

## **The Continuum Quick Guide to the Browne Report**

With the long awaited publication of the Browne Report which recommends sweeping changes to the university funding system, what are the key points and issues for academics, researchers, policy makers and practitioners?

### **Continuum 10 Point Guide to Browne**

1. Universities no longer provide a minimum bursary for students on full grants.
2. Repayments of fees threshold to begin at £21,000.
3. Access and Success Fund to be set up to help universities recruit and retain students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
4. OFFA to be abolished as well as QAA, OIA and HEFCE. All to be replaced by the Higher Education Council (HEC).
5. HEC, as one of its five areas of responsibility, is to make sure that individual institutions and the sector as a whole make measurable progress of admitting qualified students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
6. HEC to target funding to improve access and completion rates for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
7. Existing HEFCE funding streams for WP and retention to be combined into a single Access and Success Fund.
8. Current widening participation strategic assessments and access agreements will be replaced by a single Access Commitment agreed between HEC and each HEI with an annual update.
9. Higher level of scrutiny by HEC of Access Commitments from HEIs that charge £7,000 or more per year.
10. Improved performance indicators on access to support Access Commitments.

**Continuum - Quick Guide tip to Browne: Section 6.4 is the one to look at.**