

**WONKHE**

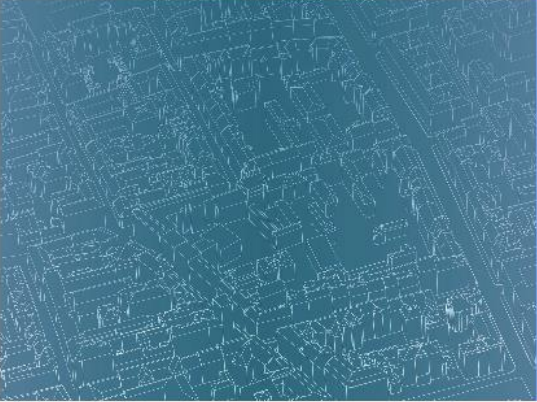
# That was the wonk that was

What's been going on in  
higher education this month?

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# Access and participation



## Access and participation planning gains a regional dimension

DAVID KERNOHAN | COMMENT | 7/11/24



## Some providers are cutting financial support for students – with OfS’ blessing

JIM DICKINSON | COMMENT | 8/11/24

## John Blake renewal

- “Cohort renewal” for APPs, on a regional basis
- “An expectation that providers will secure the agreement of their local partnership before an access and participation plan can be submitted for consideration by the OfS”
- Discussions with DfE over money
- “no point pretending” that diminishing financial resources and expanding equality needs are not in tension

## Latest APPs:

- 14 for 2025–26 to 2028–29 now published
- In this sample: total planned student financial support will fall from £20m in 2020–21 to £17m by 2028–29

# VC pay



## University Rich List 2024

### University bosses handed up to £80k pay rises

Universities warn higher tuition fees and direct government funding are needed to halt a growing deficit

TELEGRAPH

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DEBATE

### Is VC pay really spiraling out of control?

DAVID KERNOHAN | WONK CORNER | 11/11/24 | 6

### Pay restraint urged as vice-chancellor salaries top £400,000

Universities will come under growing pressure to freeze or cut wages to compensate for tuition fees rising for the first time in years

THE TIMES

I NEWS

### Number of senior university staff earning £100k doubles in four years

The research comes after an i investigation found that university bosses claimed at least £1m in expenses in the past two years



# The decade ahead



## The demographic tide is turning, but university remains popular

DAVID KERNOHAN | DATA | 24/10/24

## Student Demand to 2035

Bahram Bekhradnia



hepi

Higher Education Policy Institute

HEPI Report 179

# The Budget



## Everything in the Budget for higher education

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## Scotland's universities still have another budget to contend with

CLAIRE MCPHERSON | COMMENT | 4/11/24

### Employer national insurance rise

- *OfS estimates £133 million in 2024-25 and c£430 million each year from 2025-26*
- *Universities Scotland estimates £45m cost in Scotland*

### Minimum wage increases

### Foundation year cut confirmed

### LLE delayed to 2027 starts, but still intended

### R&D cut rumours didn't play out

# Tuition fees up



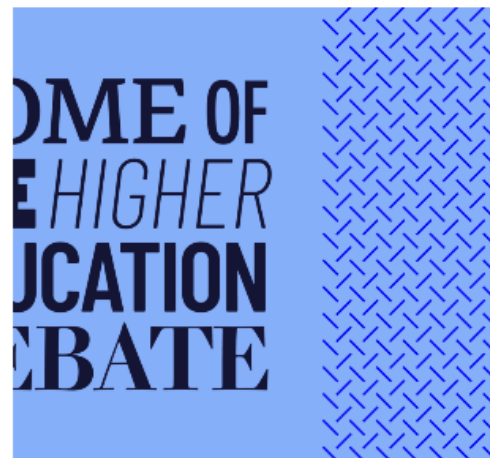
## How fees will rise by inflation

DAVID KERNOHAN | ANALYSIS | 4/11/24



## An increase in maintenance loans gets blunted by fiscal drag

JIM DICKINSON | WONK CORNER | 4/11/24



## Fees are going up to £9,535. Or are they?

JIM DICKINSON | WONK CORNER | 5/11/24

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## Fees up (in cash terms)

- Fee cap rises to £9,535 in England
- Based on OBR inflation projection for 2026
- The Times this weekend: “thousands of second and third-year students will avoid paying the extra £285 per year because some universities guaranteed their fees would remain at £9,250 for all three years of the course.”

## Maximum maintenance allowance also “rises”:

- 3.1 per cent rise (e.g. £317 for those away from home, outside London)
- £25,000 family income threshold remains
- For the first time, working 40h on minimum wage will see you qualify for repayments
- Hoped for maintenance grant reinstatement didn't come to pass

# Thank you

**Get in touch**  
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