

Why we need a new vision for the full-time student experience

Jim Dickinson, Associate Editor, Wonkhe



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Why we need a new vision for the full-time student experience

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If campuses are at 30% capacity, why are halls at 100%?

This article is more than
4 years old
ANALYSIS | 2/10/20

As press stories of outbreaks in halls pile up, Jim Dickinson looks at SAGE advice on housing and considers whether it offers lessons for the rest of the academic year.



Image: Shutterstock



Jim Dickinson
Jim is an Associate Editor (SUs)
at Wonkhe

Tags
COVID-19

There's been lots of discussion about student migration – at the start of term, the end of term, and to some extent during the term.

But one of the major emerging issues is housing itself in viral transmission and amplification – as halls (in particular traditional halls) grab the headlines, so-called "households" within them come into question and we wonder whether the advice we got given (on for example [masks in halls](#)) was appropriate.

Regular readers of Wonkhe will know that one of the things that vexes us is the



WE MADE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

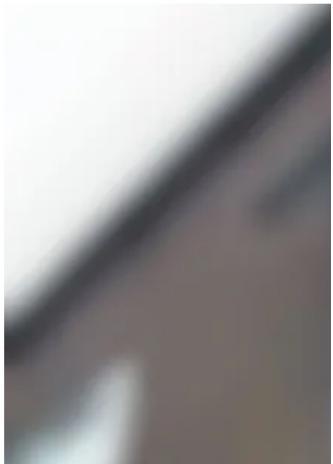
Nottingham students unhappy with conditions in 'prison' halls

⌚ 2 October 2020

People



Coronavirus



By Caitlyn Dewar

Published 20th Sep

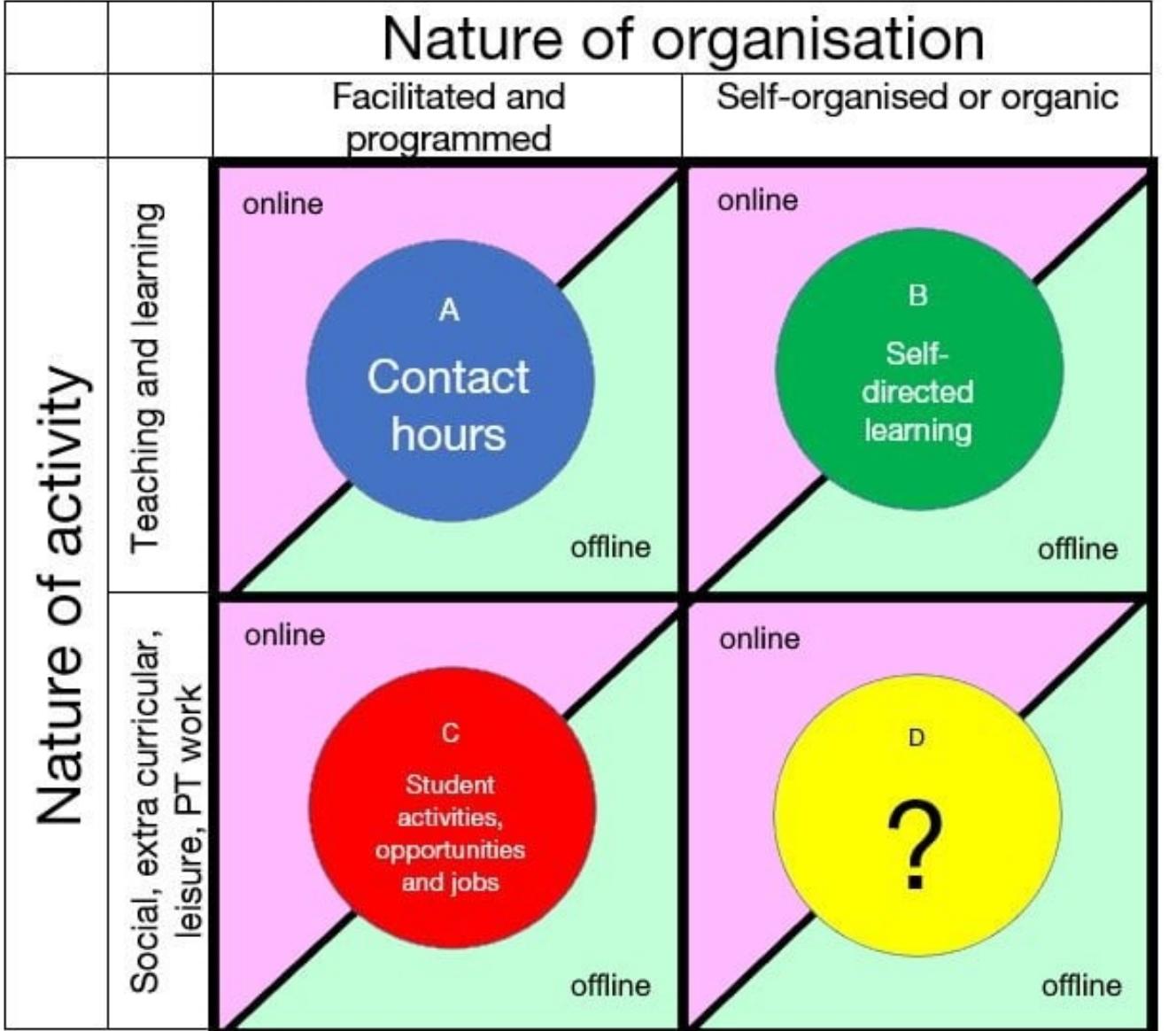
Edinburgh University freshers living in 'prison-like' conditions due to strict corona

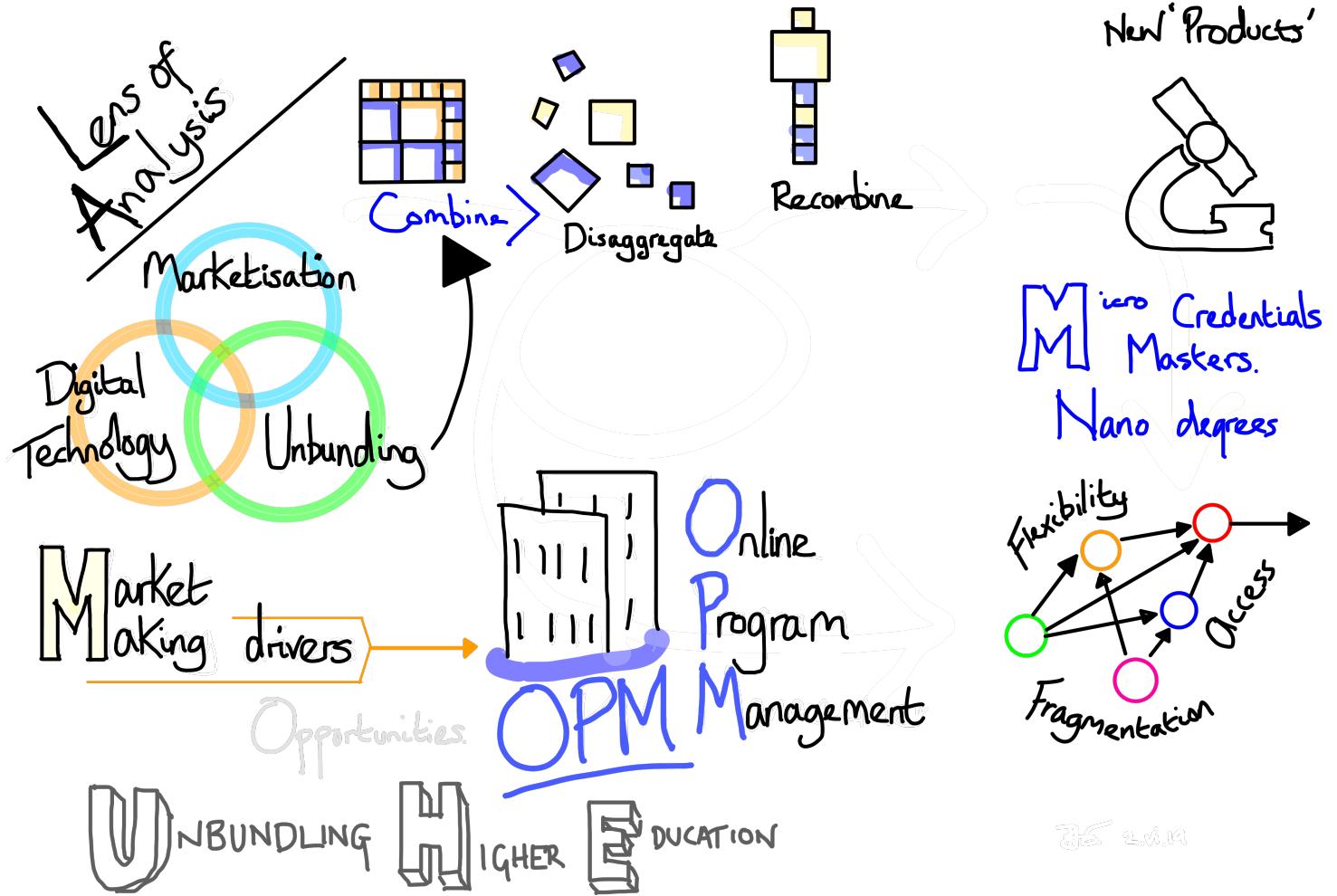
- Thousands of students stranded at university amid UK lockdown

Coronavirus pandemic leaves international and British students in turmoil

- [Coronavirus - latest updates](#)
- [See all our coronavirus coverage](#)





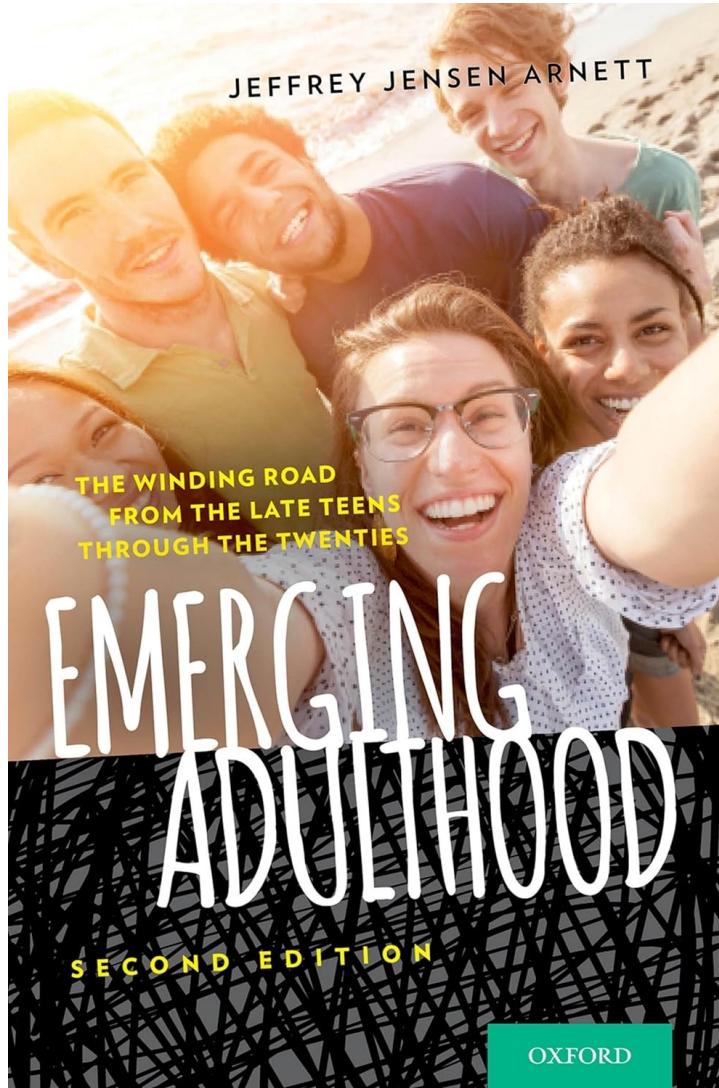


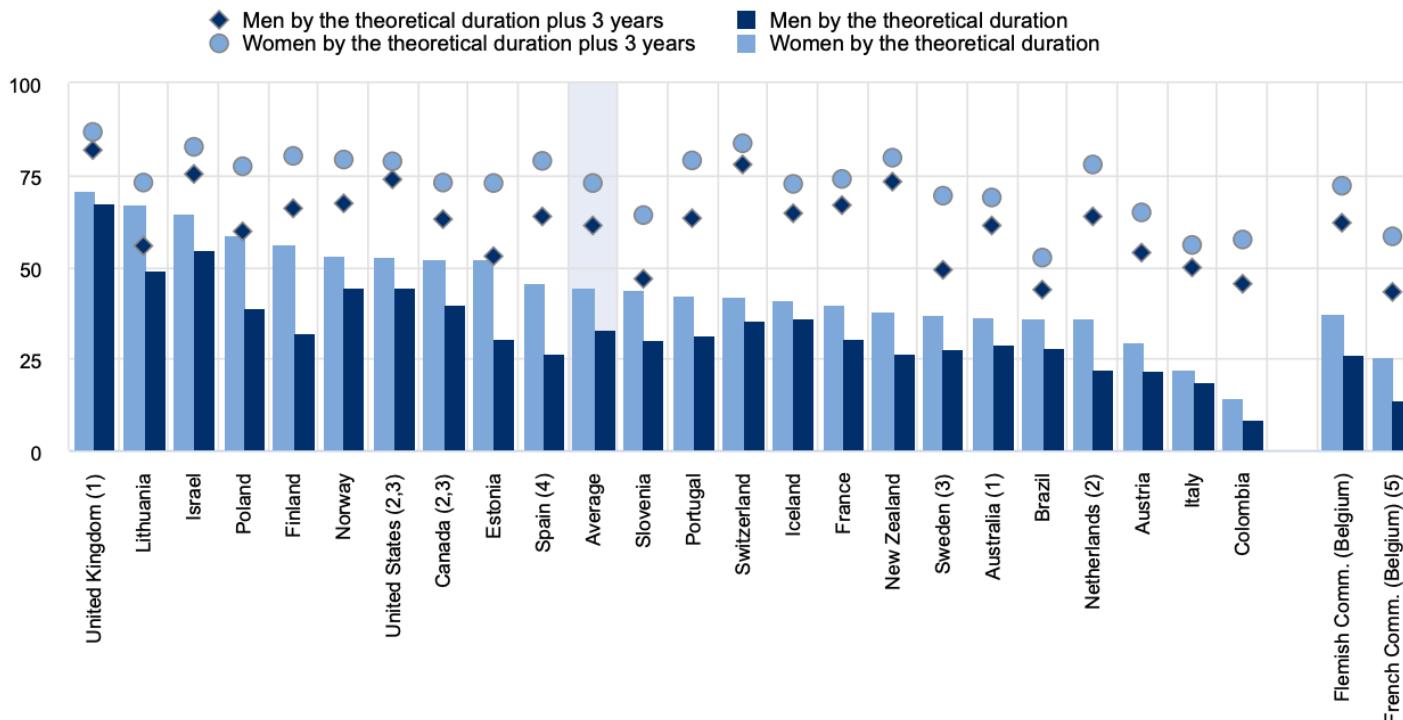
BS 2014

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Average age completing HE

	Graduation age
Britain	23
Netherlands	24
Italy	25
Spain	25
Denmark	26
Germany	26
Norway	26
Finnish	27
Iceland	27
Swedish	28

Source: OECD Education at a Glance 2018

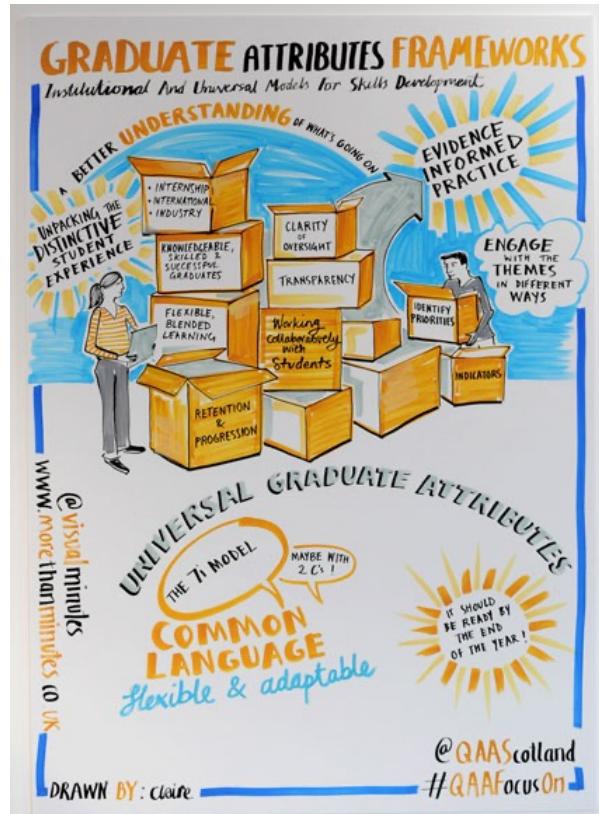
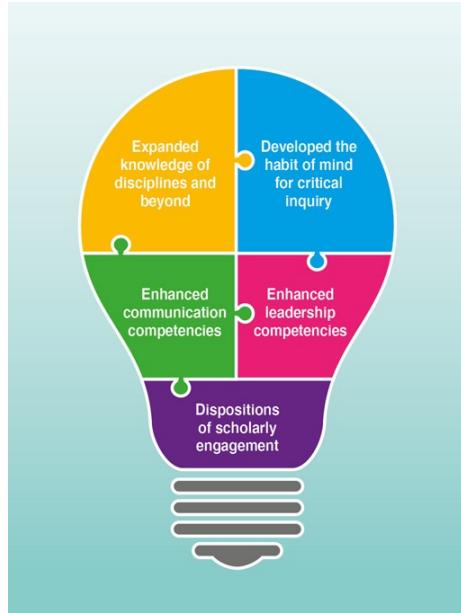
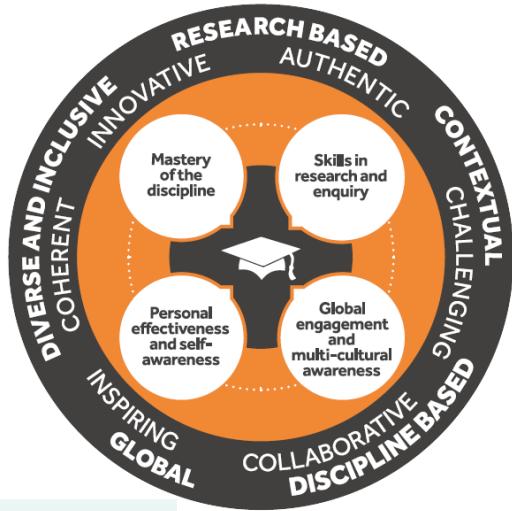




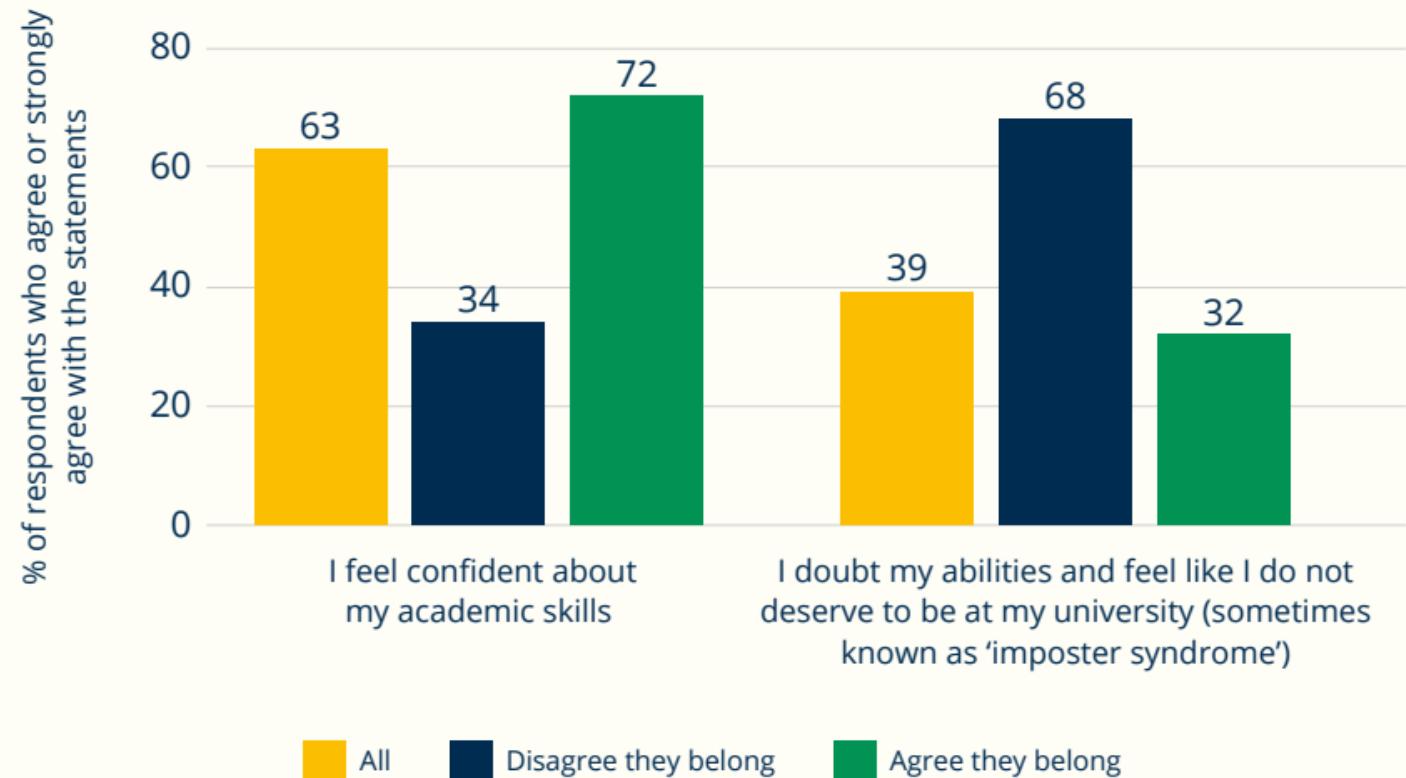
403168

801438





The impact of confidence and imposter syndrome on belonging



Pearson/Wonkhe Student Survey November 2021

Students need to be understood prior to arrival – via national pre-arrival research on characteristics and expectations

Students need a framework on the competencies needed to be a successful student

Induction should extend beyond week one (in both directions) and be socially delivered

Intervention choice should be self-assessed, partly credit-bearing, owned and delivered by students



Volume elements

$$dV = dS_1 dS_2 dS_3$$

$$= h_1 h_2 h_3 \, d\text{radius}$$

Surface elements

$$dS_1 = h_1 h_2 d\theta d\phi \text{ etc}$$

$$\text{Surface elements}$$
$$dF = dS_1 dS_2$$
$$F = \int dF = \int dS_1 dS_2$$
$$F = \int dF = \int dS_1 dS_2$$

NO SMOKING

Power Series Solns. for the case of a
regular singular point

$$y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n \frac{x^n}{n!} (x-x_0)^n$$

NO SMOKING

$$\frac{(-1)^k R A_0}{\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k!) (\alpha+2k) \cdots (\alpha+2)} \quad k=1, 2, \dots$$
$$(\alpha+2k)(\alpha+2k-1) \cdots (\alpha+1) = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+k+1)}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}$$
$$\Gamma(\alpha+1) = \alpha \Gamma(\alpha) = \alpha! \quad \text{if } \alpha = \text{integer}$$

usually $\Gamma(\alpha) = \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^{\alpha-1} dt$

Thus obtain Bessel Function
of 1st kind, of order ν ,

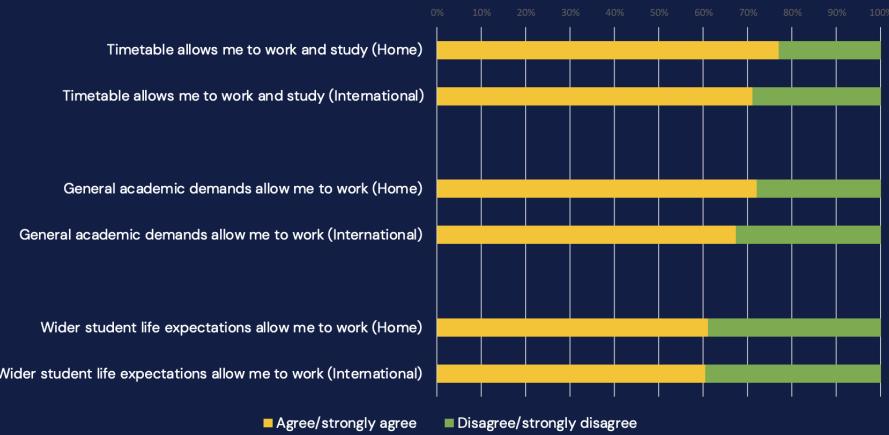
$$\nu = \frac{1}{2}$$



Math on Tape is hard to follow, so:
Please Listen Carefully

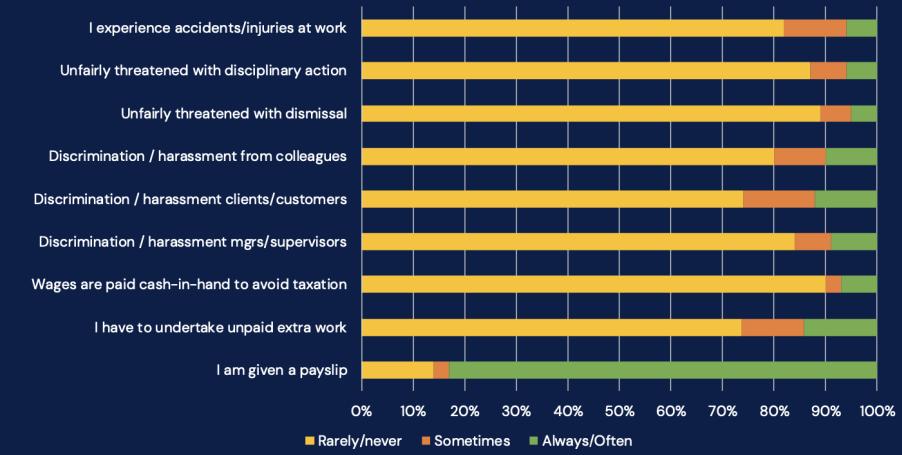


Around a third struggle to balance work and study



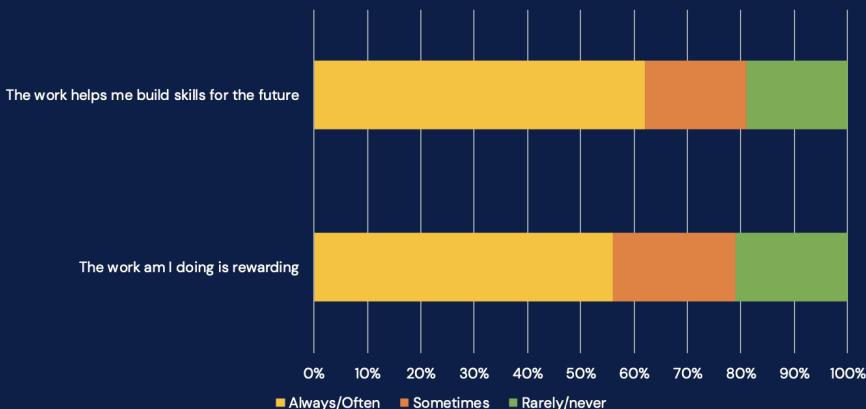
Belong
By Cibyl & Wonkhe

Access to basic rights is not universal



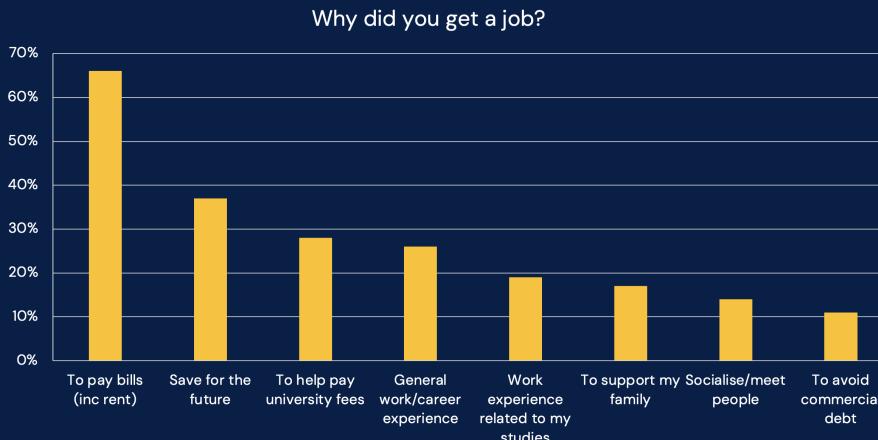
Belong
By Cibyl & Wonkhe

One in five disagree their work is rewarding or helps their future



Belong
By Cibyl & Wonkhe

The majority of students who are working are doing so to cover costs



Belong
By Cibyl & Wonkhe

Universities should recognize students' lives outside formal teaching and ensure delivery reflects real workloads and commitments

Education shouldn't be reduced to passive online content; asynchronous materials should support, not replace, active participation

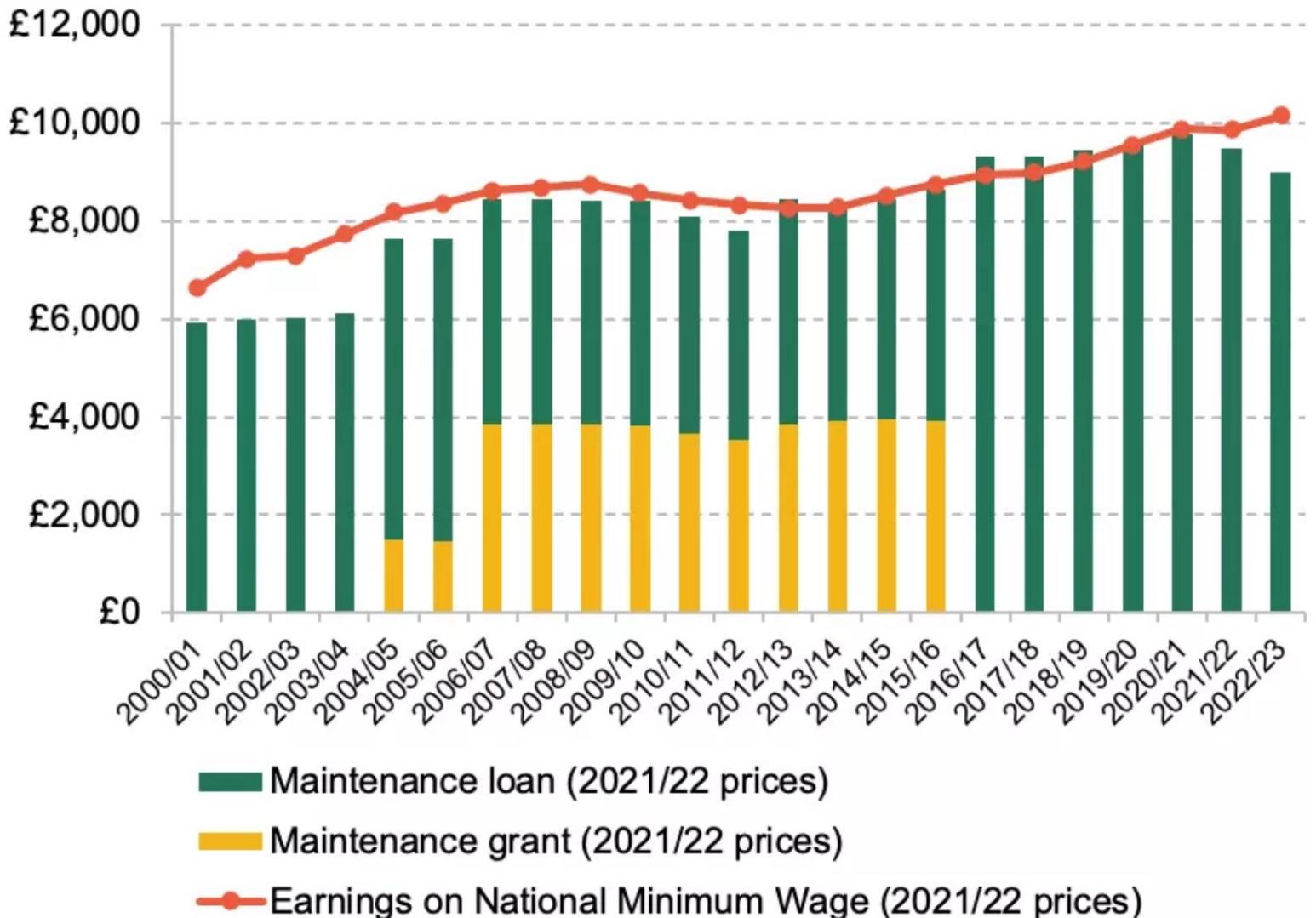
Replace scattered, low-impact attendance with structured teaching blocks, supported by integrated student services

Universities must make admissions decisions with realistic consideration of course workload and students' personal circumstances.

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Maintenance based on actual median living costs, link to minimum wage, and require universities to assess and disclose all participation expenses

Raise parental income thresholds, reform means-testing to account for real family circumstances, ensure maintenance reflects the full range of student living situations and cost pressures

Active steps to minimize financial burdens through policies, subsidies, and cost reductions, allow “full time” support at 30 credits+ per year

Coordinated support across government departments so students aren't unfairly excluded from assistance

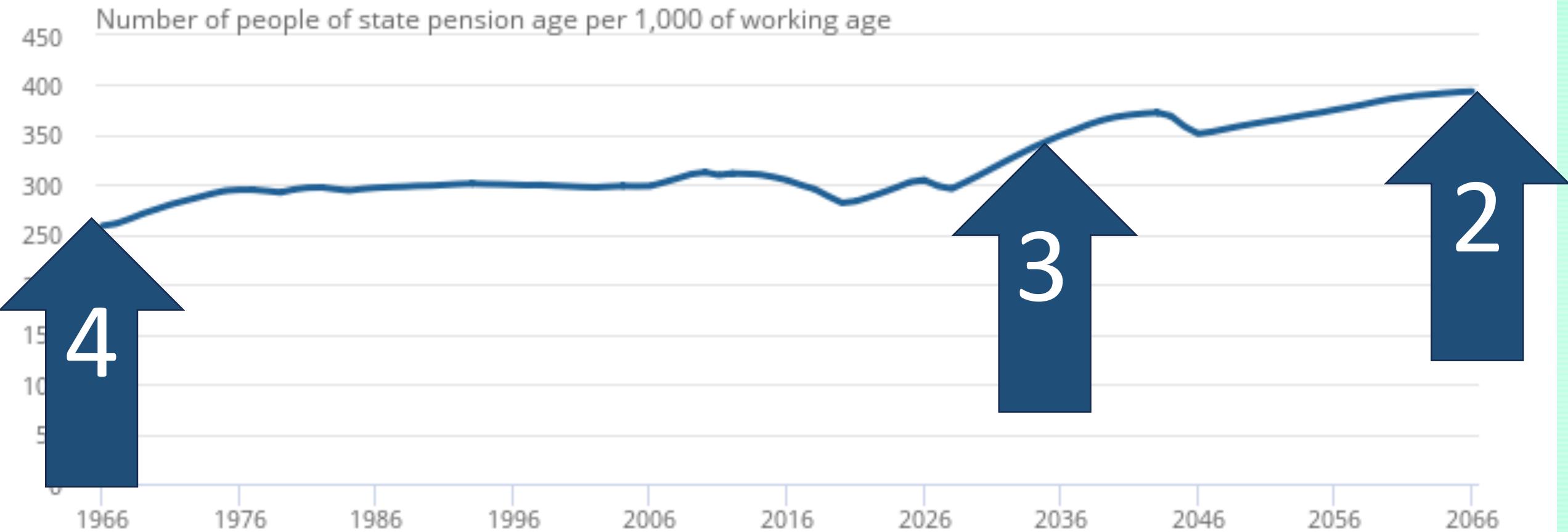
Transparency and accountability in the cost of study including a duty to get costs down

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Figure 17: Old age dependency ratio, 1966 to 2066 (projected), UK

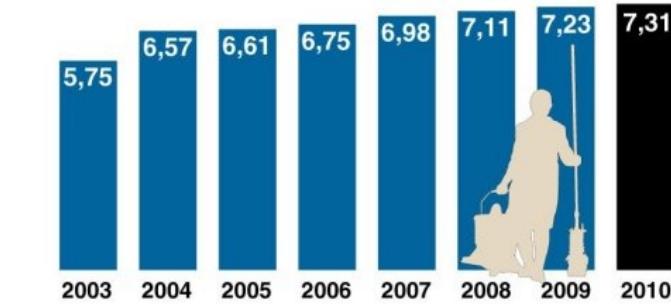


Source: Population estimates, State Pension Age Factors, Principal population projections, 2016-based, Office for National Statistics



Minijobber

Geringfügig entlohnte Beschäftigte in Deutschland jeweils Ende September in Mio.



Quelle: Bundesagentur für Arbeit

AFP

Universities provide student jobs with transparent recruitment, guaranteed hours, fair wages, and holiday protections

Student employment offering proper training, career progression pathways to supervisory roles, academic credit for demonstrable learning, and integration with career services for post-graduation planning

End exploitation through unpaid placements, extend university employment standards to local businesses and supply chains, ban unpaid internships

Student-specific legal safeguards inspired by European models, national job-matching service, ensure stability in seasonal/flexible work, cross-departmental national strategy for student employment

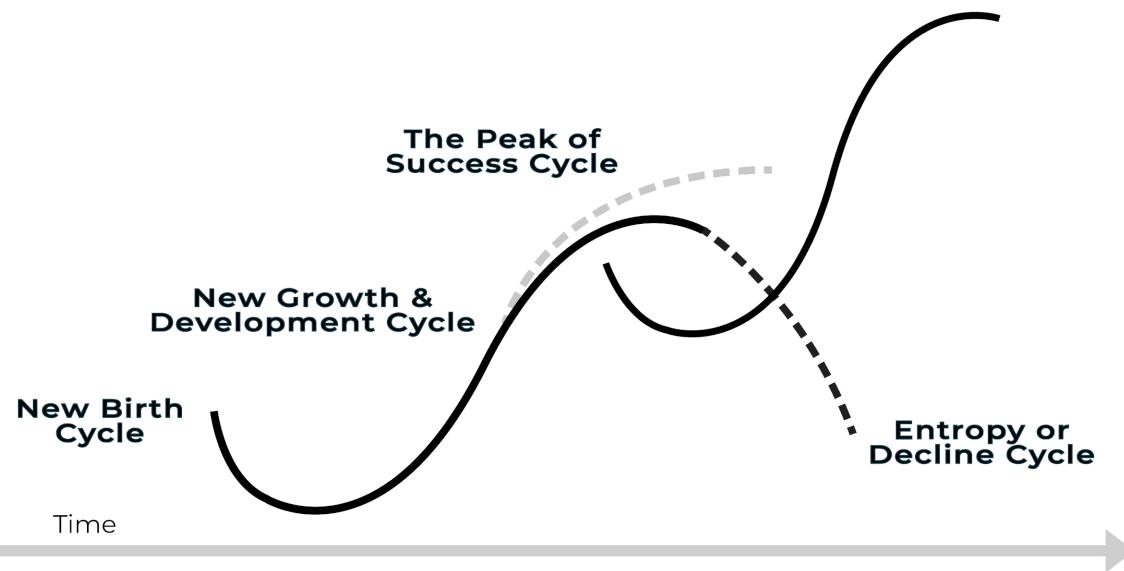
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NATURE'S TIMELINE PRINCIPLE



Growth follows a predictable pattern:

- | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---------------|---|--------------|
| Exploration | ▶ | Execution | ▶ | Extinction |
| Acceleration | ▶ | Stabilization | ▶ | Deceleration |

Creating sustainable growth means:

Delay extinction: stretch the curve

Avoid extinction: change the curve

1. year		2. year		3. year	
1. semester	2. semester	3. semester	4. semester	5. semester	6. semester
Course Science and Philosophy 5 ECTS	Course Subjectivity and learning 5 ECTS	Subject course 1st bachelor subject 5 ECTS	Subject course 1st bachelor subject 5 ECTS	Subject course 2nd bachelor subject 5 ECTS	Elective course 5 ECTS
Course Text and Sign 5 ECTS	Course Culture and History 5 ECTS	Subject course 2nd bachelor subject 5 ECTS	Subject course 1st bachelor subject 5 ECTS	Subject course 2nd bachelor subject 5 ECTS	Elective course 5 ECTS
Course Study Competence and Project Management 5 ECTS	Course Methodology 5 ECTS	Course Theory for the Humanities in a global perspective 5 ECTS	Subject course 1st bachelor subject 5 ECTS	Subject course 2nd bachelor subject 5 ECTS	Course Knowledge Communication 5 ECTS
Project Project Management 15 ECTS	Project Method 15 ECTS	Project Theory for the Humanities in a global perspective 15 ECTS	Project 1st bachelor subject 15 ECTS	Project 2nd bachelor subject 15 ECTS	Bachelor project 15 ECTS



Cutting-edge interdisciplinary research

- We conduct cutting-edge research at the highest international level, and our aim is to develop a distinct interdisciplinary profile based on the social sciences and humanities combined with key contributions from natural, technical and health science.
- Our research is excellent, challenge-driven, and contributes to sustainable development in close interaction with the surrounding community: locally, nationally, and internationally.
- The societal impact of our research always builds on fundamental principles of freedom of research, research integrity and open science.
- We aim to be an international hub for critical interdisciplinary research.
- Our aim is to offer coherent time for research, well-functioning research organisation and robust administrative research support.



Problem-oriented and problem-led programs

- Our programs provide students with broad interdisciplinary knowledge and methodological competencies within our main academic areas, with particular focus on digital, ethical and democratic citizenship.
- Our aim is that all programs stimulate intense interdisciplinary engagement; students and researchers work together to put the research and its methods into play.
- Our aim is to attract committed Danish and international students, motivated by developing a sustainable future. All supervisors master and develop RUC's pedagogical model, Problem-oriented Project Learning (PPL), so that students can apply this approach in their studies and professional academic work.
- Our aim is to offer continuing and further education in collaboration with labour market partners.



Environmental, economic and social sustainability

- We strive to be a pioneering university for sustainable institutional and campus operations: economic, social and environmental considerations are always part of the university's long-term priorities.
- Our campus is a vibrant research, study and work environment where students, employees, alumni and external partners thrive and can combine their academic strengths and interests.
- We are dedicated to equality and diversity, in recruitment and retention of both staff and students, and in interaction and cooperation.



Co-creators of societal change

- Our researchers and research communities contribute to address current and future societal challenges. They do this through research dissemination, open access publications and through societal engagement.
- Our graduates are academically sound and have the skills of project managers who are capable of applying their knowledge and competences in their jobs, and as entrepreneurs.
- Our community of faculty and staff fosters a culture of innovation, international education, international alliances and internationalisation.

Bachelor project
15 ECTS

Meaningful assessment reflecting real-world skills

Programmes accommodating financial and personal time constraints rather than assuming unlimited availability, while enabling interdisciplinary pathways and project-based learning.

Competency-based transcripts that accurately reflect achievements, while embedding AI literacy and ethical understanding to prepare students for workplace changes.

Encourage education based on deep inquiry rather than compliance, formally integrate student-led academic and governance initiatives

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Compulsory module evaluation where learning and change (student and university) is explicit

Representatives influence real decisions rather than being sidelined to advisory roles, and require student unions to recruit diverse nominees.

Extend representation beyond teaching into support services, estates, and campus planning

Establish subject-based communities that integrate academic, social, and career development with national coordinating bodies.

Compensate representatives financially or through academic credit, provide training in data analysis and policy engagement, ensure representatives never sit alone on committees

Independent campus ombuds roles ensuring meaningful resolution

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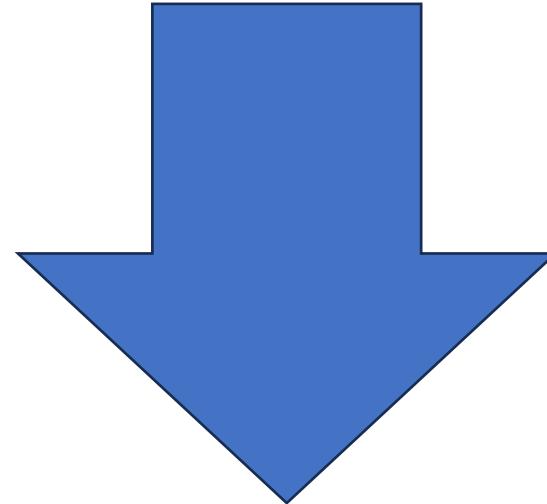
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Michelle Donelan MP
Minister of State for Universities

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tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus



decided to stay in the UK or cannot travel home. They have a duty of care to you, which they recognise and will carry out. This includes continuing to provide accommodation if



Student Rights Bill defining students as stakeholders with enforceable rights

Single “student environment” regulatory condition for providers on issues within their control and influence, student reps to go alongside

Statutory duty of care and sector-wide safeguarding framework

Guarantee students can complete degrees under original conditions when programs change or close.

Independent professional standards body for misconduct cases, and require transparent publication of misconduct reports, prevalence surveys, and actions taken in response to student feedback.

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Belong Jan Fen Mar 2025 (Preview, N=800)

- Only 58% of students report good or very good health, compared to over 80% nationally.
- Mental health services emerged as the most urgent need, with students facing long waiting times and limited options beyond CBT.
- A quarter of students report their health has worsened since starting university.
- 27% struggle to get GP appointments, and dental care is particularly concerning with 31% unsure if they're even registered with a dentist.
- 21% of students get less than 6 hours sleep a night, and potential eating disorders may affect nearly a quarter of respondents.

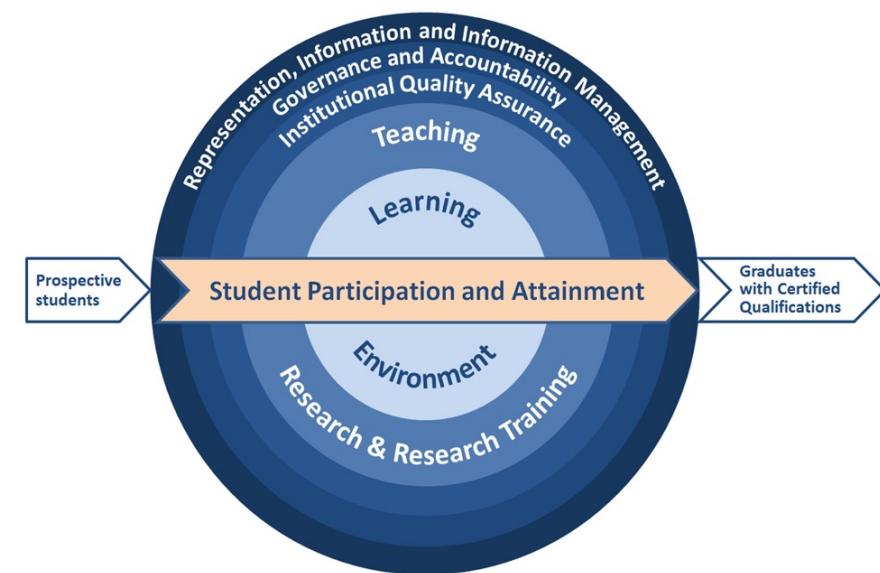


FSHS

Network for student safety representatives

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The network for student safety representatives within SFS exists to create a meeting place for student safety representatives and an opportunity to identify common goals, coordinate efforts and strengthen knowledge about students' work environment issues and work environment work.



Dual GP registration between home and university, free prescriptions for students, universal health screening at university entry

Establish that formal diagnosis isn't required for reasonable adjustments, create faster disability assessment pathways with NHS partnerships

Adjust academic policies to support sleep health and reduce health-harming stress.

Coordinate subsidized £3 meal deals, include food insecurity in hardship funds and access plans, normalize emergency food services like free breakfasts and pantries, support student-led initiatives like communal meals and cooking workshops.

National student health survey tracking mental health and nutrition, proactively communicate the rationale behind harm reduction policies

Establish that mental health is not extra curricula in teaching and learning competencies and evaluation – workload in a H&S issue

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Enable students to earn academic credit through service (10 ECTS for undergraduates, 15 for postgraduates)

Support commuter students not just as a separate group but as potential leaders in connecting on and off-campus life.

Measure and grow different types of social capital ("bonding," "bridging," and "linking") as intentional outcomes, set institutional goals for student integration, and reintroduce community questions to the National Student Survey.

Invest in dedicated student-facing community organizers rather than administrators alone, provide structured frameworks for student-led social initiatives.

Integrate student-driven projects into local planning, challenge negative political narratives by highlighting students' civic engagement, and position students as long-term stakeholders rather than transient residents in their communities

Academic recognition for learning through contribution

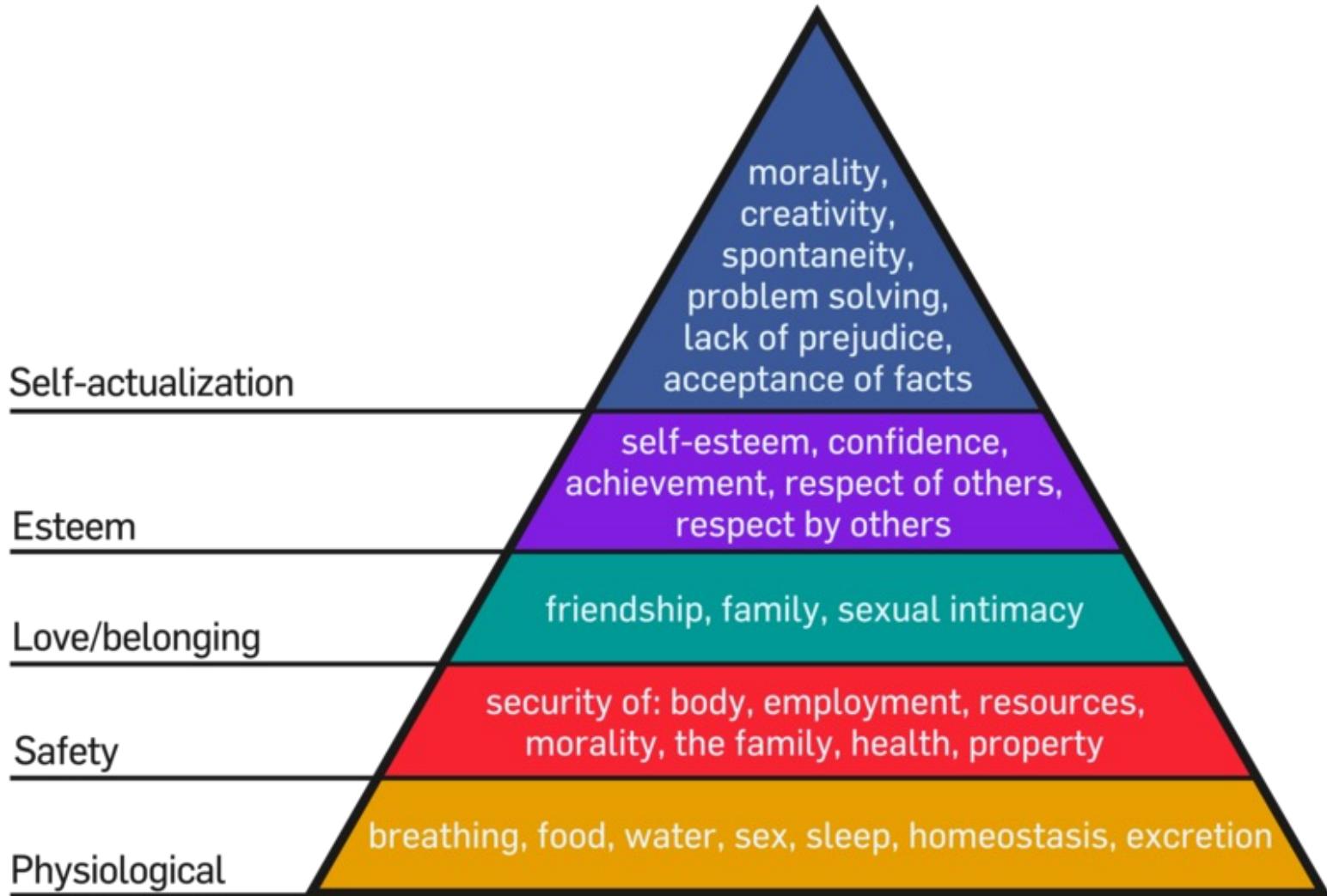
Legitimizes and equalizes extracurricular without guilt or anxiety

Community (university, local, SME) enhanced

Less reliance on university services, better outcomes

Better student peer support, belonging, community

The right to a fair start	The right to meaningful connections	The right to access basic needs	The right to assessment that matters
The right to study choice	The right to real influence	The right to proper accurate information	The right to fair employment
The right to education designed for reality	The right to live somewhere that's affordable, safe and near to campus	The right to safety, protection and effective adjudication	A formal legal status of student and a new Student Rights Bill



1

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