only retained in nations
 - Overall, how would you rate the quality of your course?
- SUs question – removal of NAND and rewording
 - How well does the students' union (association or guild) represent students' academic interests?
- Wellbeing
 - How well communicated was information about your university/college's mental wellbeing support services?
- Cybil research



Housing shortage

- No national strategy
- Renting Homes Act Dec 1st (BUT June for six months notice on no fault)
- Family accommodation issue (see also)
- PGT expansion plus Graduate Route visa
- Strategy for the city?
- Figures on types of housing by provider
- Glasgow SRC cap campaign



Strikes

- Dates called: 24th, 25th, 30th
- See strike sheet for SU approaches
- Wednesday 30th National Demo King's Cross
 - Unlikely to be ultra vires – weigh up record
- Action short of a strike
 - working to contract
 - not covering for absent colleagues
 - removing uploaded materials related to, and/or not sharing materials related to, lectures or classes that will be or have been cancelled as a result of strike action
 - not rescheduling lectures or classes cancelled due to strike action
 - not undertaking any voluntary activities.
- Need to know briefing, rights issues briefing
- Don't forget nursing if you have nursing students (dates TBC)
- Picketing – some unis dissuading students – see briefing
- International students and attendance – see briefing



Free speech bill

- Amendments for report stage potentially:
 - Removal of tort
 - Regulation of SUs through universities
 - Removal of clause on foreign funding
 - Heckler's veto clause
 - Complaints route
- Becomes law late 22 / early 23, then OfS consultation
- Disciplinary chaos?
- Academic judgement?
- Search Lords register of interests to find links to your uni

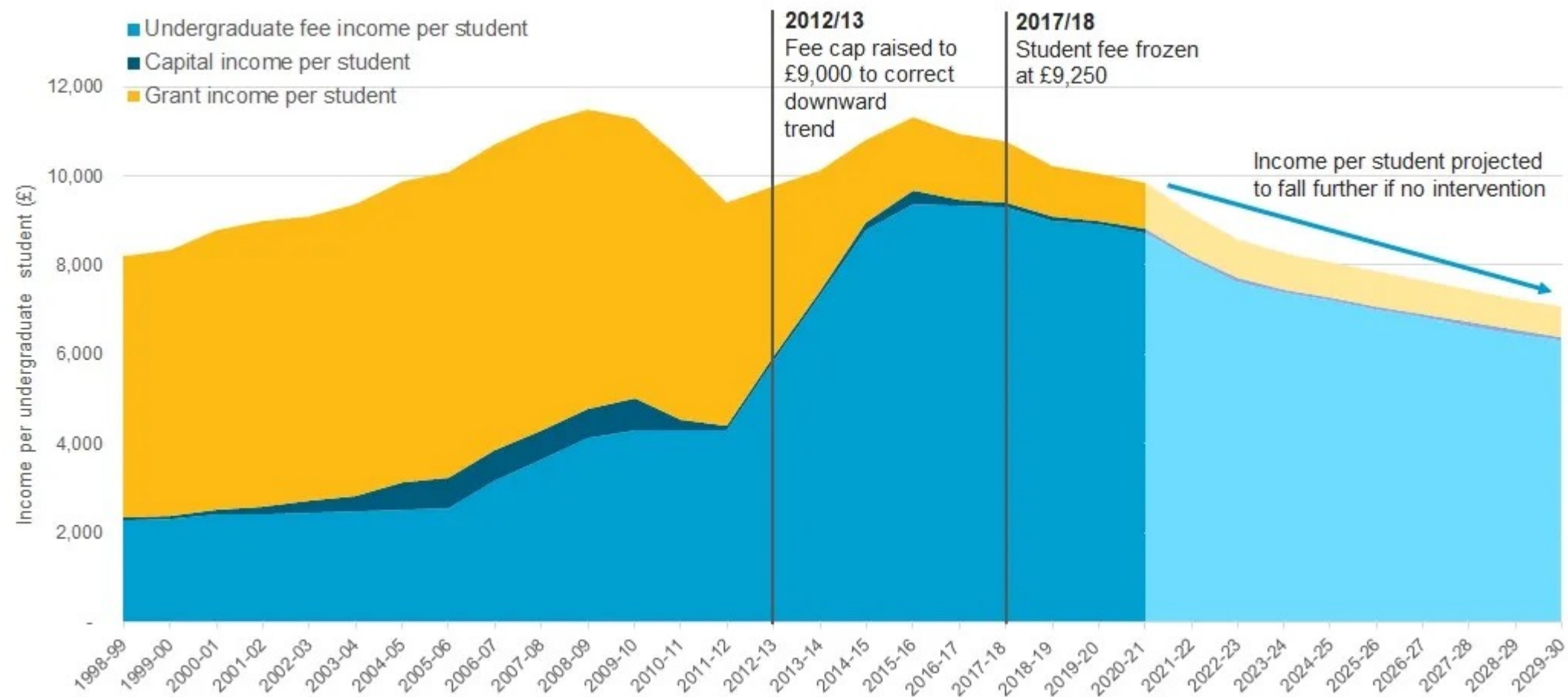


University finances

- Real state varies (UCU aggregate)
- Budget
- Energy support?
- How is university planning to cope and/or will cost of living support last?



University finances



International students

- No news (yet) on immigration reform but figures coming December
- Family accommodation crisis
- Growing and infrastructure
 - General expansion
 - International
- Pregnancy and learning from complaints



Harassment & SM

- Statement of Expectations will be converted to regulation
- Prevalence research coming from OfS – Nations participation?
- Expected standards coming on bystander and prevention training in England
- Evaluation from SUMS consulting
- Year abroad, franchise, placement, SUs – jurisdiction issues will be addressed (will be relevant to Wales & Scotland)



Student mental health

- Bristol will appeal in the Abrahart case so learning delayed
- Parents have launched campaign to establish a formal “duty of care”
- Wonkhe SUs Roundtable on reasonable adjustments in December
- Apps and digital MH support



Transport

- The pandemic has caused more WFH, passenger numbers have not bounced back, and many routes are less sustainable than they were, putting huge pressure on operator margins
- Brexit has caused a significant labour market crunch and operators are finding it much more difficult than in the past to recruit, train and pay drivers.
- Students as drivers?
- Explainer briefing and recording



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