

MAKING SENSE OF INFORMATION ABOUT HIGHER EDUCATION

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1. Background and context

- Explaining the ‘student experience’; IAG on all aspects.
- Diversification of mission
- Overcoming uncertainty in the system
- Overall applications to university are down 7.4% but students have taken longer to really think about their future

1. Background and context

- Students are in need of impartial advice and first hand experience according to our latest COMRES survey
- Friends and family are considered to be the most trustworthy source of information about university
- Socio-economic background affects the level of trust in all types of information.
- This underlines the importance of the pre-application process for the student experience and the need to make more clear and accessible information available to all students

2. KIS and Information Provision

- We strongly support the principle behind the KIS that relevant, accessible information should be made available to prospective students at the level they require it
- We're positive about supporting information provision: our concerns are about the contextual information, the advice and the guidance - this is what's missing from the KIS

3. Adding Advice and Guidance to Information Provision

- Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG), is common currency but often, not enough attention is paid to the latter two
- KIS contains risks communicating a 'commodified' impression of higher education
- It is extremely important for universities across the sector to make a clear statement on the reciprocal relationship between students and their universities
- The application system needs to support IAG

4. Postgraduate IAG

- In the area of postgraduate study there is an emerging crisis
- Information, advice and guidance is part of the solution.
- Action needs to be taken immediately to prevent postgraduate study faltering in the future

5. UniQs.ac.uk

- Uniqs has one specific objective; to empower students in the decision-making process rather than seeking to provide all of the answers itself
- UniQs draws on the direct judgement of peers and experts – rather than a regular internet search – in assessing which information is the most useful
- Above all, UniQs hands power to the student

5. UniQs.ac.uk

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The students' guide to the best info on the web

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For now, UniQs is in its final stage of development, ready for a full launch later in 2012. You can already give it a try (it's that box on the right) and we're still adding links and refining and adding to UniQs' advice bank. UniQs is open now for you to [suggest links](#) we may have missed or [comment](#) on any aspect of UniQs.

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5. UniQs.ac.uk

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The page offers advice for students in both further and higher education on a range of topics including finance, UCAS, accommodation, careers, study options, gap year, study guides and better living. Don't forget to check the useful links. [More like this »](#)

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About Course reviews

Reviews will always be somewhat biased. Even so they can be much easier to digest and can paint a much prettier picture of a uni course than a page full of student/teacher ratios and satisfaction ratings. What we have here are several sources that offer reviews from both professionals and students alike. Remember that these are opinions, and you might want to take a few of them with a pinch of the old sodium chloride. Be especially wary of disgruntled students ranting about their course not delivering the finest education while they roll into lectures at 4 in the afternoon with last night's glow-stick bracelets hanging about their ears. [Read less...](#)

6. Conclusion

- The 1994 Group welcomes and is entirely supportive of the initiative to improve upon information available publicly to prospective students and stakeholders within the sector
- UniQs can serve to enhance and streamline the vast quantities of information already on hand throughout the sector and the public domain, in a way that is totally compatible with students' needs and interests