

01

**Why are PGT WP students withdrawing more, attaining less and earning less than UG WP students?**

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02

# Introduction

**“Postgraduate education is in danger of becoming “the new frontier of widening participation” - with prospective students currently barred from study if they cannot afford fees or access sufficient credit. There are a number of fields and professions where postgraduate qualifications are becoming a de facto requirement for employment. If action is not taken we could see the gains made from widening participation at undergraduate level diminished.” (Higher Education Commission, 2012, p. 53)**

# How does finance act as a barrier for WP students looking to study on PGT courses?

## PGT Financial Context

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- Loans were announced in 2014 and first available to the 2016/2017 cohort
- The current max loan is £12,000
- PG loans are repaid simultaneously as UG loans, effectively doubling repayments

04

# Literary Review

## Limited scholarship after introduction of fees in 2016

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- COVID – effects grades in schools and university
- Brexit – complicating market for PG study
- Further higher education financial difficulties leading to courses being closed
- Seemingly been little time to measure effects of the loans due to continuous change in field

## Data collection is problematic for PG

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- There is no UCAS for PG – data collection at institutional level generally mirrors data collected at UG entry
- Particularly for PGT – other Level 7 qualifications have potential to affect “PG” data
- Further complicated when considered for WP characteristics which are potential “mutable variables”

05

# Literary Review

**Funding is significant factor in students' possibility for study at PGT level**

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- Postgraduate Support Scheme announced in 2013 found unlike UG study, those from WP study were dissuaded from PG study due to costs and scholarships were particularly influential in students' decision making

**“95 out of the 101 unsuccessful scholarship applicants who completed the evaluation survey confirmed that they definitely would have taken up PGT study if their scholarship application had been successful”.**

06

# Literary Review

**Students on some courses can earn less after completing level 7 study than those graduating from first-degree**

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**Comparison of earnings for UK first degree and Level 7 graduates five years after graduation**

Coverage: UK first degree and Level 7 graduates from English HEIs

Cohorts: 2009/10 (5 years after graduation)

Tax year: 2015/16

Subject	First degree earnings – median (£)	Level 7 earnings – median (£)
Business & Administrative Studies	26,800	38,900
Education	23,700	34,100
Computer Science	27,800	36,000
Creative Arts & Design	20,200	20,400
Languages (excluding English Studies)	27,400	27,600
Historical & Philosophical Studies	25,400	24,900

Source: Department for Education (2018) *Graduate Outcomes (LEO): Postgraduate Outcomes in 2015 to 2016*. London: DfE.

07

# Methodology



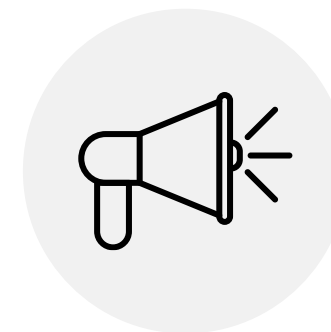
Interviews with WP staff  
(N=3).



Analysis of secondary data



Designed and Piloted a survey  
(Respondents = 2)



Small scale Audit of IAG

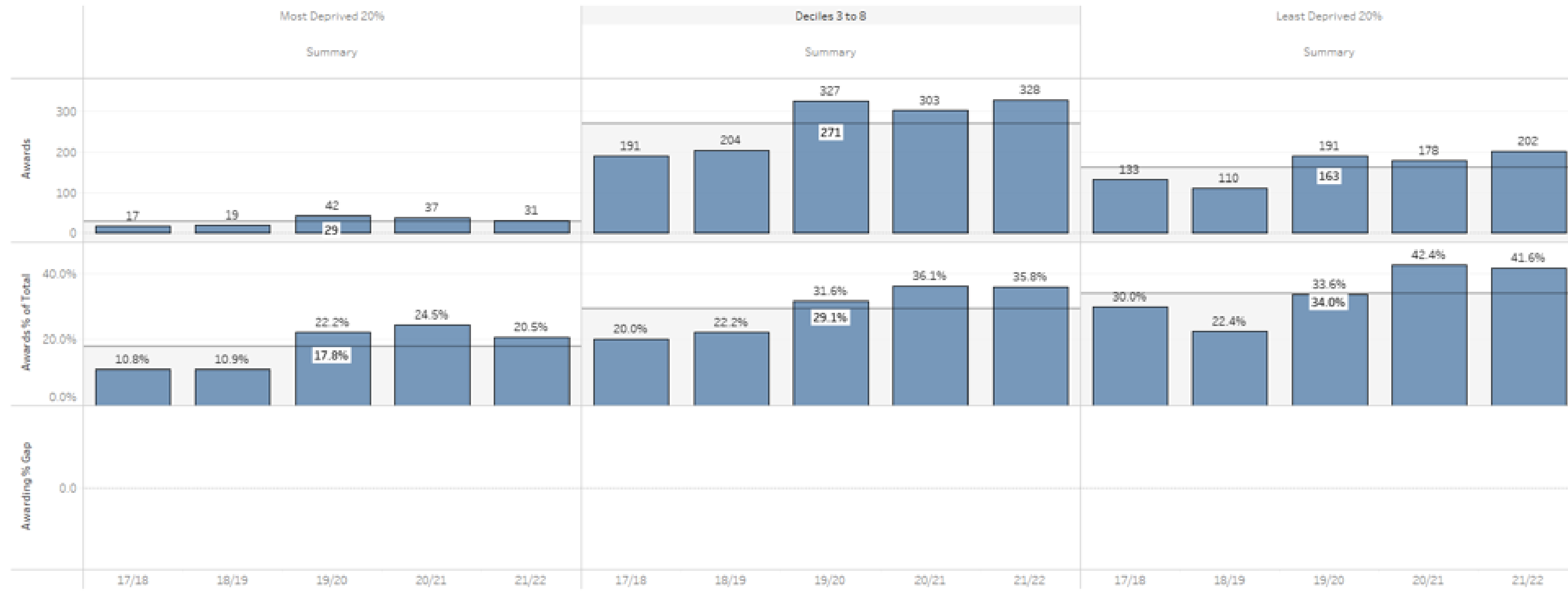
# Findings - Data Analysis



Data not readily available

- Scholarship data
- Withdrawal and registration
- Incomplete and inconsistent data at higher levels than UG
- **IMD Q1 PGT students continue less and attain less than those from Q5 at UG.**

Summary - Attainment





# Findings - Survey

Q24. Please indicate your position on the below statements.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Working had a negative impact on my social life	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working had a negative impact on my studies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Without working, I would not have been able to afford to study	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working negatively impacted my options for choosing internships and other opportunities?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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- Their knowledge of WP
- Postcode on entry to UG
- FSM status
- Previous course studied and where
- If they had to take any time away from studies or alter registration period
- Information regarding how fees and living costs were paid for and the impact of work during their studies
- 2 respondents – 1 identified as WP (Figure on top) and 1 identified as non-WP (Figure on bottom)

# Findings – IAG Audit

- Different departments offer IAG to current students in different platforms including webpages, guidance documents and Moodle modules
- Scholarship page hard to navigate and provides inaccurate filtering
  - Page is in alphabetical order, so WTMS appears after hundreds of listings despite largest amounts of awards
  - Does not appear is “Home fees” are selected
  - Also removed from listings if any “department” is selected

## Warwick Taught Masters Scholarship

About Award Detail How to Apply

Applications for the Warwick Taught Masters Scholarship Scheme are now closed

The University of Warwick will be offering the Warwick Taught Masters Scholarship Scheme to support eligible postgraduate students in 2024/2025. The Scheme has £500,000 to allocate and we expect to make a minimum of 50 awards. Awards are set up to £10,000 per student and available to eligible **Home fee status** students from under-represented groups who wish to start a postgraduate taught masters course in 2024/2025.

### Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, you need to meet the following eligibility criteria:

#### Part 1 - General eligibility criteria (you must be able to answer 'yes' to all 3 questions)

1. Are you applying for an **eligible** Masters course, studying full-time (1 year) or part-time (2 years), starting in October 2024?
2. Are you eligible to pay tuition fees at the Home fee rate?
3. Can you confirm that you do not already hold a Masters (or Integrated Masters) or PhD qualification?

#### Part 2 - Under-represented groups in Postgraduate Taught study criteria (you must be able to answer 'yes' to at least 1 question)

1. If you started your undergraduate course prior to August 2016: You were in receipt of a full or partial **maintenance grant** from the UK Government as an undergraduate?
2. If you started your undergraduate course after August 2016: you were eligible for a means tested **maintenance loan** from the UK Student Loans Company and your residual household income was assessed as £40,000 or less?

# Recommendations

- Develop specific PG strategy as part of Access and Participation Plan looking at success beyond enrollment and graduation
- Commit to further data collection with admissions as well as with cross sector partners
- Continual audit of IAG at central and department level ensuring full access to resources for all

# Conclusion

- Finance is central for access and continuation, however other factors such as previous institution, course and internships may highlight students who could benefit from intervention
- The project was severely limited by time and access to full and complete data
- Further study could develop aspects of the survey to identify characteristics not captured currently to highlight students who could benefit from targeted interventions

# References

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Wakeling, P 2015, *Programme Analysis of HEFCE's Postgraduate Support Scheme: Final Report to ESRC and HEFCE*. Higher Education Funding Council for England, Bristol.

14

# Thank you!

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Do you have any questions?