

The information you send to us may need to be passed to colleagues within the Department for Education and Skills and/or published in a summary of responses received in response to this consultation. We will assume that you are content for us to do this, and that if you are replying by e-mail, your consent overrides any confidentiality disclaimer that is generated by your organisation's IT system, unless you specifically include a request to the contrary in the main text of your submission to us.

The Department may, in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, make available on public request, individual consultation responses. This will extend to your comments unless you inform us that you wish them to remain confidential.

**Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.**

Name

Organisation (if applicable)

Address:

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact Elaine Underwood on:

Telephone: 0114 259 3336

e-mail: [Elaine.Underwood@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.Underwood@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact the Consultation Unit on:

Telephone: 01928 794888

Fax: 01928 794 311

e-mail: [consultation.unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

Please insert X into one of the following boxes which best describes your organisation.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> School with 6th Form        | <input type="checkbox"/> School without 6th Form           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sixth Form College              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FE College                  | <input type="checkbox"/> HE Institution                    | <input type="checkbox"/> School Workforce Representative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FE Workforce Representative | <input type="checkbox"/> HE Workforce Representative       | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Union                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Trade Union           | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools Representative Body       | <input type="checkbox"/> FE Representative Body          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HE Representative Body      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Government Department       | <input type="checkbox"/> LEA                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awarding/Examining Body     | <input type="checkbox"/> FE & HE Funding Organisation      | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Financing Body          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connexions                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Equality & Diversity Organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                           |

Please Specify:

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## PROPOSED CHANGES FROM 2008/2009

### Proposal 1

UCAS to continue their work to encourage the provision of clear, comparable entry requirement information, with a view to moving toward 100% provision of information for students wishing to enter HE in 2008/09.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Proposal 2

In the context of the end-to-end review of student finance delivery in England, further consideration to be given to how to realise the principle of giving students researching their possible HE applications easy access to timely, accurate and reliable information, preferably in one place, about all the financial support they may receive whilst in HE.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Proposal 3

HEFCE to commission early research on how students and their advisers are using the information on the Teaching Quality Information (TQI) website, to ensure it is meeting the needs of students and their advisers and to inform its further development from 2006.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Proposal 4

HEIs to develop more informative letters to feed back to students, detailing particularly why their applications have been rejected.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Proposal 5

Schools and colleges should not supply students' predicted exam results with their HE applications and these should play no part in HE admissions decisions.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Question 1

What other information could be supplied in their place?

Comments:

### Proposal 6

The Delivery Partnership (that we propose in Chapter 9) to keep in touch with developments in the e-portfolio and investigate its potential role in the HE applications process.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Proposal 7

Students to submit initial applications between the beginning of September and the end of March, either together or separately. HEIs should seek to respond to applications as speedily as is practicable.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

## Question 2

Are you in favour of four or six initial applications?

Four

Six

Other

Comments:

## Proposal 8

Students who receive no offers from their initial applications to be able to submit an unlimited number of additional applications, one at a time, until they secure an offer, up to the end of June.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Proposal 9

HEIs to publish monthly vacancy lists, from the end of March until the end of Clearing.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Question 3

Should there be one single final date for the submission of applications, or should the current deadline of 15 October remain the same for the submission of applications for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science courses?

Single date  
for all

As now

Other

Comments:

### Proposal 10

HEIs to continue their work to ensure against unfair competition for places between pre-qualified and other home and EU students.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Proposal 11

HEIs to continue to consider applications from pre-qualified overseas non-EU students as they do now and, where appropriate, offer them places on an unconditional basis.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Proposal 12

Students to continue to hold up to two offers.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Question 4

Should students who hold only one offer following their initial applications be allowed to submit additional applications until they gain a second offer?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Proposal 13

Students holding two offers to continue to rank them as first firm and insurance choices.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Proposal 14

Students who achieve higher grades than required by their conditional offers to be able to make a new application and have their original first firm conditional offer protected whilst they do so.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

**Proposal 15**

A confirmation and new application round to be run ahead of Clearing.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

**Question 5**

How long would it take to run the above process?

Comments:

### Proposal 16

The two route application system for Art and Design to be replaced by a single application system which retains sequential applications and an opening date for applications at the beginning of September and a closing date in late March.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Proposal 17

Clearing to operate on the basis of three consecutive application rounds in which students submit one application in each round.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Proposal 18

The results of AS, A-Levels, Highers and Advanced Highers to be published at least one week earlier than at present.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Proposal 19

Work to be undertaken to look at what might be done to inform those taking non A-level qualifications, whose timetables it is not feasible to bring in line with the HE admissions cycle, of the requirements of that cycle, with the aim of allowing them, where possible and appropriate, to timetable their learning and accreditation accordingly.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Proposal 20

Work to be started now with the express purpose of ensuring that, by 2008/09, the results of non A-level portfolio based qualifications are published earlier than they are at present.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Question 6

a) Working on the assumption that exams are published earlier, as proposed: is there sufficient time to operate our proposed approach to Clearing, whilst maintaining the current HE term start date?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

If not:

b) How much later than at present could the HE term start?

Comments:

## POST-QUALIFICATION APPLICATIONS

### OPTION A

#### Question 7

How might HEIs feed back to students' expressions of interest under Option A?

Comments:

#### Question 8

Under Option A, should students questioning their exam results be able to accept an offer of a place based on their results, but re-enter the Application Phase unbound by that offer, if their Result Enquiry changes their grades?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

**Question 9**

Do you support Option A?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

**OPTION B**

**Question 10**

Do you support the proposal that Option B should not involve an insurance offer?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

**Question 11**

a) Should conditional offers be protected for those students wishing to change their applications?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

b) Should this protection apply whilst the student changes their application once only?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

**Question 12**

a) Should all HEIs reserve a minimum proportion of places for Phase 2 of Option B?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

b) How might HEIs determine what proportion of places to allocate at Phase 1 and what proportion to reserve for Phase 2 of Option B?

Comments:

c) Should the same proportion of places be reserved on all courses?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

**Question 13**

What proportion of places should be reserved for Option B Phase 2?

Comments:

**Question 14**

a) Under Option B, should students questioning their exam results be able to hold open the original offers they were made, whilst their results enquiry runs its course, and take up one of those offers if the results enquiry results in their grades changing?

Yes       No       Not Sure

Comments:

b) Should those students be able to seek an alternative place during this time on the basis of the grades they are questioning and take up this place if their results enquiry does not change their grades?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### Question 15

Under Option B, thinking about students who hold no conditional offers at the start of Phase 2 and are questioning their results: should these students be able to gain an offer on the basis of the grades they are questioning, seek an alternative place should their results enquiry improve their grades, but still be able to take up their original place should they choose?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

**Question 16**

Do you support Option B?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

**Question 17**

Do you support the proposals made in Chapter 9 for a Delivery Partnership to lead implementation of reform to the applications system, supported by a Stakeholders Advisory Forum?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

**Please acknowledge this reply**

Here at the Department for Education and Skills we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would you be happy for us to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

Yes

No

All UK national public consultations are required to conform to the following standards:

1. Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy.
2. Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
3. Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.
4. Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
5. Monitor your department's effectiveness at consultation, including through the use of a designated consultation co-ordinator.
6. Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate.

Further information on the Code of Practice can be accessed through the Cabinet Office Website: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/consultation-guidance/content/introduction/index.asp>

**Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.**

Completed questionnaires and other responses should be sent to the address shown below by 5 December 2005

Send by post to: PQA Consultation, DfES Consultation Unit; Area 1A, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, WA7 2GJ, or by e-mail to: [pqa.consultation@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pqa.consultation@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)