



degree of value • SHAPE the FUTURE

2021 • Roundtable – Education Debate • AND eventSpace1

Sunday 9th August 2015 • From 2pm

2016 - 2021 (Current Government's term!)

- 1) Art Colleges within the UK University Structure and Expansionism
- 2) Curriculum Balance: Art, Design, and Theory (Pre, BA, and Post MA, PhD)
- 3) Academical - Technical - Admin Staff and Staff Student Ratio
- 4) Resources, Studio/Workshop Space, Buildings, Equipment, Practice areas,
- 5) Develop ideas of Funding Universities - State: Private: Mixed

Back Ground

Most artists and designers have formal training (a degree is now a pre-requisite of 'professional status')

The majority of artists and designers are trained in Art Schools... or University Art Faculties (Artist and Designer 'factories')

Some figures...

i: During June and July 2015 there will be **(40,000+)** graduates with qualifications in the Fine Arts and Design entering the world of "professional" employment.

ii: The majority of the 40,000 graduates will, even under subsidised education, have a financial debt from app £20 - £50K....

Higher Education - general

2015 - overall student population 2,299,355 (1.7% drop on previous year)

1,759,915 Undergrads.... -2.4% drop on previous year

539,440 Post grads.... +0.6% increase on previous year

194,245 Academic Staff.... +4.7% increase on previous year

2013/4 Income and expenditure of education institutions remains fairly equal (break even)

Inc 30,582,312 ... + 5.2%

exp.... 29,406,176.... +5.1%

Higher Education - Art & Design

175,000 creative art and design students....

Higher Education Statistics Agency

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk>

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/pr/3456-press-release-211>

There has been a 5% increase in First year enrollments of Creative Arts & Design students over a 7year period from 2007 (46,725) to **2014 (48,880)** ... numbers remain fairly steady

In 2015, there will be 'formally' (40,000) Fine Art and Design students graduating from around 80 Universities in the UK.

The transition from Art & Design Education into the world of "artists and designers at work"

From 40,000 graduates

20,000 absorbed (optimistically) into 'existing companies'

8,000 exodus of (Home + Foreign national students left UK)

12,000 'self-employed' (most not yet in a position to pay back "loan debt")

A recent report from the Higher Education Statistics Agency showed that more than a third of art and design graduates (12K) are still without a "full-time job" more than three years after graduation.

The cost of education

Currently 'home' BA students pay fees av £9000pa, length of courses av.3 years

To compensate for loss of state financed education the H/E sector (first degree level) fee paying students have increased: student/staff ratios have been increased (ie more students: less staff) and foreign student numbers increased

At post graduate MA level tuition fees average £9,000 pa - Duration of degree courses vary between 1 - 2 years. Fees for O/S students av £14000, at doctoral level £28,400 pa...

An example of post graduate fees - Royal College of Art (only wholly post-graduate arts college in the World)...

RCA MA (2015-6)

£28,400pa (overseas students)

£9,500pa (Home and EU students)

£14,200pa (Channel Island, Isle of Mann students)

The economic arguments of state funding of education takes us into another universe of issues and questions. Should the state pay to educate its citizens in the hope that the 'collective state' will directly 'reap the benefits' - or is it more efficient that private wealth creating initiatives utilise state trained specialists and in return the state takes its cut through taxation?

The private sector would argue that it's self instigated and financed entrepreneurial initiatives are the most effective way of creating universal wealth. The State claims that through political negotiation it creates the environment within which companies prosper.

Regardless of the current and ongoing economic and financial collapse which has brought political ideologies of "austerity" the 'art market' is booming with record auction prices for art works in India, and the Far East. The commodification of art has yielded 'Celebrity Artists' who churn out works at inflated prices - designed to fill corporate developments. The factory art schools collude in the cult of the celebrity artists / designer. The dilemma is whether exclusivity pays or mass subscription. Over subscribed Art schools brings in finance but a saturated market place is unsustainable and drives down 'value' and 'quality' of both input and output.

Miscellaneous Economies

Economies of HE institutions (2011/12) @

Income £ 27.9billion (£27,922,316)

Expenditure: £26.7billion (£26,684,729)

Recurrent teaching and research grants account for most of the funding body income at £5.4 billion and £1.9 billion respectively.

Income from home and EU domicile students' course fees was £5.7 billion – 20.4% of the total income for UK HEIs. Non-EU students' course fees totalled £3.2 billion in 2011/12 accounting for 11.6% of total income.

The Research Councils, The Royal Society, British Academy and The Royal Society of Edinburgh together contributed the largest portion of research grant and contract income. Research grants and contracts from non-UK sources contributed £923 million (3.3%) to the total income of UK HEIs.

Residences and catering operations added a further £1.7 billion to the income of HEIs while investment and endowment income added a further £285 million.

Design Week.... 2011

A recent report from the **Higher Education Statistics agency** showed that more than a third of art and design graduates are [still without a full-time job more than three years after graduation](#).

The Rector of the RCA (Paul Thompson) stated that by 2021 there will be no government subsidy for Higher Education - The erosion of public subsidy for (higher) education is of course 'privatisation'... In addition to replacing grants with 'loans' education will be available to those who can afford it. Skills, 'natural' talent and ability will be jettisoned to make way for a small and priveleged elite.

'This year graduating students will be carrying debts up to £50,000. Public funding to Universities will be cut more - gradually moving to a 'privatisation' of higher/further education. More of our student body will be made up of financially privileged young people - marginalising many who have talent but not the economic means to study...'

These issues and many more need to be discussed, positions have to be taken and put forward as part of the wider debate on what kind of future we want to see in the creative sector.