



Developments in the Postgraduate Agenda

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Summary



PG in level

PGR and PGT

Theme of the conference

Possible actions for NPC

Future of the postgraduate agenda

Postgraduates



Under-represented?

Under-funded?

Under-valued?

Under-threat?

Under Threat?



EU:

R & D 3% of GDP by 2010

UK:

S & T budget: 2002/3 → 2004/5 + £1.25B

Arts and Humanities Research Council

“Cultural Industries”

Under Threat?-(contd)



DTI - To support the development of knowledge economy..... and ensure the efficient flow of this knowledge to firms, through strong innovation networks, to ensure that these ideas can be turned into high value products and services.

<http://www2.dti.gov.uk/about/strategy-objectives/vision-objectives/page11422.html>

OSI - To maximise the contribution made by our science, engineering and technology skills and resources to the UK's economic development, and to the quality of our lives.

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/science/index.html>

Under-Represented?



QAA Code of Practice

- feedback mechanisms
- student representations
- QAA Special Review of CoP
- HEI responses positive
- any real power?

Under-Represented?-(contd)



NPC Actions

- emphasise PGT as well as PGR
- raise awareness in every HEI
- collect data
- influence at high and low levels
- media campaigns
- and help me please!

Under-Funded?



Adding to undergraduate debt?

Social Security including pension rights?

(But don't blame the Research Councils)

Under-Valued?



Short-term contracts

Still PhD fodder?

But wait for and influence:

- emphasis on employability skills
- European Charter for Research (and Code of Conduct)
- update of UK Research Careers Concordat

The Future (1)



Factors:

Distance learning

Joint PG courses

International research groups

Converging PGT and PGR structures

Language of instruction

↑ number of holders of Bachelors degree

↑ number of Masters courses

1961-62 – 26,700 PG students

2000-01 – 448,700 students

Supply of Masters Courses



1990 - MSc Computing

2006 - Computing

Data Mining and Warehousing

Digital Communications Networks

Information Systems Development

Internet Applications Development

IT Consultancy

IT Security

Software Engineering

Will the Postgraduate Premium last?



2002-03

	Mean salary*	Postgraduate premium (%)
Postgraduate qualifiers	20,951	0
All first degrees	16,393	28
First-class honours	17,756	18
Upper second	15,981	31
Lower second	15,219	38
Third-class honours	15,180	38

*Those in full-time employment six months after graduation (£)

What next –



The PhD

- more structured
- clearer learning outcomes
- clearer assessment criteria
- convergence across Europe (world?)
- as preparation for wider range of careers
- 4 years (or 1M + 3D) minimum from 3 year Bachelors full-time
- emphasis on completion on time

What next -



The Doctoral Student/Postdoc

- treated as “early stage researchers”
- increased employability
- mobility opportunities
- social wage
- more or less choice?
- more diversity of study patterns

What else?



- More research Masters
- Many more professions with Professional Doctorates
- Work-based learning and assessment for PGT, MPhil/PhD
- Regional funding of research
- Technology transfer and commercialisation
- Interdisciplinarity

Shortage of researchers in Europe (700K) /world
Europe - 5.5 per 1000, USA 9.1, Japan 10.1

And for Europe



- emphasis on ethics and social responsibility
- public awareness of research
- ERC
- IPR
- education/industry synergy
- appropriate research environment
- shortage of academics
- the “metanational” company
- multicultural skills