THE FUTURE OF DIPLOMAS – OUTCOMES FOR LEARNERS

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Diplomas and HE

- Curriculum 2000: lessons learned
- HE critical to the success of any pre-HE qualifications reform programme
- Engage HE at an early stage in qualification reform
- Ensure the reforms meet the needs of the users of the product

The Higher Education Engagement Strategy 2006-2010

Critical to success of the reform programme, it was essential that HE:

- **understand** the reforms
- **contribute** to the qualifications development
- **contribute** to local preparation for delivery and the delivery itself
- **communicate** their own reactions to government, and to schools and applicants through admissions policies
- **research** the attitudes of HE, progress of the reforms, progress of learners

The Higher Education Engagement Strategy 2006 - 2010

- Higher Education Project Board
- Information and communication programme
- HE engagement programme
- Research programme

14-19 Reform: the challenge for HE

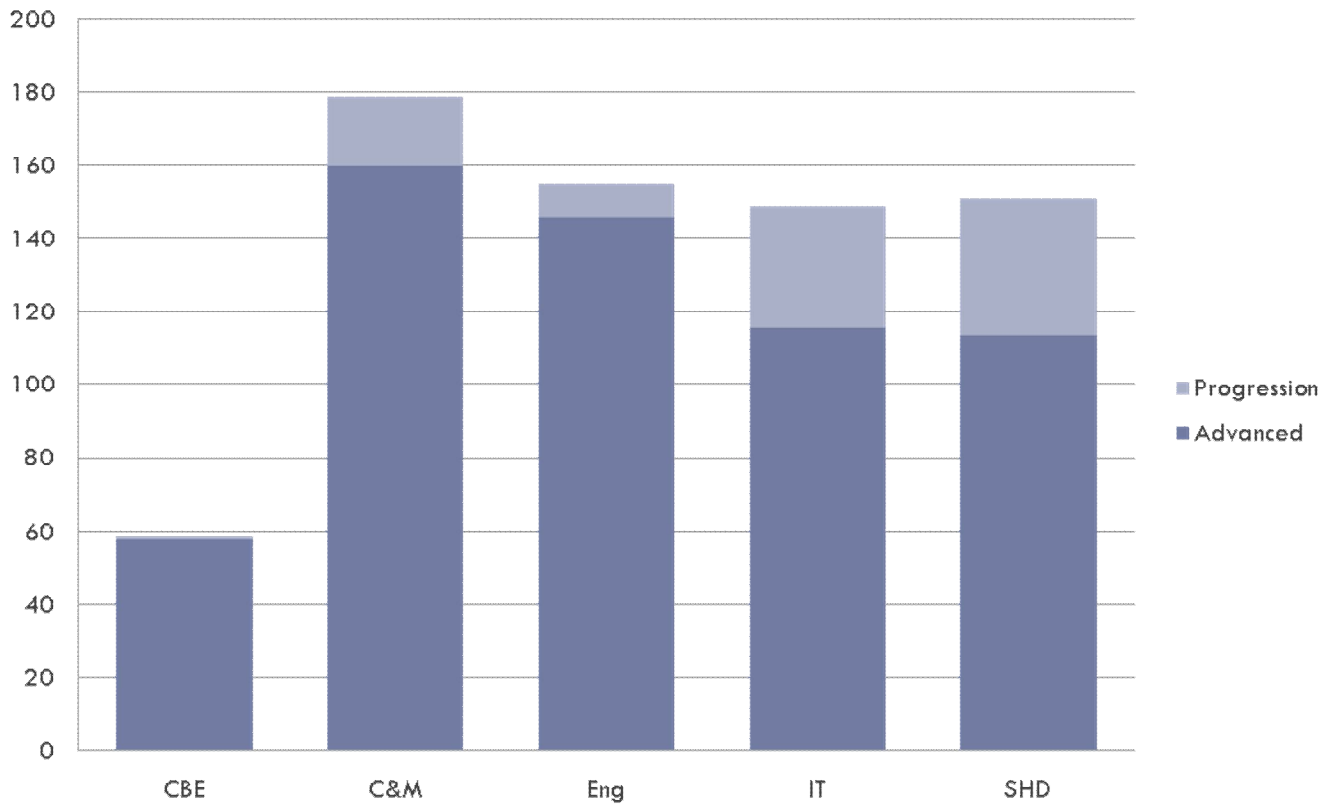
- Teaching and learning
- Admissions policies and practices
- Student recruitment trends

Diploma and admissions

- Autumn 2007 — UCAS makes available field to record institution statements on diploma acceptability
- Spring 2008 — First HEI statements on diploma acceptability published on UCAS website and in prospectuses
- 2008 — UCAS provides support to HEIs to develop detailed course level entry requirement statements
- 2009 — First applications
- 2010 — First entrants

Provisional Diploma Results June 2010

Source: JCQ



Total awards: 693

First year of UCAS applications: lessons learned

- Need to improve clarity of applications
- Need to improve familiarity with the diploma by admissions staff
- Need to improve clarity of entry qualifications
- Ensure that offers reflect what an applicant was studying
- Speed up decision making at confirmation and clearing
- Promote and publicise the successes

Diplomas and university entrance: challenges now

- Very high demand seems likely to continue as numbers follow through
- High demand: ‘easy’ high volume decision making
- Cap on entrants: safe decision making
- Squeeze on finances: efficiencies in university administrations

Diplomas and university entrance: challenges in the near future

- New competitive environment
- When will demand fall?
- Greater involvement of HE in qualification development
- Plethora of new qualifications
- Expectations of young people

Future outcomes for diploma learners

- Phase 2 and Phase 3 diploma cohorts: because you haven't seen many applicants so far, doesn't mean to say Diploma has gone away!
- Diploma applicants have had more opportunity to choose the ASL that HE wants
- Information is available to help produce better crafted entry requirements, applications and offers
- Phase 2 and Phase 3 diploma cohorts also need to be carefully monitored – they are the pioneers too
- Monitoring of HE experience of diploma entrants?
- Celebrate success

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