Modern language policy at HEFCE

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HEFCE support for modern languages
2005-12

• Subjects which are both Strategically Important and vulnerable (SIVS)
  • STEM
  • Quantitative social science
  • Modern languages and area studies

• Programme of work to support modern languages, including
  • Routes into Languages
  • LBAS centres
  • Sector engagement
  • Monitoring and advice to Government
HE reform from 2012-13

- Fees and funding – HEFCE now minority funder of HE
- Residual T-funding continues to support SIVS
- Continue support for modern languages:
  - New Routes into Languages programme
  - Language years abroad and National Mobility Strategy
  - Support for sector-led supply solutions
  - Ongoing monitoring
Snapshot of current trends in modern languages: A levels
Undergraduate entrants to modern languages by language of study

Academic year

- African and modern middle eastern studies
- French studies
- Iberian studies
- Others in european languages
- Russian and East European studies
- Asian studies
- German and Scandinavian studies
- Italian studies
- Others in non-european languages
Undergraduate entrants to modern languages by mode of study

Academic year

Full-time

Part-time

-65%

-7,950

-18%

-1,180
UK-domiciled undergraduate entrants to MFL by POLAR3
Present challenges

- Clarifying Government support for languages
- Supply-side challenges
- Lack of strategic approach in support of languages
- Institution-Wide Language Programmes versus the national interest
Changing policy landscape 2015 onwards

- Spending Review and budget pressures
- Green Paper
- Future role of HEFCE?
Key messages to the sector

• No sustainable salvation!

• Subject provision responsibility of HEIs

• Joined-up approach to languages necessary
Thank you for listening

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