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**PHEE Annual Conference
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PQA from the UCAS Perspective

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> Overview

- The context for PQA
- Consultation and discussion
- The Government response
- The Delivery Partnership
- UCAS and engineering
- Questions and answers

> Context for PQA

- Idea originates from Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP, now Universities UK) Working Group of 1995
- Implementation long delayed by logistical and political issues
- Present system based on predicted exam results
- What do we want to achieve?

> Context for PQA

What do we want to achieve with admissions?

- freedom v assurance (mutual commitment)
- institutions' interest v applicants' interest
- 'gathered field' v 'first come – first served'
- speed of processing v time for good decision making

“the need to balance technical against human consideration has been a continuous theme in our office and committee considerations”

*Ronald Kay, General Secretary,
UCCA, 1985*

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> Consultation and discussion

- The SHA Report
- The Schwartz Report
- The Wilson Group
- Education sector consultation

> **The Government response**

Main proposals:

- **Entry profiles**
 - UCAS moving towards 100% provision of information for 2009 year of entry
- **Financial information**
 - UCAS liaising with Student Loans Company and other stakeholders to ensure timely, accurate and reliable information available in a single location
- **Teaching quality information (TQI)**
 - HEFCE commissioning research to ensure appropriateness of information on TQI website

> **The Government response**

Main proposals:

- Feedback to applicants
 - Development of feedback letters to students particularly for those whose applications have been rejected
- Removal of predicted grades
 - Recommended that predicted grades are removed but need for consideration of alternative applicant information
- Recording achievement
 - Development of e-portfolios is being monitored

> **The Government response**

Main proposals:

- Initial applications
 - To be submitted between the beginning of September and the end of March. Reduction from six to five applications
- Further applications
 - Unlimited sequential applications could be submitted up until the end of June
- HEIs to publish monthly vacancy lists from the end of March until the end of Clearing
 - Recognises the value of a greater frequency of provision of information

> **The Government response**

Main proposals:

- Pre-qualified home and EU students
 - Need to ensure pre-qualified students do not obtain unfair advantage
- Overseas non-EU students
 - Continuation of unconditional offers for pre-qualified non-EU students
- Offers
 - Students to continue to hold up to two offers
- Ranking offers
 - Continuation of ranking as first firm and insurance choices

> **The Government response**

Main proposals:

- Facility to make fresh applications
 - First firm conditional offer protected whilst improved placing is sought by student
- New application round
 - A confirmation and new application round to be run ahead of Clearing
- Simplifying arrangements for Art and Design
 - Single admissions system, retaining sequential applications, opening at the beginning of September

> **The Government response**

Main proposals:

- **Reforming Clearing**
 - Clearing replaced by three consecutive application rounds with one application in each round
- **Changing the time at which exam results are published**
 - AS, A levels, Highers and Advanced Highers published one week earlier than at present
- **Entry via non-A level qualifications**
 - Steps taken to ensure publication of non-A level qualification results are brought more in line with the HE admissions cycle

> The Delivery Partnership

- Sector wide representation
- Steering group
- Initial proposals:
 - 👉 Choices reduced - 6 down to 5
 - 👉 Re-brand and re-launch Extra and Entry Profiles
- Longer-term proposals:
 - 👉 ‘Gathered field’ and ‘trade-up week’
 - 👉 Integration of Entry Profiles
 - 👉 Route B
 - 👉 Integration of access courses and qualifications

> UCAS and engineering

Applicants 2002 – 2006

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 (provisional)
Electronic and Electrical Engineering	6,592	6,376	5,852	5,459	4,494
All Engineering	21,182	21,426	22,270	22,858	21,138
All subjects	461,365	476,467	486,028	522,155	506,304

Source: UCAS website annual datasets (<http://www.ucas.ac.uk/figures/ads.html>)

> UCAS and engineering

Acceptances 2002 – 2006

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 (provisional)
Electronic and Electrical Engineering	7,629	6,790	6,117	5,600	4,895
All Engineering	21,934	21,725	21,962	22,059	20,986
All subjects	368,115	374,307	377,544	405,369	390,890

Source: UCAS website annual datasets (<http://www.ucas.ac.uk/figures/ads.html>)

> UCAS and engineering

- Published information:
 - UCAS website:
 - Entry profiles
 - Paper publications:
 - General
 - Progression series - 'Engineering and Mathematics'
- Direct marketing by HEIs to potential engineering students – informed by UCAS pre-applicant data
- Recruitment events, e.g:
 - Design Your Future
 - Compose Your Future
 - Engineer Your Future – coming soon

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Any Questions ?

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