Writing blogs: policy and confidence

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Wonkhe presents

The Secret Life of Students 2022

Doing diversity differently

This event is more than 1 year old

15 February 2022, London

Book tickets

ABOUT US+ EVENTS LATEST* JOBS+ SUBSCRIPTION+ SUS+

Supporting Generation Covid into higher education

This article is more than **1 year old** COMMENT | 22/02/21 HELOA members are at the cutting edge of working out what it takes to support the 2021 cohort of applicants into HE. Fiona Curry and Jack Clare break down the challenge.



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ABOUT US+ **EVENTS**

Is there evidence for bias in admissions?

This article is more than **5 years old** COMMENT | 17/11/17

UCAS has been working with the higher education sector to explore minimising the risks to fair admission from unconscious bias. Ben Jordan, a senior policy executive at UCAS, writes about some positive findings during two years of research.





What is policy?



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Types of policy analysis

Scientific

Professional

Political

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Scientific

- Unbiased way to analyse policy
- Starts with a question to find the most objective solution

- Jargon which does not translate well to non-specialists
- Difficult to package into action-oriented agenda



Professional



- Objective is solve problem
- Takes research, theories and own evaluations
- Degree of expertise



Political

- Start with a preferred outcome and find a way to produce solutions that produce this outcome
- Advocacy-oriented organisations

- Does not use same level or academic rigour
- Can be presented objectively
- Can claim to be professional analysis



Policy is not an opinion.

Policy is not political ideology



Understanding ideology

The "if, indeed" approach

Supporting the Strikes

Conservative Association

- Occupational Health referals up 400% in past year
- Cost passed on to empoloyer (university)

Socialist Students

- Good working/learning conditions
- Importance of solidarity

International student recruitment

Economic

- Fund HE institutions
- Graduate jobs and tax benefits

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Social

- Diversity
- Integration
- Multi-cultural

Hot topics

- **QAA Dissolution**
- Maths A Levels
- Minimum Entry Requirements
- PQA/PQO
- Levelling Up
- School Outreach
- Cost of Living
- Student Maintenance/Grants/Loans
- International Student Recruitment
- Childcare/parents/carers

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Steps in policy analysis (Kraft and Furlong)

1. Define and analyse the problem 2. Construct policy alternatives 3. Develop Criteria for Evaluation 4. Assess the Alternatives **5. Draw Conclusions** 1. [Consider Stakeholders]! WONKHE | MONTH 2019

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Define and analyse the problem

- What problem is it we are facing?
- Where does it exist? all over the country?
 Rural vs urban?
- What kind of people are impacted? Some more than others? What are the causes, what made it develop for them?
- How might the causes be affected by policy action?



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Construct policy alternatives





Develop criteria

for evaluation

What are the casts of the action?	+	+	+	+
- What are the costs of the action?	+	+	+	+
 What is the likely effectivenes? 	+	+	+	+
 Is it socially and politically feasible? 	+	+	+	+
	+	+	+	+
- Is it socially equitable?	+	+	+	+
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Access the alternatives

- Which are better?
- What kind of analysis might help to distinguish better and worse policy alternatives
- Is the evidence available?
- If not, how could it be produced?

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Draw conclusions

- What is the most desirable given the circumstances and criteria for evaluation?
- What other factors could be considered?



Consider Stakeholders

- What is good about this policy for your stakeholder?
- What is bad about this policy for your stakeholder?
- When this policy is implemented, what changes would your stakeholder want to see to ensure it meets their priorities?
- What other stakeholders do you think are going to be your biggest opposition with?

Thank YOU



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Key

- Example 1
 Example 2
 Example 3
 Example 4
- Example 5



A simple table

	EXAMPLE 1	EXAMPLE 2	EXAMPLE 3	EXAMPLE 4	
EXAMPLE 1	Result A	Result B	Result C	Result D	
EXAMPLE 2	Result A	Result B	Result C	Result D	
EXAMPLE 3	Result A	Result B	Result C	Result D	

EXAMPLE 5	EXAMPLE 6
Result E	Result F
Result E	Result F
Result E	Result F

Thank







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