

# **Web based advice and guidance and widening participation in HE**

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# Routes through the system

- Need to show the “HE value” of different qualification combinations
  - Academic versus vocational routes to HE
  - High value A levels
  - A level combinations
- Data source – integrated administrative data set and possibly UCAS

# Integrated administrative data set

- **School data**

- Census of school children with individual characteristics of all pupils e.g. gender, ethnicity
- Prior achievement from age 11 through to 18

- **Higher Education data**

- Detailed information on degree subject, institution, degree class awarded etc. for all those participating in HE

# Integrated administrative data set

- Data on participants AND non-participants
- Currently have two cohorts:
  - Those entering HE at age 18 in 2004/05
  - Those entering HE at age 18 in 2005/06
- More cohorts constantly coming on line

# Example: the value of Physics A level

- 90% of students with Physics A-level go to university at age 18 or 19
- 51% of HE participants with a Physics A-level go to a Russell Group university
- 68% of HE participants with a Physics A-level go to a high research quality university

# Top degree subjects

## **For students with Physics A-level:**

- 1 Engineering (8,910)
  - 2 Physical sciences (6,589)
  - 3 Mathematical sciences (3,076)
  - 4 Computer sciences (2,354)
  - 5 Biological sciences (2,288)
  - 6 Subjects allied to medicine (1,915)
  - 7 Medicine and dentistry (1,816)
  - 8 Social studies (1,303)
  - 9 Business and administrative studies (1,159)
  - 10 Architecture, building and planning (1,134)
- (Total sample size = 34,411)

# Top degree subjects

## **For students with Biology A-level:**

- 1 Biological sciences (15,968)
  - 2 Subjects allied to medicine (11,696)
  - 3 Medicine and dentistry (7,638)
  - 4 Physical sciences (6,192)
  - 5 Social studies (2,751)
  - 6 Business and administrative studies (2,426)
  - 7 Historical and philosophical studies (1,948)
  - 8 Veterinary sciences and agriculture (1,846)
  - 9 Law (1,577)
  - 10 Creative arts and design (1,537)
- (Total sample size = 61,594)

# The value of HE

- Need to show the wage premium associated with different degrees
  - By subject → Labour Force Survey
  - By institution type → Longitudinal DHLE
    - e.g. Russell Group/ Other
  - By institution → Longitudinal DHLE



# Labour Force Survey

- Can tell us wage premium from having a degree i.e. compared to other lower level qualifications
- Can tell us the wage premium by broad degree subject

# The Return to a Degree by Subject

	Men			Women	
Subjects	Mark-up from Arts	Rank	Subjects	Mark-up from Arts	Rank
Accountancy	42.15%	1	Accountancy	37.12%	1
Electrical engineering	40.73%	2	Medicine and related	27.52%	2
Maths and computing	37.23%	3	Law	23.97%	3
Mechanical engineering	33.71%	4	Education	22.40%	4
Social sciences	14.20%	21	Psychology	1.98%	21
History	11.69%	22	Biology	1.60%	22
English	10.84%	23	History	0.95%	23
Sociology	10.83%	24	Politics	-0.91%	25

**Source:** Sloane and O'Leary (2004)

# Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey (DLHE)

- Early DHLE Survey (surveys graduates 6 months out of university) – only preliminary snapshot of graduate success
- In 2006, HESA carried out a follow up to the Early DHLE Survey → Longitudinal DLHE – 3 years after graduation
- Contains full details of HE plus wages / occupation 3 years after graduation

# Longitudinal DLHE

- Can tell us *early* value of degrees
  - By subject
  - By institution
  - Possibly by subject and institution (subject to sample size)
- Data essentially owned by universities so would need their permission to do this