

Dementia research funding

BIS has announced a funding boost of an extra £100bn for the Medical Research Council's new Dementia Research Institute (due to open in 2020). Alzheimer's Research UK and the Alzheimer's society have pledged £50m each. You can view the announcement [here](#).

Sandwich courses

THE reports on the resurgence of the sandwich course, shown in HESA's latest statistics. The number of graduates choosing these courses, which involve time out in industry part-way through the degree was 153,535 in 2014/15, compared to 113,795 in 2009/10. [Why are sandwich courses seeing a resurgence? \(THE\)](#).

Nursing

The government has defended its plan to shift nurse training away from universities. Speaking at an opposition debate, Ben Gummer MP, the Health Minister, claimed that nurses trained using apprenticeships and nursing support roles will create a "more diverse, flexible and agilely trained workforce". [Nurses to train on wards \(Research Professional\)](#).

HE and devolved nations

A piece by Wonkhe analyses the different manifestos and has examined the implications of the election results for higher education. [Super Thursday and what it might mean for universities. \(Wonkhe\)](#).

HEFCE

HEFCE have announced the 2016-17 funding allocations, which divides up the funding announced in the government grant letter in March. The announcement includes an increase of £20 million for mainstream QR research, and a doubling in funding for disabled students support to respond to rising numbers of students reporting mental health difficulties. There is also a funding boost for some small and specialist institutions and a new targeted fund for collaborative outreach activity. [HEFCE to allocate £3.7 billion to 344 universities and colleges for 2016-17 \(HEFCE\)](#).

Postgraduate loans

BIS has issued interim advice for alternative providers seeking designation for courses eligible for the postgraduate master's student loan. The key criteria for designation includes: quality, academic performance, course eligibility and financial sustainability, management and governance. Full guidance will be published in July 2016. You can view the announcement and guidance [here](#).