

**ESRC Fellowship Project:
Higher Education, the Devolution Settlement and
the Referendum on Independence**

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**Think Tank 1
The funding of higher education
in Scotland, the UK and internationally**

Date: Wednesday 22nd May 2013
Time: 9:30-16:00
Venue: Godfrey Thomson Hall, Thomson's Land,
Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh
Map: <http://edin.ac/11Wizop>
Online registration: <http://esrcfuturefunding.eventbrite.co.uk>
Press release: <http://edin.ac/10f85Pp>

The aim of the project is to consider the future challenges and opportunities faced by Scottish higher education in the case of further devolution or a vote for independence in autumn 2014. This think tank focuses on the future financing of Scottish higher education, which both reflects and influences the type of higher education system which is likely to emerge.

Some of the forces influencing the funding of higher education cut across national boundaries. For example, the global higher education market is increasingly influential, reflected in the growing importance attached to international league tables. The global competition for staff and students encourages elite institutions to adopt strategies designed to maximise their income and market share, raising fees to the highest level which the market will bear. The European Union has also influenced the development of higher education systems across the European Higher Education, encouraging harmonisation in order to promote the free movement of staff and students. Despite these convergent forces, there are also divergent forces in play. For example, in order to emphasise its desire to promote universalism in public services, Scotland has removed higher education fees at the same time as England has introduced very large increases.

The presentations in this think tank explore some of the pressures affecting decision making on the funding of higher education in Scotland, the rest of the UK and other countries. They also examine the range of policy choices which are available and their consequences.

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9.30 – 16.00

**Godfrey Thomson Hall, Thomson's Land
 Moray House School of Education, St John's Street, Edinburgh**

Programme

9.45 – 10.00	Introduction
10.00 – 10.45	The funding of higher education in Scotland: the implications of further devolution and/or independence <i>Professor David Bell, University of Stirling</i>
10.45 – 11.00	Tea/coffee break
11.00 – 11.45	Higher education funding in Wales <i>Professor Teresa Rees, University of Cardiff</i>
11.45 – 12.30	Higher education funding in England <i>Professor Miriam David, Institute of Education, University of London</i>
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 14.15	The funding of higher education in small European states and devolved regions <i>Professor Michael Keating and Malcolm Harvey, University of Aberdeen</i>
14.15 – 15.00	The funding of higher education: the students' perspective <i>Robin Parker, NUS Scotland</i>
15.00 – 15.15	Tea/coffee break
15.15 – 16.00	General discussion