
Description: This market report covers the UK's further education (FE) and higher education (HE) sectors. Both have seen significant change in recent years, which has had a significant impact on institutions and students alike. This report will examine the nature and impact of these changes, the main thrust of which is that post-18 education has become a lot more expensive.

Types of Institution

This market report covers the following ten types of educational institution:

- Adult education institutions
- Business schools (some of which are linked to universities)
- Distance learning providers
- FE colleges
- HE colleges and institutes
- Privately owned independent education colleges
- Sixth-form colleges
- Specialist colleges
- Tertiary education colleges
- Universities

Qualifications

The scope of this report considers the following qualifications:

- General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)
- General Certificate of Education (GCE) - Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS level) and Advanced Level (A level)
- Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND)
- Foundation degrees
- First degrees - Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Science (BSc), etc.
- Postgraduate degrees - Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MSc), Master of Philosophy (MPhil), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Master of Business Administration (MBA), etc.

Qualifications that do not include examinations are not included within the scope of this report. These include many adult education classes, which are covered by the Training Market Report.

Market Sectors

Further Education

The following types of institutions are classified as FE:

- Adult education institutes
- Distance learning companies and institutions
- FE colleges
- Privately owned independent colleges
- Sixth-form colleges
- Tertiary education colleges.

Higher Education

The main type of institution within this sector is universities, but the HE sector also includes HE colleges and institutes, and some specialist colleges. This sector expanded considerably after 1992 when many polytechnics became universities.
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