Reforming HE Admissions

What the Admissions Process Review means for the future of admissions

UCAS

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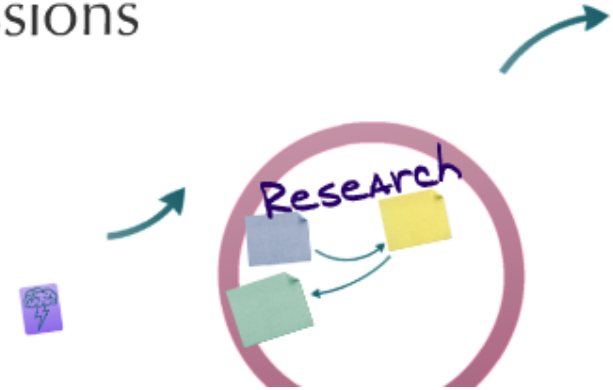

What we said about admissions

- Apps have to make decisions too early
- Across three A levels, 90% of predicted grades are inaccurate
- Clearing needs sorting
- Insurance doesn't work for apps or many HEIs
- Complexity creates need for IAG
- International, mature and part-time apps not adequately supported through UCAS
- Lots of opportunities for efficiencies

These bits pointed to a post-results system

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These bits pointed to a post-results system as the answer

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BUT

the answer

- Apps have to make decisions too early
- Across three A levels, 90% of predicted grades are inaccurate
- Clearing needs sorting
- Insurance doesn't work for apps or HEIs

BUT.....

And, inaccurate predictions created flexibility in offers and confirmation - benefiting applicants

Plus, insurance is the right thing to do - if it is used properly

And, nobody could fix the competing pressures of exam timetables, term dates, holidays, etc across four countries of the UK.....

Apply after results.....

insurance

UCAS can provide a central resource of authoritative information

But advice and guidance is for others

So what did we achieve?

- Agreement that clearing should be online, robust and fair

it creates

fall

it creates choice for applicants who might want to apply after results.....

Clear recognition of importance of good IAG for all

myUCAS

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good IAG for all

- myUCAS
- automated application form with mandatory fields
- pop ups and wizards to help with eg insurance

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But advice and guidance is for others

PLUS.....

- Firm deadlines
- All apps have a chance to hold two conditional offers
- Guidance for referees
- Tailored personal statements (in limited circs)
- More validated quals
- Improved data quality and sharing (UKBA, SLC etc)
- Simple, understandable terminology

Say goodbye to CF, CI, UF, DBD, stops, etc

Notes

Notes

- offer window is difficult territory for HEIs

- there are some tensions between applicant interests and HEI operational needs

Offer Window - Issues

- Applicants stressed by 'random' offer timetable
- But.....single offer date likely to cause bottle necks for student

st offer date is
good compromise

But this is difficult for HEIs to accept

- recruiting courses want to make offers early
- highly selective course use early offers as a strategy to secure best candidates
- international offer making needs to be timely to ensure competitiveness

- An example of tension between HE operational imperatives and app interests
- A need for leadership in HE to agree the proposal
- and for the courage to know that although it will be a change, it is a change that puts everyone on a level playing field
- further dialogue needed and important

complexity and risk

to manage numbers and fill courses with a balance of students

Another tension around Clearing proposals

....Managing numbers

- A primary benefit of UCAS for HEIs is ability to manage numbers

- We were consulting at a time

We were consulting at a time when managing numbers just reached new heights of complexity and risk

Reforming clearing presents a Catch-22 for HEIs

Do what's blatantly

Do what's blatantly right for applicants?

...or retain ability to manage numbers and fill courses with a balance of students

- The White Paper is called 'Students at the Heart of the System'

- But number control policies might drive institutions to put managing numbers (in two distinct categories in England) ahead of applicant interests
- And create an environment where changes to the UCAS clearing system in the interests of applicants seem challenging for HEIs.

- Data sharing with SEC, UKBA, CRB, awarding bodies reduces the number of transactions for both apps and HEIs

- Improved selection opportunity for HEIs

So what is the future for Admissions?

Thanks for listening!

It will be easier to make a realistic and successful application

- Leading edge research information through myLIGAS

- Leading edge research information through myUCAS
- An application form that is intuitive, and which keeps you out of trouble
- Data sharing with SLC, UKBA, CRB, awarding bodies reduces the number of transactions for both apps and HEIs

A fair, transparent late application window

- Online, gathered field

- Online, gathered field and equal consideration
- No-one 'stuck' in the system
- Improved selection opportunity for HEIs

But needs government to recognise that SNC arrangements have a DIRECT impact on admissions practice - not always in the interests of applicants

So what is the future for Admissions?

Thanks for listening!
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