

Opportunities and challenges: the future of private providers

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Private HE in the UK: what is it?

- According to media: large private institution (pursuing or achieved DAP) or bogus college
- Reality: large, diverse and successful sector
- April 2011 estimated around 1000 private providers of FE and HE
- 500+ BAC-accredited, with nearly 200 offering programmes at HE level

Private HE in the UK: what is it?

- BAC institutions run:
 - over 44 UK degree courses
 - over 60 overseas degree courses
 - nearly 400 non-degree courses including foundation courses.
- Have links with 80 UK universities and 100 overseas universities
- Have over 26,000 degree students enrolled
- Further 73 colleges are pathway course providers or embedded colleges



British Accreditation Council

- Established in 1984
- Leading UK provider of inspection and accreditation services for private further and higher education
- Provides an internationally recognised quality mark
- Dedicated to establishing and raising standards

Opportunities

- Profile and awareness of private sector
- Access to funding, including links to regulation
- Regulatory framework
- Student opportunities
- Improved understanding of sector
- Opportunities for partnerships
- Information sharing and good practice

Challenges

- Scale of change
- Increased regulatory requirement
- Financial implications
- A level playing field?
 - Home Office vs BIS
 - Access to international students
 - Any exclusions
- Reputation and brand damage
- Trends in validating activity

Moving forward

- Critical period for sector
- Role of quality assurance vital
- Information gathering and sharing
- Overcoming barriers



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