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A changing landscape of financial support for part-time students and the benefits of part-time study

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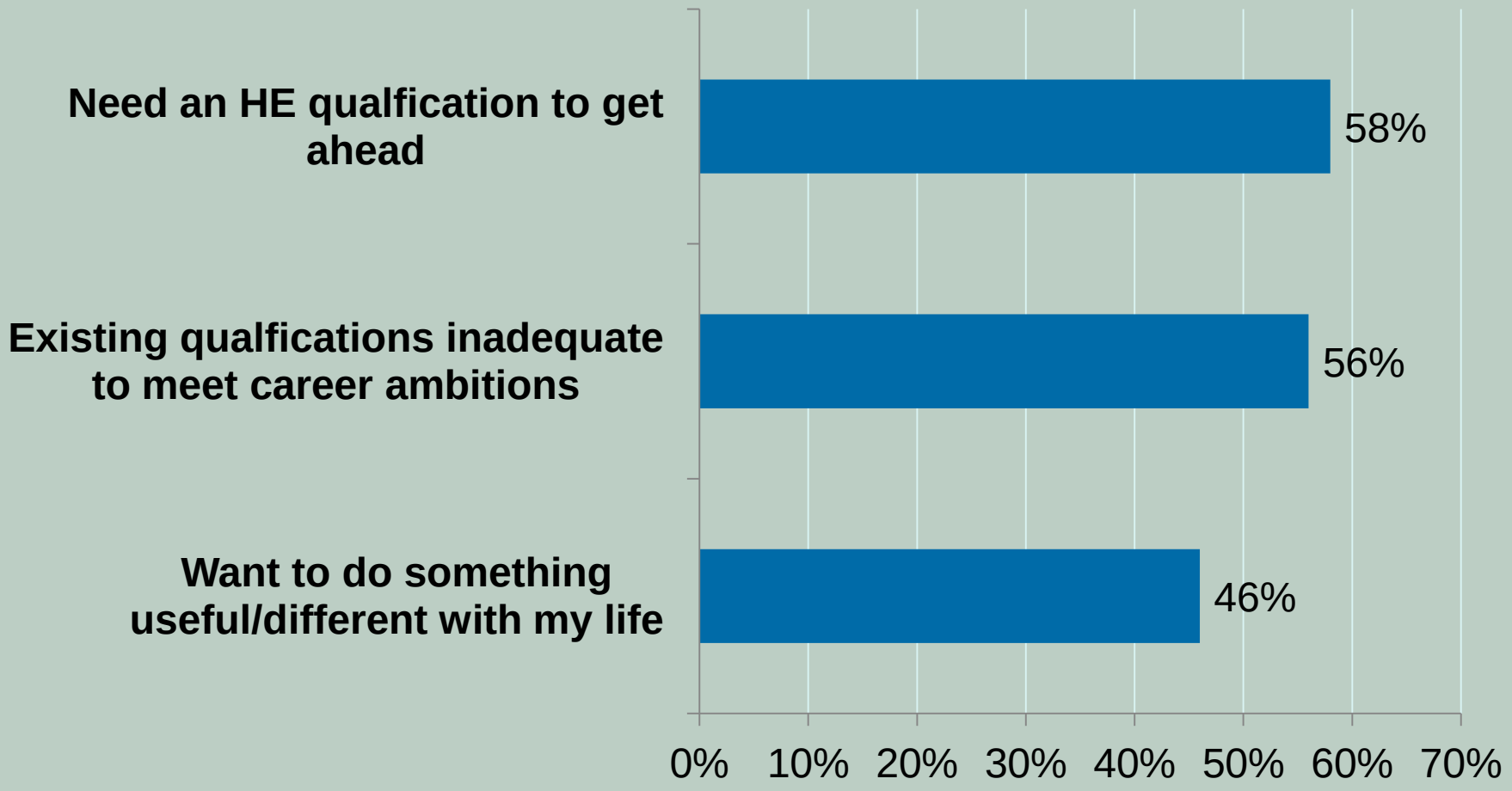
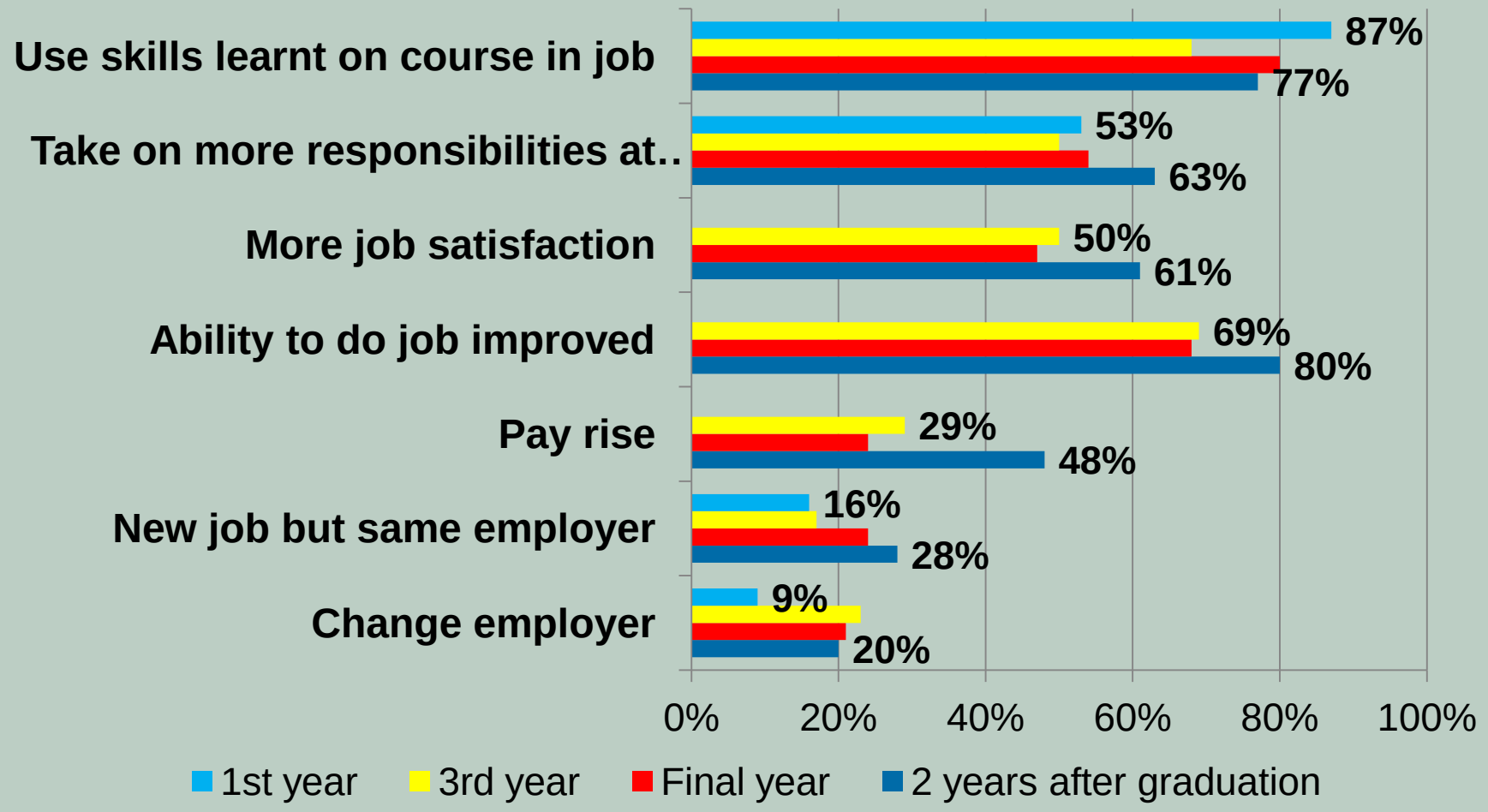
- Benefits of part-time study
- Changes in financial support
- Drawbacks of the reforms

Motivations for studying part-time



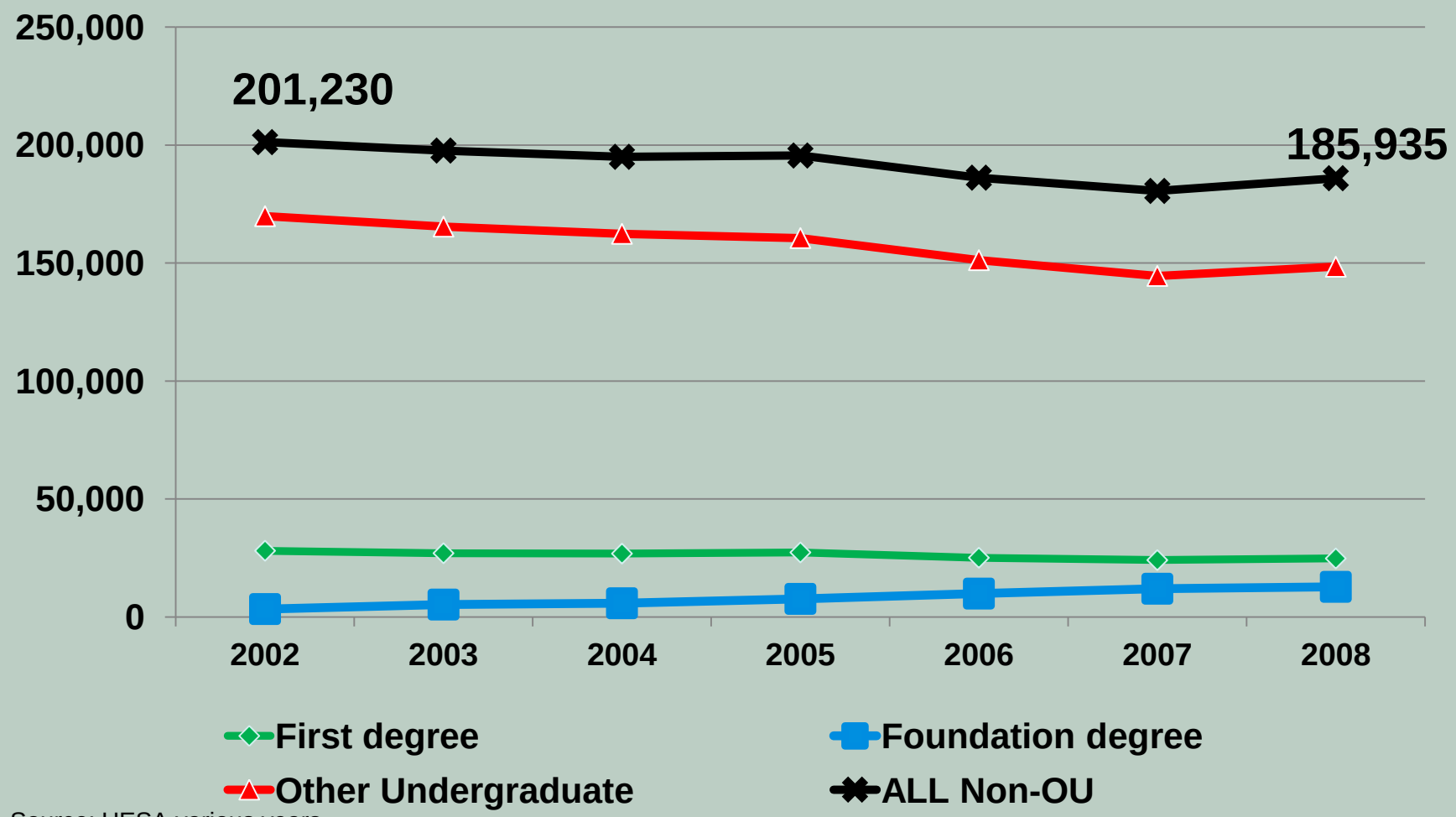
Source: Callender et al 2010 -Futuretrack

Benefits of part-time study



Source: Callender et al 2010 ;2012a; 2012b-Futuretrack

Trends in part-time non-OU enrolments 2002-2008, England



Source: HESA various years

Browne Report and part-time students

PRINCIPLE 06: Part time students should be treated the same as full time students for the costs of learning.

The current system requires part time students to pay upfront. This puts people off from studying part time and it stops innovation in courses that combine work and study. In our proposal the upfront costs for part time students will be eliminated, so that a wider range of people can access higher education in a way that is convenient for them. (*Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance* p. 5)

Changes in part-time student funding in 2012/13

David Willetts – Minister for Universities and Science

- **Government withdraw teaching grants**
- **Lost income replaced by higher tuition fees**
- **Government-set cap of £6,750 on part-time fees introduced for 1st time**
- **Part-time students qualify for loans for fees for 1st time – no longer have to pay fees up front**

  BUT
  - Only if student does not already have a level 4 qualification (i.e. bachelor's degree)
  - studying more that 25% of a full-time course
- **Fee and course grants abolished**

UK undergraduates by highest qualification on entry and qualification aim, 2009/10

	FIRST DEGREE		OTHER UNDERGRAD	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
Postgraduate	0%	5%	2%	11%
First degree + other HE & professional qualifications	8%	41%	19%	48%
'A' Level or equivalent	87%	47%	70%	32%
Other or no qualifications	5%	7%	9%	9%

Source: HESA 2009/10

2012/13 tuition fees for a part-time bachelor degree for a full-time equivalent course

	Full-time equivalent fee
Open University	£5,000
Teesside University	£6,480
Birkbeck College	£9,000
University of Central Lancashire	£3,000
London South Bank University	£8,450
University of Plymouth	£9,000
University of Hull	£9,000

Source: OFFA agreements http://www.offa.org.uk/access-agreements/ and each university web

Limitations of 2012/13 student funding

- **System favours FT HE at the expense of PT HE, and younger students at the expense of mature students**
- **System based on two erroneous assumptions:**
  - that employers pay for their employees' higher education, and
  - that those who are earning can afford higher education.
- **Student loans eligibility criteria too restrictive: Minority of students will qualify for loans - majority continue to pay fee up- front and out of their pocket**

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Any questions?

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