

**Executive Summary of Business
for Performance Committee**



Title	Report on provisional registered student numbers and admissions as at 31st October 2012, together with estimated student number movement by 1st December 2012 and progress against recruitment targets.
Author	Clare Mackie, Richard Fairbank, James Bluring & Rob Evans
Type	Report
Date	4 th November 2012
Strategic context	The University's student recruitment targets, as set out in its current strategic plan.
Summary	<p>This report sets out student numbers as at 31st October 2012, for both the overall student body, and the new 2012/13 intake. It describes how these numbers relate to recruitment targets, with estimated movement by 1st December 2012 HEFCE census date.</p> <p>Overall 5,140 students registered in year 0 or 1 with Sussex Schools (excluding BSMS) in 2012 with an overall School student population of 11,881 which is 142 FTE higher than overall numbers registered in 2011/12 but 858 below growth targets agreed with Schools.</p> <p>The total number of students (including BSMS, IDS & 188 Visiting and Exchange students) is 12,650 FTE and 13,095 headcount with a further 619 overseas students attending the International Study Centre.</p> <p>In terms of HEU we reported to HEFCE that we aimed to recruit 2,477 students in 2012/13 comprising 1,529 (excluding offset for 2011 over recruitment) within SNC and 948 AAB+. The provisional number of new students recruited was 2,460 comprising 1,422 within SNC and 1038 (42%) AAB+. This % AAB+ is consistent with 2011/12 entry.</p> <p>Overall there was a drop in AAB+ in England of 15% compared to 2011 (76k were AAB+ against HEFCE 85k estimate) with a 17% drop in A level AAB+ (50K) so we did well to retain our % of AAB+.</p>

Risk analysis	<p>1. A key risk is associated with undergraduate HEU FTEs which are strictly controlled by HEFCE with our absolute limit for new students set at 1,529 within SNC and a fine exceeding £10k for over recruitment and a reduction of SNC equivalent to under recruitment of >5% or 25 students. However we over recruited 153 FTE net in 2011/12 and there is an expectation that we will offset some or all of these numbers which also carry an annual fine (£3,800 per FTE for 2012/13). In recruiting 1,422 HEU within SNC against a target of 1,529 we have offset 107 of our 153 over recruitment and will have a net fine of £15k (reduced fine of £175k offset by fee income of £160k) and will have a further opportunity to offset this remaining 46 FTE in 2013/14.</p> <p>2. Shortfall of 890 FTE new registrations (859 overall student population) against 2012 targets. HEU new registrations were 556 (14%) below target with a 274 (10%) shortfall in HEU UG against a national drop of 14% (394k in 2011 to 340k in 2012). HEU PGT had a shortfall of 219 (21%) and PGR a shortfall of 63 (29%) which is a concern given that these students will be graduating with the 'old rate' Undergraduate loans with no loan mechanism available to allow them to continue to study at postgraduate level.</p> <p>Overseas new registrations were 333 (17%) below target with a shortfall of 95 (16%), 223 (18%) and 15 (14%) for UG, PGT and PGR respectively. It is too early to make comparisons across the sector.</p>
Consultation	VCEG, Heads of Schools (via Strategic Recruitment and Admissions Committee)
Future actions	None
Recommendation	Performance committee is asked to DISCUSS this report

Section I: Registered Student Numbers (31st October 2012)

1. Total students numbers for Sussex Schools (excluding BSMS) registered to 31st October 2012 are 5,140 full time equivalents (FTEs) for 1st year and year 0 students with 11,881 FTEs registered overall (**Table 1**). New registrations are 890 FTE below the 2012 growth targets. **Table 2** shows 12,462 FTEs including BSMS, IDS and BIMM which with 188 Visiting & Exchange students take the total head count to 13092.
2. HEU new registrations were 556 (14%) below target with a 274 (10%) shortfall in HEU UG against a national drop of 14% (394k in 2011 to 340k in 2012). HEU PGT had a shortfall of 219 (21%) and PGR a shortfall of 63 (29%) which is a concern given that these students will be graduating with the 'old rate' Undergraduate loans with no loan mechanism available to allow them to continue to study at postgraduate level.
3. Overseas new registrations were 333 (17%) below target with a shortfall of 95 (16%), 223 (18%) and 15 (14%) for UG, PGT and PGR respectively. It is too early to make comparisons across the sector.
4. **Table 2** provides details of Schools that were significantly below 2011 entry: Engineering & Informatics (-148); HAHP (-140) and Global Studies (-134) although peak recruitment in 2011 offset the dip in 2012 in terms of overall cumulative numbers registered in 2012/13: Engineering & Informatics (-98); HAHP(-30) and Global Studies (-107).

Section II: Risk Analysis of 2012 Admissions and implications for 2013

5. The 2012 session may be seen as an exceptional year due to the introduction of the £9,000 fees and the deregulation of AAB+ which was removed from student number control (SNC) by HEFCE. The 'scramble' for places in 2011, to avoid the £9k fee, meant that 24,000 (6%) additional students entered University in England with fewer students taking a gap year before starting their course and as a result the holdover for 2012 was 250 fewer than in previous years at Sussex. This is unlikely to be repeated in the near future. In addition deregulation of student numbers for AAB+ increased competition and resulted in a drop in insurance places, rejected by their first choice and subsequently accepted at Sussex (74 in 2012 versus 210 in 2011).
6. Sussex undergraduate applications fell by 6% in 2012 compared with a UK fall of 7%. This was on the back of growth since 2009 at more than double the UK rate (46% versus 20%). All Sussex Schools missed their stretch targets set for 2012 entry which was consistent with the national drop in UG students for 2012 entry of 14% (394,000 in 2011 compared to 340,000 in 2012) for all students and 19% for EU students which disproportionately affected Global Studies recruitment.
7. In terms of quality of undergraduate entrants 400 less students with a firm offer in 2012 met their conditions than in 2011 (1252 in 2012 versus 1662 in 2011). This is consistent with a fall in AAB+ reported by UCAS with less students achieving high grades for entry (a 17%

drop in A level AAB+). Average tariff rose from 381 in 2010 to 411 in 2011, with a further increase anticipated from the 2012 entry.

8. In terms of HEU UG we reported to HEFCE that we aimed to recruit 2,477 students in 2012/13 comprising 1,529 (excluding offset for 2011 over recruitment) within SNC and 948 AAB+. The provisional number of new students recruited was 2,396 comprising 1,422 within SNC and 1038 (42%) AAB+. This % AAB+ is consistent with 2011/12 entry and reflects a significant achievement in the context of sector trends. We achieved this by increasing our offer levels across most subjects such that >80% received an AAB+ offer.
9. **HEU SNC:** A key risk is associated with undergraduate HEU FTEs which are strictly controlled by HEFCE with our absolute limit for new students set at 1,529 within SNC and a fine exceeding £10k for over recruitment and a reduction of SNC equivalent to under recruitment of >5% or 25 students. However we over recruited 153 FTE net in 2011/12 and there is an expectation that we will offset some or all of these numbers which also carry an annual fine (£3,800 per FTE for 2012/13). In recruiting 1,422 HEU within SNC against a target of 1,529 we have offset 107 of our 153 over recruitment and will have a net fine of £15k (reduced fine of £175k offset by fee income of £160k) and will have a further opportunity to offset this remaining 46 FTE in 2013/14.
10. **Government policy changes to student number control for 2013 Entry.** It has been announced by Government that deregulation will be extended to ABB+ from 2013 with baseline SNC reset based on 2011 entry which will reduce our SNC towards less than 1,000 and near to 20% of 2010 SNC (lower cap for widening participation based on 2010 numbers). This will create further turbulence in the sector.
11. HEU PGT also had a shortfall of 219 (21%) and PGR a shortfall of 63 (29%) which is a concern given that these students will be graduating with the 'old rate' Undergraduate loans with no loan mechanism available to allow them to continue to study at postgraduate level.
12. Overseas new registrations were 333 (17%) below target with a shortfall of 95 (16%), 223 (18%) and 15 (14%) for UG, PGT and PGR respectively. It is too early to make comparisons across the sector. It is unclear whether UKBA VISA restrictions or adverse publicity from London Met having their Highly Trusted Status removed impacted on OS recruitment or whether the higher English language requirements caused the drop. Although the latter should impact on improved retention and higher numbers in future years.
13. **Figures 1-6** provides the committee with recruitment data from the start of the current strategic plan (2008/09) and demonstrates growth achieved by the Sussex academic schools (excluding BSMS) with overseas students accounting for 23% (21% in 2011) of all students in 2012/13. This distribution is not even with OS students accounting for 16% of UG students and 53% of PG students. A final report on 2012 entry at the 1st December HEFCE census will be provided to the committee early in the New Year.
14. **Figure 7** illustrates that Sussex Schools have grown by 21% over the planning period with growth of 32%, 19% and 5% in the social sciences, sciences and arts respectively. **Figure**

8 shows the divergence from growth targets and Schools' initial unapproved targets for 2013-15 and how far they go towards bringing the growth agenda back on track.

Table 1. SUSSEX SCHOOL TOTAL by student type

	2010-11 actual		2011-12 actual		2012-13 est 31Oct		2012 - 2011		2012-13 target		estimate - target	
	year 0/1	total	year 0/1	total	year 0/1	total	year 0/1	total	year 0/1	total	year 0/1	total
HEU Undergraduates	2662	7369	2895	7683	2543	7716	-352	33	2817	7987	-274	-272
HEU Taught Postgraduates	926	1045	948	1091	794	920	-154	-171	1013	1135	-219	-215
HEU Research Postgraduates	161	518	161	531	155	523	-6	-8	218	571	-63	-47
HEU Total	3749	8932	4004	9305	3492	9159	-512	-146	4048	9692	-556	-534
Overseas Undergraduates	377	774	508	1118	514	1431	6	313	609	1502	-95	-70
Overseas Taught Postgraduates	795	798	1062	1065	1041	1048	-21	-16	1264	1267	-223	-219
Overseas Research Postgraduates	82	234	92	251	92	243	0	-9	108	278	-15	-35
Overseas Total	1254	1806	1662	2434	1648	2722	-15	288	1981	3046	-333	-324
Sussex Schools total	5003	10738	5666	11739	5140	11881	-526	142	6029	12738	-890	-858

Table 2. TOTAL FTEs by School

	2010-11 actual		2011-12 actual		2012-13 est 31Oct		2012 - 2011		2012-13 target		estimate - target	
	year 0/1	total	year 0/1	total	year 0/1	total	year 0/1	total	year 0/1	total	year 0/1	total
Business, Management & Economics	781	1372	1048	1885	1086	2237	38	352	1177	2284	-91	-47
Education & Social Work#	420	648	349	607	331	554	-19	-53	424	624	-94	-70
Engineering & Informatics	533	1018	557	1092	410	994	-148	-98	561	1143	-151	-148
English	298	805	376	866	346	859	-30	-7	402	918	-56	-58
Global Studies	582	1256	654	1319	520	1212	-134	-107	663	1340	-143	-128
History, Art History & Philosophy	394	1040	487	1137	347	1107	-140	-30	438	1205	-91	-98
Law, Politics & Sociology	553	1300	645	1361	610	1404	-35	43	670	1477	-60	-72
Life Sciences	408	1041	417	1082	363	1051	-53	-31	524	1247	-160	-197
Mathematical & Physical Sciences	341	608	363	683	393	768	30	84	428	797	-35	-29
Media, Film & Music	269	645	332	688	334	718	2	31	297	684	36	34
Psychology	371	848	389	877	366	855	-23	-22	402	900	-36	-45
SCLS	55	155	48	142	34	122	-14	-20	43	121	-9	1
Schools Total	5003	10738	5666	11739	5140	11881	-526	142	6029	12738	-890	-858
BSMS (Sussex half)	73	345	90	387	92	402	2	15	92	401	0	1
IDS	136	175	153	172	103	125	-50	-47	134	150	-31	-25
BIMM	70	146	70	137	1	55	-69	-82	0	66	1	-11
Total	5282	11403	5979	12434	5336	12462	-643	28	6255	13355	-919	-893

2013 starts to add

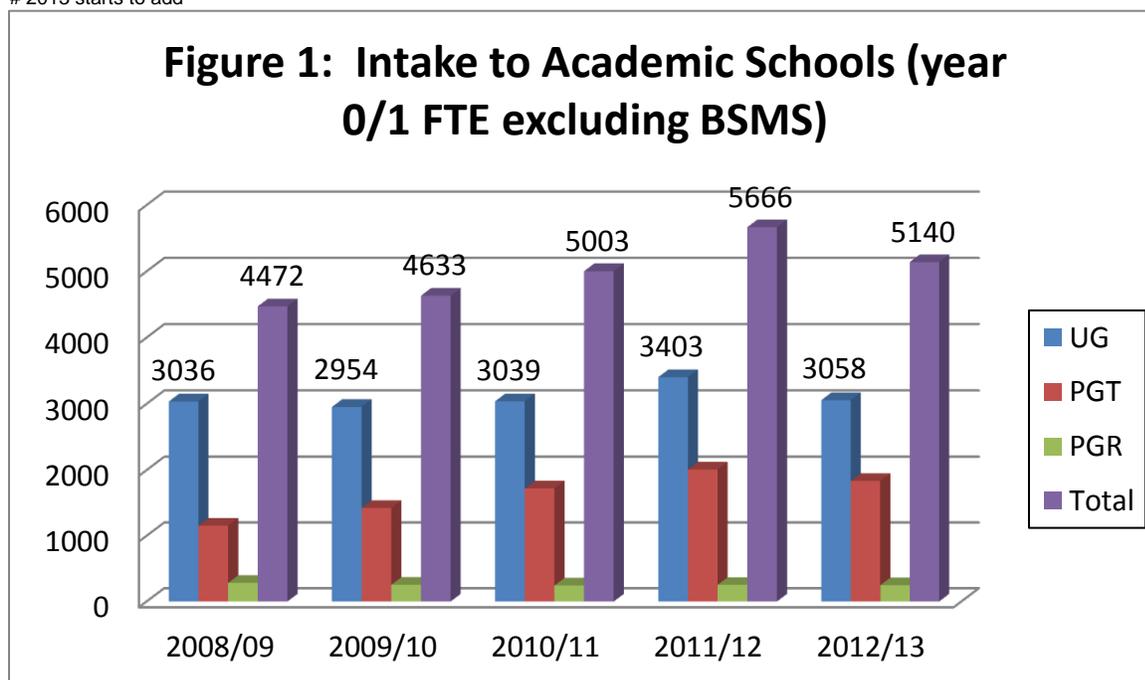


Figure 2: Academic Schools student total (all years FTE excluding BSMS)

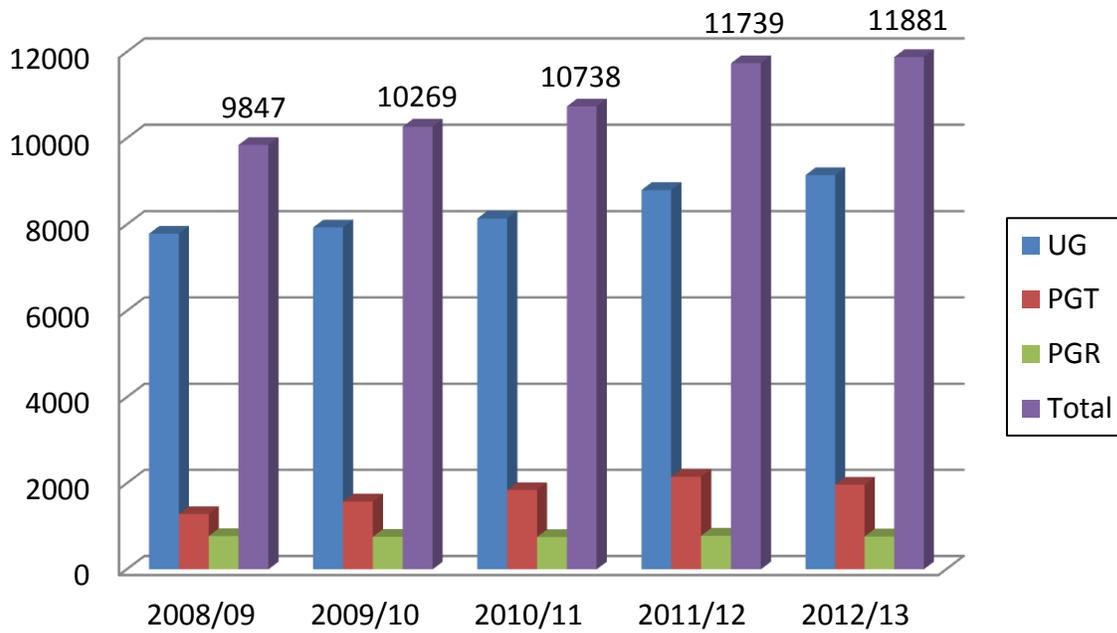
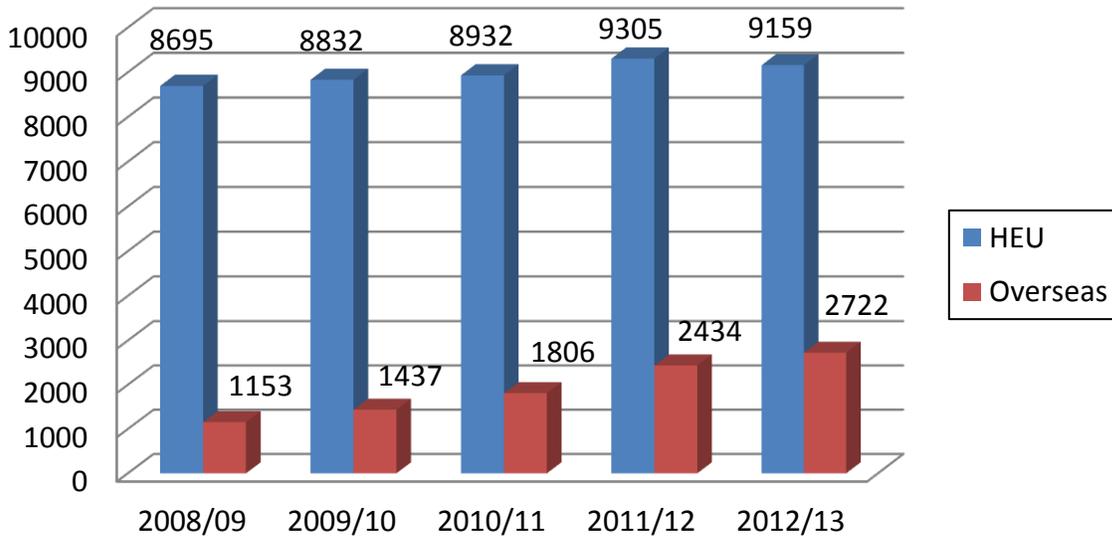
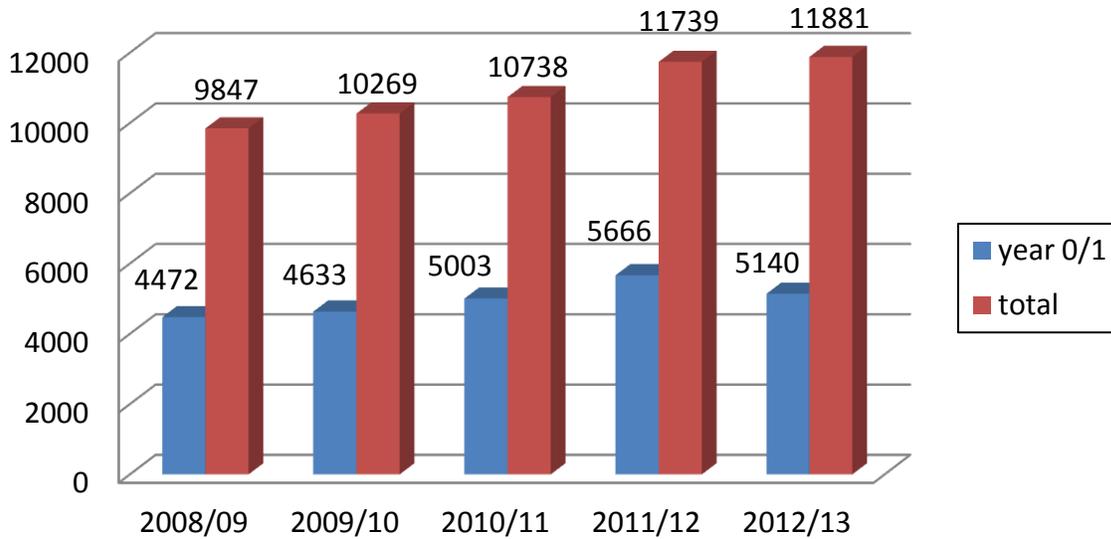


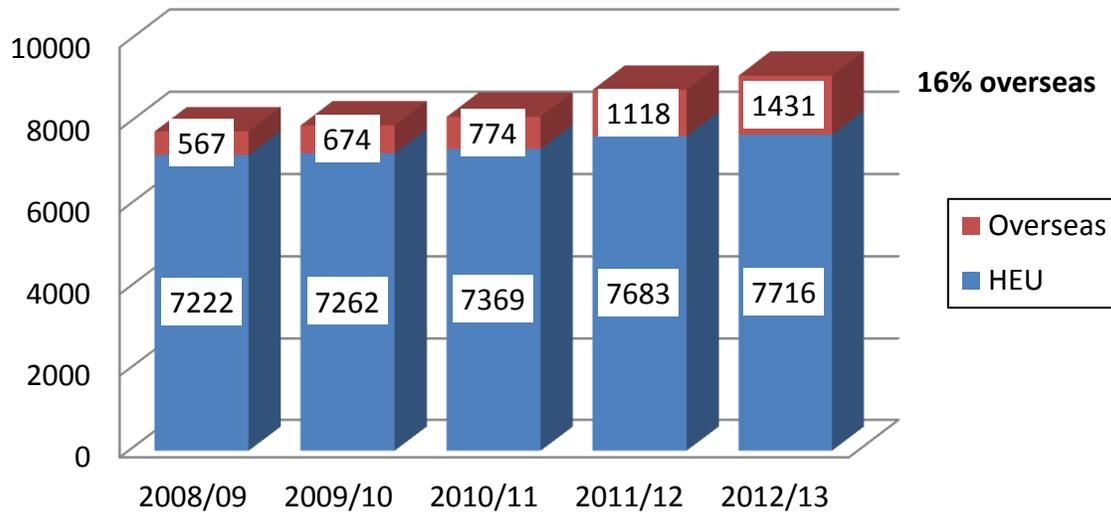
Figure 3: Academic Schools HEU & OS (all years FTE excluding BSMS)



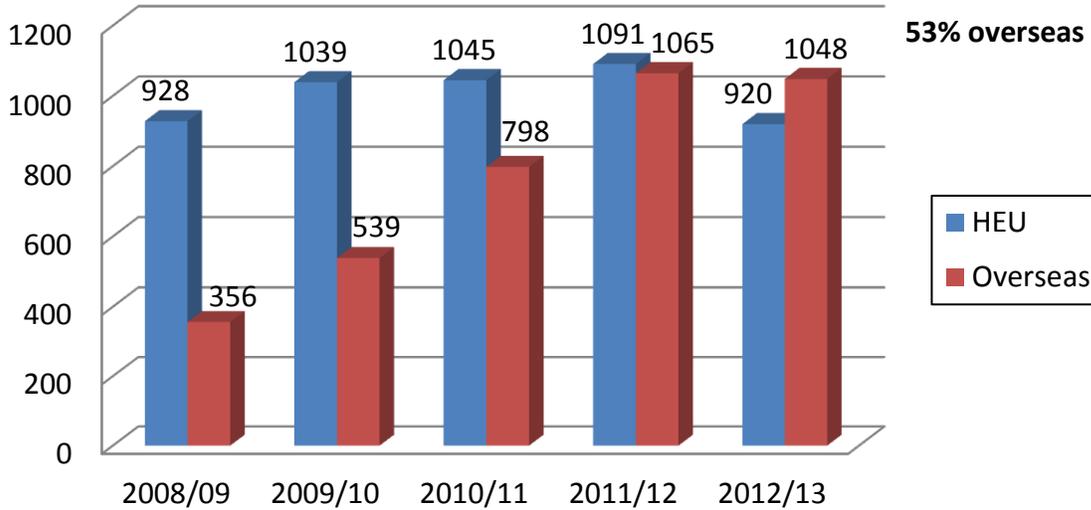
**Figure 4: Intake & total in Academic Schools
(FTE excluding BSMS)**



**Figure 5: Academic Schools UGs
(all years FTE excluding BSMS)**



**Figure 6: Academic Schools PGTs
(all years FTE excluding BSMS)**



**Figure 7: Students by subject area
(all years FTE excluding BSMS)**

