

## Summary Report August 2006

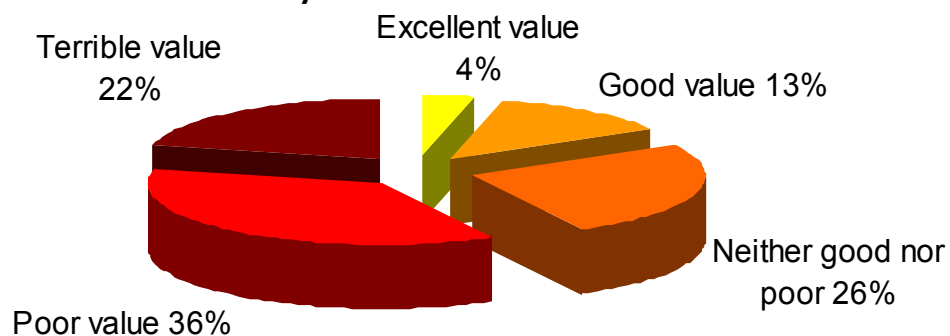
### Tuition fees

**If students are going to have to pay £3,000 in tuition fees, they may demand more hours for their money.**

From next year, most students will have to pay £3,000 a year in fees for their university education. We asked students if they thought that represented value for money.

More than half of all students (58%) thought the fees would be poor or terrible value. Only 17% (about one in six) said the £3,000 would be good or excellent value.

**If you were paying £3,000 per year for your course, do you think that would represent value for money?**



•Based on 1009 respondents

Students receiving more hours of teaching were more likely to feel positively about the impending fees. Just 12% of those receiving up to 10 hours' tuition a week thought the fees were excellent or good value, compared with 20% of students getting more than 10 hours of contact time with teaching staff.

Male students told us they receive an average of 15 hours of teaching in a typical week, and 53% of them thought the tuition fees would represent poor value. By contrast, women got less teaching time, just 12.8 hours a week, and were much more dissatisfied with the fees: 62% said the fees would be poor value.

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Arts courses are often female-dominated and tend to have shorter teaching hours, with more time for personal study. However, courses with less contact time may need to find a way of justifying the fees to cash-strapped students.

One student, a 19-year-old woman studying creative writing, commented "My course is a very independent one, so I don't think paying that much money is fair. But those doing something like Law or Medicine have much more time in class and working within the industry, so their money will be well spent."

Meanwhile, students at older universities like the Russell Group and other pre 1992 universities expressed higher satisfaction with the tuition fees. For example, at Russell Group universities, 28% of students said the fees would be good value. These students received an average of 14.6 hours of tuition. Those at new, post 1992 universities got 13.2 hours tuition and were much less likely (11%) to think the fees were good value.

However, more than a quarter of all students (26%) don't feel strongly about the issue, saying the fees would represent neither good nor poor value for their course.

### **Methodology**

The latest study is based on 1009 on-line interviews with students in their first to sixth years of study at 117 UK Higher Education Institutions. The fieldwork took place between 19<sup>th</sup> April and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2006. Post-research, the panel was weighted according to the national pattern for gender, year of study and university type as defined by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record 2002/3.