

Ten Good Reasons Why University Tuition Fees Are A Bad Idea

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Tuition fees at public universities in England are now, on average, the highest in the world. The reform has already been judged by monitoring authorities to be a bankrupt idea. It is without question a rushed and ill-considered experiment, out of line with the policies of other Western democratic nations. The arguments against this high fees regime are many and various. This blog looks at the new system from different angles in order to show the impact it will have on individuals and on society as a whole, on universities and on the national economy, offering ten good reasons why university tuition fees are a bad idea.

Reason 2: High Tuition Fees Have Created Unfair Anomalies

English students pay far more than those elsewhere in the UK. England has gone it alone, without an electoral mandate, while the governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have attempted to keep to the European model of publically-funded university education in spite of severe economic pressure. Only in England will students from low-income families face the double blow of high tuition fees and the abolition of maintenance grants.

Scottish students attend Scottish universities without paying fees. There have been threats of a legal challenge to Scotland over the fact that English students must pay £9000 fees to attend Scottish universities while those from other EU countries can study there for free. But the cause of the problem self-evidently lies with the Westminster government: it is England that has broken with all EU precedent. There is a cap of £3,575 for Welsh students studying anywhere in the UK; and in Northern Ireland, a cap of £3,575 for students from the province studying at local institutions. EU students are entitled to attend at any EU university under the same conditions as nationals, but the rule doesn't apply to students from different parts of the same EU state.

Sources

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