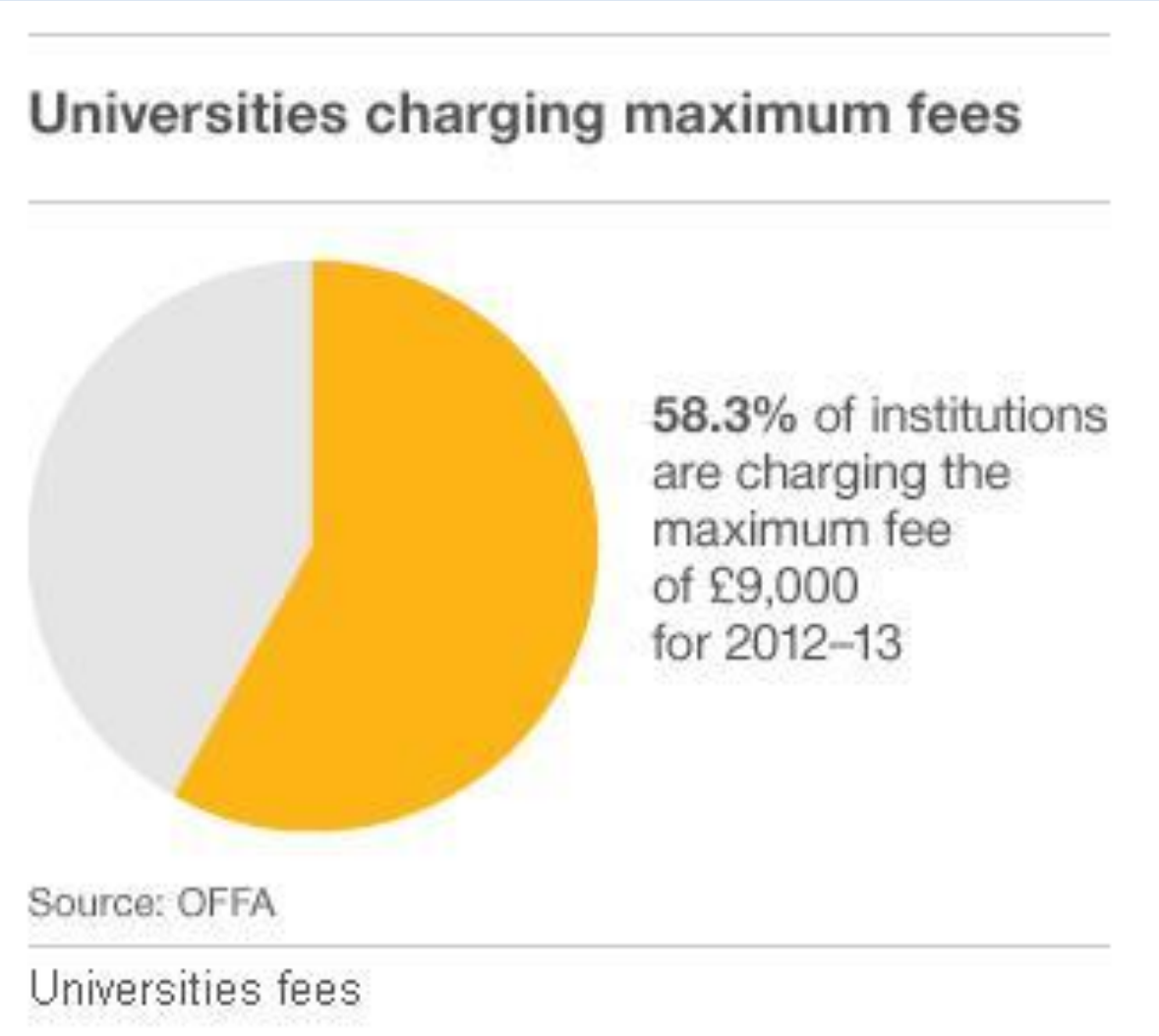
Sector-wide Overview of Responses to 2012

FYNAC 2011
14-15 July 2011
University of Sheffield
w.kitchen@shef.ac.uk

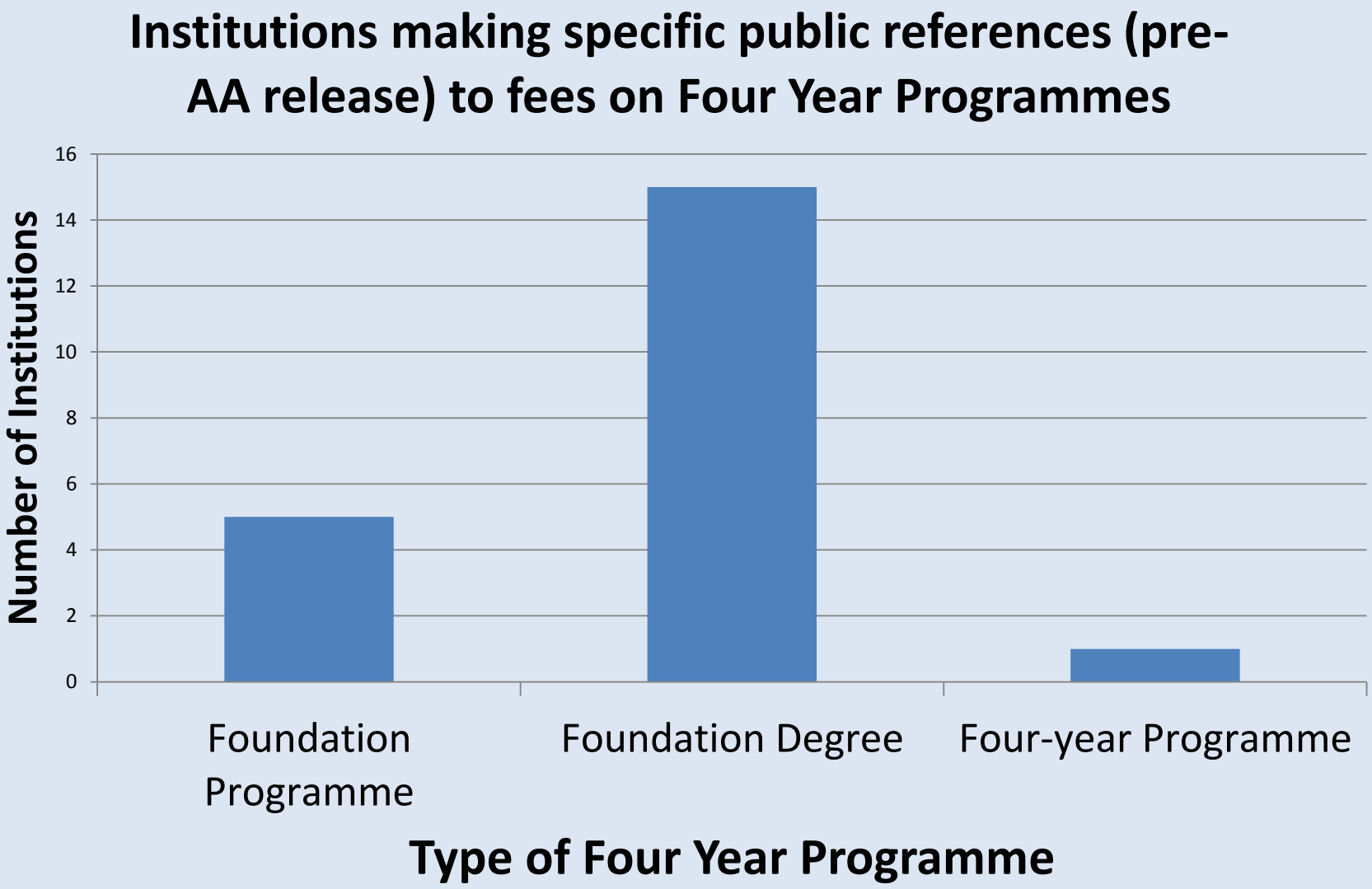


Richardson, H. 12 July 2011. *Tuition fees: £9k standard at a third of universities.* BBC News online. Accessed 13th July 2011. http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-14111421

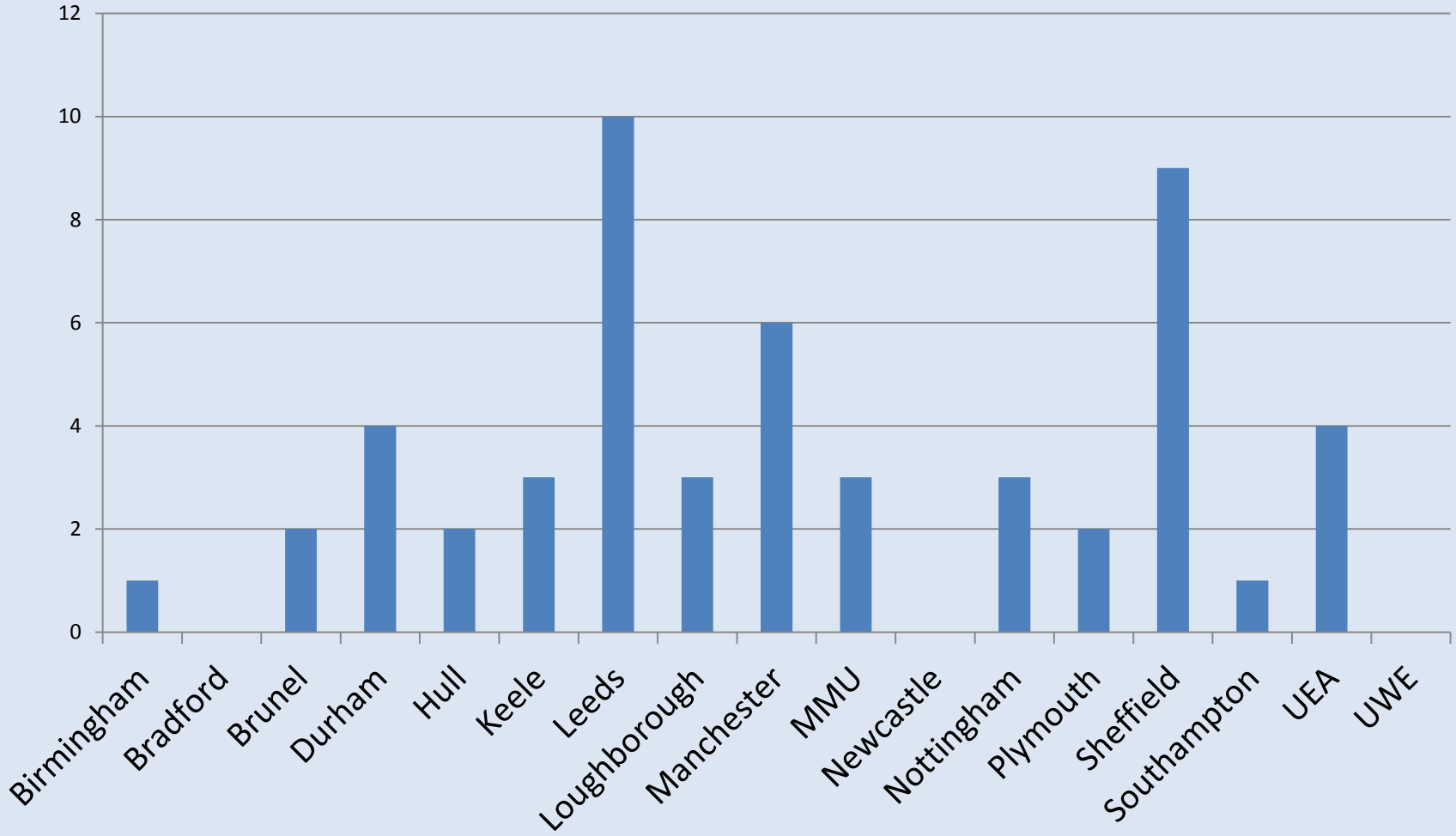
One sign of the times?

“… I just thought that I should let you know that we won't be coming this year. The foundation year has been shrunk to max 15-20 places this year, I have been taken off the teaching team and X is moving over to outreach projects so there is a poor future for foundation year here it seems - they (the university bigwigs) don't think it's necessary if we can recruit enough directly into the first year. Who knows, maybe with the fees increase they will change their minds in a couple of years....at the moment it is seen as superfluous. Good luck with the conference and send our regards to everyone - we will keep in touch with the network as things develop here and you may see us again at the next conference! Regards I”

Foundation Programme Fees (Durham analysis, n=90, as at 8th July)



References to FYs in Access Agreement represented at FYNAC 2011



Source: OFFA http://www.offa.org.uk/access-agreements/

Manchester Metropolitan University Access Agreement 2012-13, p.2

"£3,460 will be charged for the Foundation Year. (This fee is based on the level charged in 2010/11.)"

Loughborough University Access Agreement 2012-13, pp.2 & 8

"Science and Engineering Foundation Studies Programme (currently HEFCE-funded) £9,000"

BUT

"reduce cost to £4,000 for Foundation Year for all students with a household income of £18,000 or under with a fee waiver"

Brunel University Access Agreement 2012-13 , Table 6A; LPN target group

"Many of this cohort enter on integrated foundation courses and Brunel will need to provide an attractive package to increase numbers in the light of cheaper provision in FE colleges."

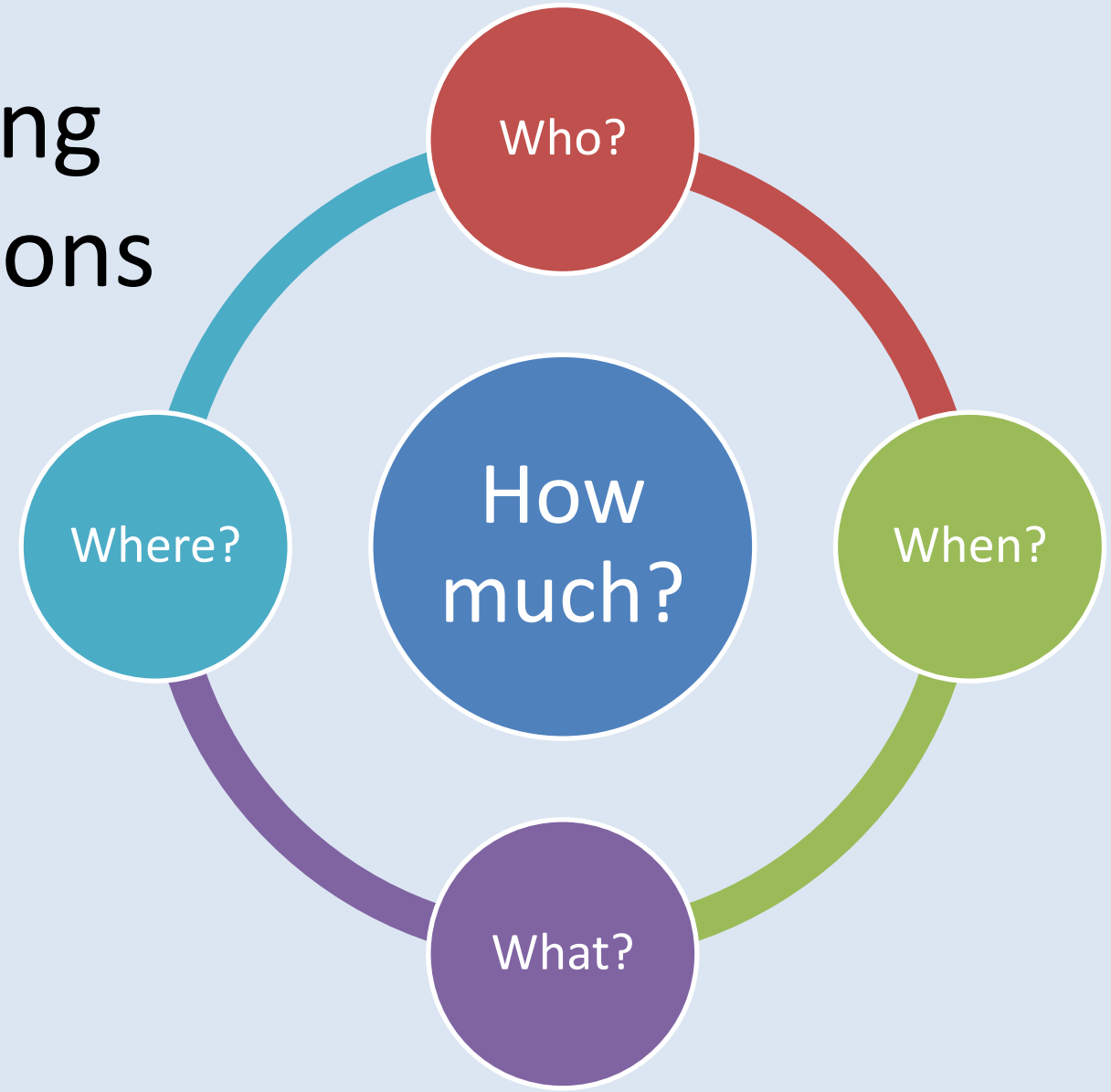
University of Leeds Access Agreement 2012-13, p.5; Establish[ing] a “pan-institutional strategy” for Foundation Years

“During the next year we wish to review our Foundation Year provision across the institution building its use as a route into the University for students from disadvantaged backgrounds and establishing clear baseline information. The Foundation Year programme offers, primarily mature, students from disadvantaged backgrounds an opportunity to progress to the University of Leeds, providing them with a firm academic grounding and study skills. We have proven success with the Foundation Year in Social Sciences and the Preparation for Higher Education in identifying and supporting mature students from disadvantaged backgrounds through to degree and post-degree study. For example, the Social Sciences Foundation Year has seen 81% progress to higher education (nearly 75% within the University of Leeds) across Social Sciences, Education and Law.”

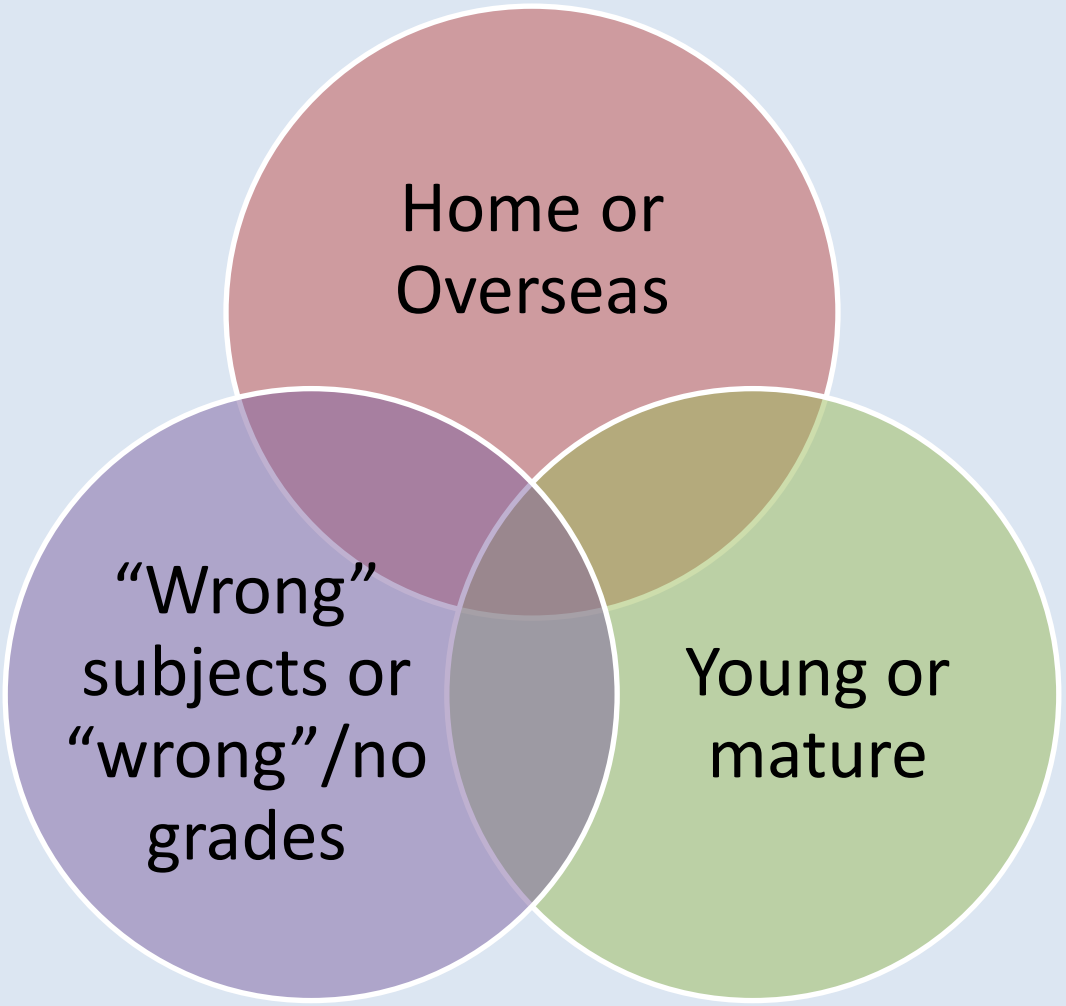
University of Sheffield Access Agreement 2012-13, Table 5b

"We will undertake a review of all foundation programmes we offer, to ensure that they are fit for purpose and appropriately targeted. We will also explore options of further collaboration with local HE and FE providers, to identify possibilities for collaborative approaches to developing new entry routes into HE for students."

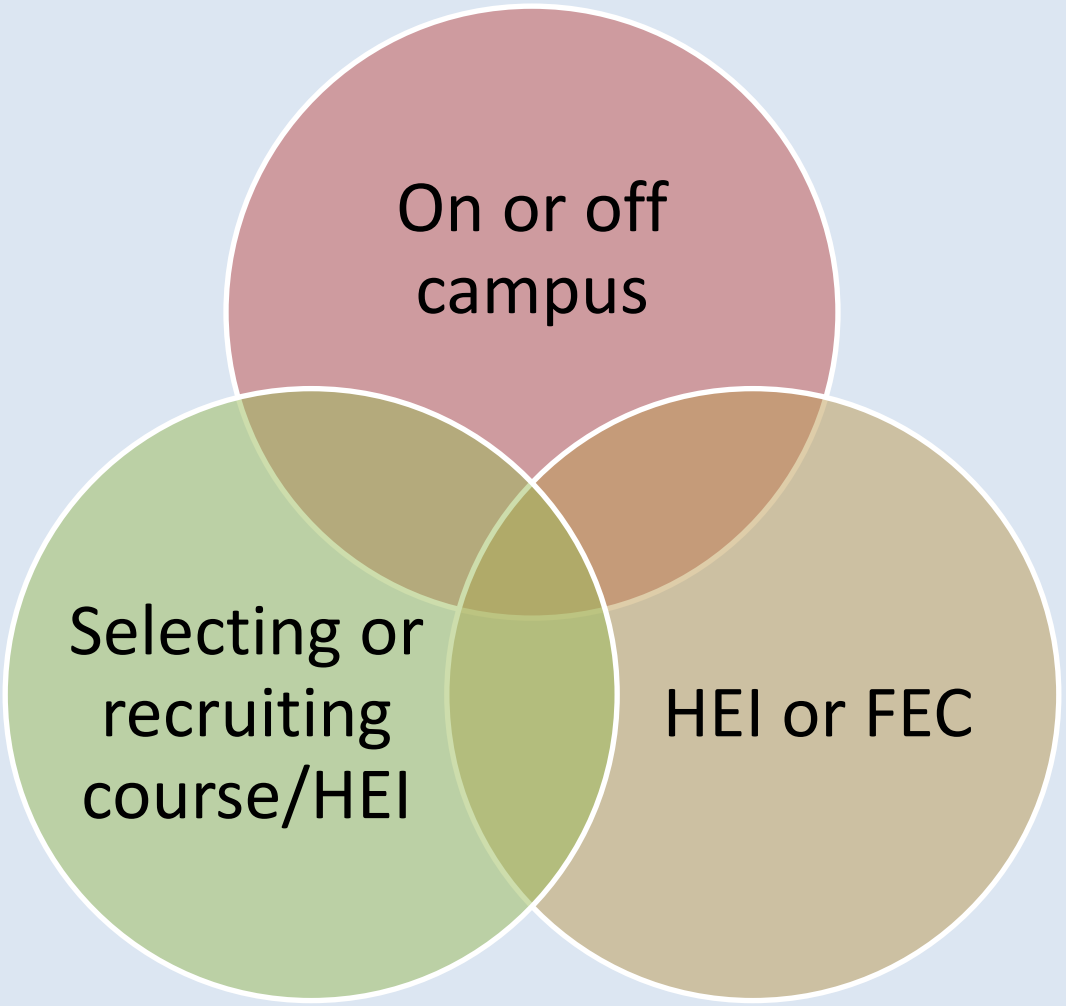
Overlapping considerations



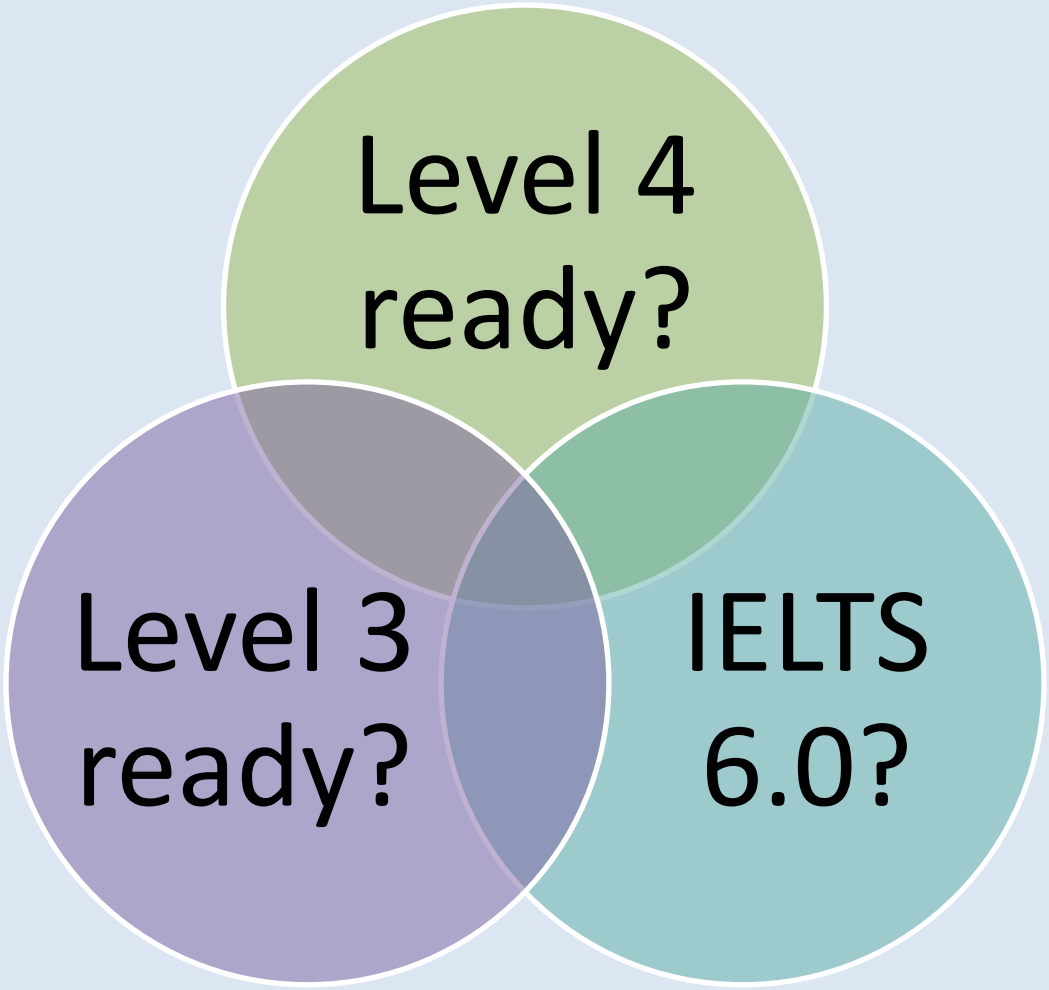
Who?


Home or Overseas
"Wrong" subjects or "wrong"/no grades
Young or mature

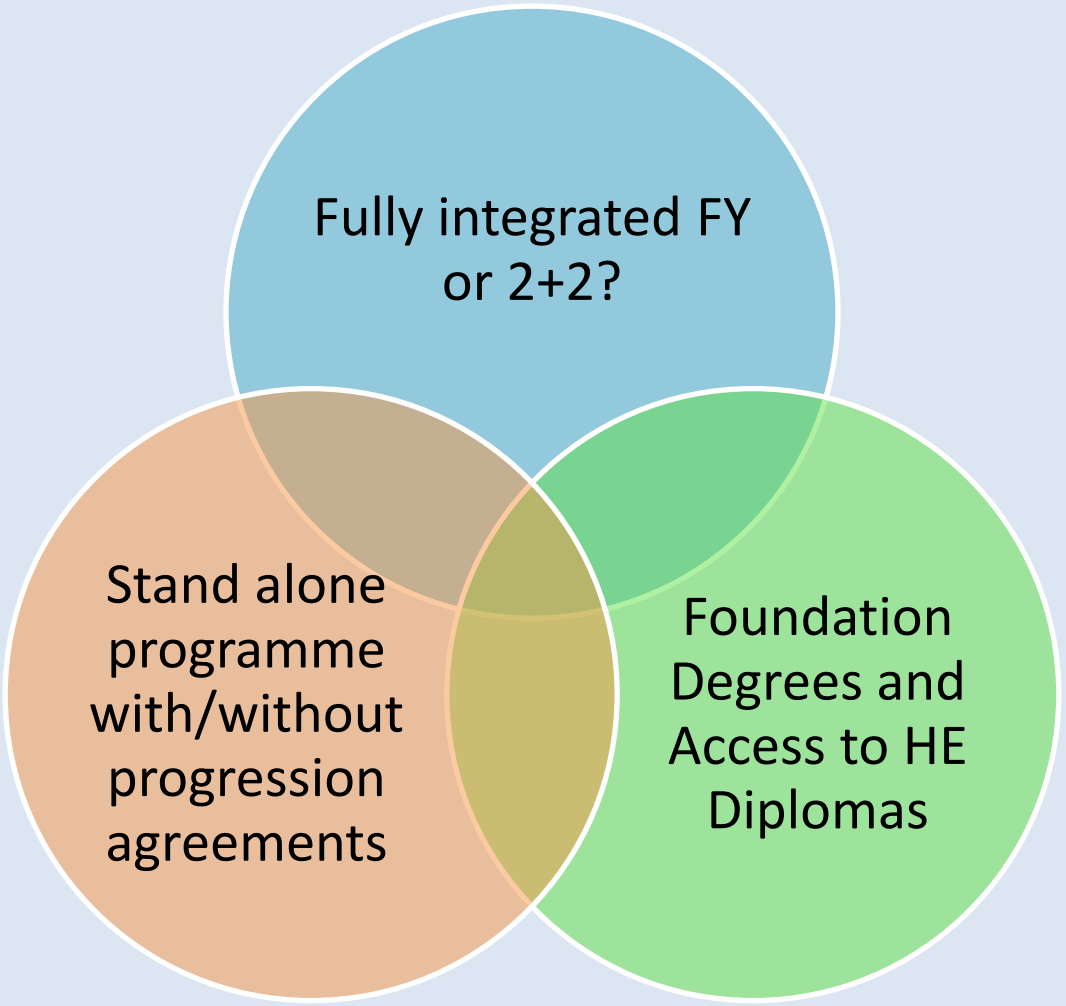
Where?


On or off campus
Selecting or recruiting course/HEI
HEI or FEC

When?



What?


Fully integrated FY or 2+2?
Stand alone programme with/without progression agreements
Foundation Degrees and Access to HE Diplomas

Learning from our students …

The last two years have not only helped me to be more successful academically but also on a more personal level, I've come out the other end more confident although I still have a way to go. Only recently I attended a workshop with other students the majority being PhD students, two years ago I would have felt way out my depth working in a group, but now I felt ok with myself and I was able to contribute positively to the group.

TILL [FYs] really is [are] about giving people a second chance and I would like to thank you and all my tutors and staff at TILL for giving me the opportunity of a better future. My advice to anyone on [running] the course or just starting out, no matter how tough it gets because it does, and you feel like walking away, is don't, hang in there because there really is a light at the end of the tunnel

2.18pm – 2.50pm
Small Group Discussions

- Get to know one another;
- Identify as a group the three biggest challenges currently facing the sector from your table's perspective;
- After feedback and coffee, we'll return (in different groups) to share solutions to common challenges …