



A two-day seminar hosted by

The University of Ulster and Staffordshire University

Stormont Hotel,
Belfast, Northern Ireland

Monday & Tuesday 3rd and 4th April 2006

Widening Access to Higher Education in the UK and Ireland

Examining patterns of participation, student finance and widening access policies in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, together with the Republic of Ireland

Speakers to include:

Professor Nick Adnett (Staffordshire University)
Professor Miriam David (Institute of Education, London)
Professor Heather Eggins (Staffordshire University)
Professor Jim Gallacher (Glasgow Caledonian University)
Mr Michael Hipkins (DfES)
Mr Laurence Howells (Learning Policy and Strategy Scottish Funding Council)
Mr Rob Humphreys (NIACE, WALES)
Ms Celia Hunt (HEFCW)
Mr Michael Kelly (HEA)
Mr David McAuley (DEL)
Professor Gareth Parry (University of Sheffield)
Professor Philip O'Connell (ESRI)
Professor Bob Osborne (University of Ulster)
Dr John Rigg (Scottish Executive)
Dr John Cresswell (OECD)
Dr Chris Taylor (Cardiff University)
Dr Mary-Liz Trant (HEA)
Mr Kevin Whitston (HEFCE)

**Supported by the Department of Employment and Learning (Northern Ireland) and
the Higher Education Authority (Republic of Ireland)**

Seminar fee £85 (plus £30 optional payment for Reception and Dinner on Monday evening)

Seminar Programme

PROGRAMME FOR MONDAY 3RD APRIL

Widening Access in the UK and Ireland in an International Context: Research Evidence, Student Finance and Policy Initiatives

1015 Registration – Tea/Coffee

1045 Introduction and Welcome – Professor Heather Eggins & Professor Bob Osborne

International and National Research, Chair: Professor Heather Eggins (Staffordshire University)

1100 OECD Achievement and Social Deprivation – the International Evidence - Dr John Cresswell, OECD

1230 Lunch

Higher Education Participation in the countries of UK and Ireland

Chair: Professor Peter Davies (Staffordshire University)

1345 Patterns of HE participation in Scotland – Dr Jim Gallacher (Glasgow Caledonian)

1415 Patterns of HE participation in England – Professor Gareth Parry (University of Sheffield)

1445 Patterns of HE participation in Republic of Ireland – Professor Philip O’Connell (ESRI)

1515 Tea/Coffee

1545 Patterns of HE participation in Wales – Dr Chris Taylor (Cardiff)

1615 Patterns of HE participation in Northern Ireland – Professor Bob Osborne (UU)

1645 - 1715 Discussion

1715 – 1815 TLRP (Teaching and Learning Research Programme): Research on Widening Participation in Higher Education

- Professor Miriam David (IEL)

1900 Reception & Dinner (optional - £30 extra fee)

PROGRAMME FOR TUESDAY 4TH APRIL

Student Finance, Chair: Professor Peter Davies (Staffordshire University)

0900 Republic of Ireland – Dr Mary-Liz Trant (HEA)

0930 Wales – Dr Rob Humphreys (NIACE, Wales)

1000 Scotland – Dr John Rigg (Scottish Executive)

1030 Tea/Coffee

1100 England – Mr Michael Hipkins (DfES)

1130 Northern Ireland - Mr David McAuley

1145 An Economic Perspective – Professor Nick Adnett (Staffordshire University)

1215 Discussion

1230 Lunch

Policy interventions, Chair: Professor Norman Black(UU)

1345 Republic of Ireland – Dr Mary-Liz Trant (HEA)

1415 Northern Ireland – Mr David McAuley (Department for Employment and Learning)

1445 Scotland – Mr Laurence Howells (Director of Learning Policy and Strategy Scottish Funding Council)

1515 Wales – Ms Celia Hunt (HEFCW)

1545 England – Mr Kevin Whitston (HEFCE)

1615 Tea/Coffee and Reflections on the Conference – Mr Michael Kelly (HEA)