Boys to Men: The underachievement of young men in higher education – and how to start tackling it
Nick Hillman and Nicholas Robinson
With a Foreword by Mary Curnock Cook
HEPI Report 84
Figure 6.1a. Spending per pupil or student per year at different stages of education, actual and plans (2016–17 prices)
Preferred ways for universities to save money

- Spending less on buildings: 49%
- Spending less on sport and social facilities: 46%
- Increasing the size of classes: 25%
- Giving academics less time for research: 19%
- Reducing pay for staff: 18%
- Reducing financial support for students: 11%
- Reducing the support available to academics for improving their teaching: 9%
- Reducing the student support services (careers, accommodation, etc.): 9%
- Having fewer hours of teaching: 7%
- Reducing spending on learning facilities (e.g. IT, library or laboratory facilities): 5%
How much does an Oxbridge undergraduate really cost?

Our most prestigious universities are lobbying to increase fees above £9,000, but are not transparent about their finances.

### What is the cost of a home undergraduate education at Cambridge?

The annual cost per student, as calculated based on 2012/13 figures, is £16.6k.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University expenditure per student on Home/EU Undergraduate teaching</td>
<td>£9,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College expenditure per student on Home/EU Undergraduate teaching</td>
<td>£7,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost per Home/EU Undergraduate in full time education (including College costs)</td>
<td>£16.600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Spending as a proportion of GDP (2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Lower secondary</th>
<th>Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary</th>
<th>Tertiary</th>
<th>Primary to tertiary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public¹</td>
<td>Private²</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Public¹</td>
<td>Private²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OECD average</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU22 average</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UK spends:**
- more on primary than US, OECD & EU
- more on secondary than US, OECD & EU
- more on upper sec and post-sec than US, OECD & EU
- more on tertiary than OECD & EU, but less than US
- more on education in total than US, OECD and EU

**Compared to OECD, UK spends:**
- 27% more on primary
- 20% more on secondary
- 42% more on upper / post-sec
- only 12% more on tertiary
- 29% more overall

Source: OECD, *Education at a Glance 2016*
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