

## Think Tank 2: Widening access to higher education in Scotland, the UK and internationally

- Venue:** [Godfrey Thomson Hall, Thomson's Land,](#)  
The Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh
- Date:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013
- Time:** 9:30 – 16:30
- Registration:** <http://bit.ly/16reYk6>  
(**FREE but RSVP on or before 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2013**)
- Parking:** [Car parking permit at Old Moray House](#) (option 1)  
[Pay and display parking at St John's Hill Car Park](#) (option 2)

The aim of the project is to consider the future challenges and opportunities faced by higher education in Scotland and the rest of the UK in the case of further devolution or a vote for independence in autumn 2014. This think tank focuses on issues associated with widening participation and fair access to higher education.

Key questions include the following:

- How has higher education contributed to social mobility in Scotland other parts of the developed world?
- What is the relationship between the recent expansion of the higher education system and the participation of traditionally under-represented groups? What variations are evident in the social profile of students in different parts of the UK? Is there any evidence of movement towards the EU's goal of breaking the link between social class background and participation in higher education?
- Do pupils from poorer social backgrounds experience equal treatment in the university application process, particularly when applying to elite institutions?
- What measures appear to be successful in encouraging participation of pupils from under-represented groups?
- What differences currently exist between England and Scotland in terms of widening participation and fair access? What appears to be the impact of different funding regimes in England and Scotland? What further differences might emerge in the future in terms of widening participation and fair access between Scotland and other parts of the UK?

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**Programme**

Chair: Professor Lyn Tett

09.30 – 10.00	Registration
10.00 – 11.30	<p><b>Approaches to widening access in Scotland</b> Higher education and social mobility in Scotland <i>Dr Cristina Iannelli, University of Edinburgh</i></p> <p><b>Widening access: The role of Scotland's colleges</b> <i>Professor Jim Gallacher, University of Stirling</i></p> <p><b>Contextualised admissions policies and fair access</b> <i>Dr Laurence Lasselle, University of St Andrews</i></p> <p>Questions</p>
11.30 – 11.50	Tea/coffee break
11.50 – 12.30	<p><b>Discussion in breakout groups</b> <i>In Godfrey Thomson Hall, room 1.15 &amp; room 2.01</i></p>
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 14.40	<p><b>Approaches to widening access in England</b> Widening access initiatives in England <i>Professor Carole Leathwood, London Metropolitan University</i></p> <p><b>Russell group universities and fair access for pupils from the state sector and the independent sector</b> <i>Dr Vikki Boliver, Durham University</i></p> <p>Questions</p>
14.40 – 14.55	Tea/coffee break
14.55 – 16.00	<p><b>Widening access for pupils from social disadvantage backgrounds: the role of fees, loans and grants</b> <i>Dr Gill Wyness, London School of Economics and Political Science</i></p> <p><b>Widening access: what can we learn from Europe?</b> <i>Dr Dominic Orr, Eurostudent Project, German Centre for Research on Higher Education and Science Studies</i></p> <p>Questions</p>
16.00 – 16.30	Panel discussion