

Master's Degrees (Minimum Standards) Bill

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B I L L

TO

Prohibit universities awarding Master's degrees unless certain standards of study and assessment are met; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Minimum standards: report by QAA

- (1) On the day after the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must instruct the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education ("QAA") to publish a report no later than three months after the day on which this Act is passed setting out the measures necessary to establish a minimum standard of academic achievement for all Master's degrees awarded by institutions of higher education in England. 5
- (2) In this Act "institution of higher education" has the same meaning as in the Further and Higher Education Act 1992.

2 Duties of Secretary of State 10

- (1) The Secretary of State must lay regulations before both Houses of Parliament to establish minimum standards for Master's degrees not later than three months after the day on which the QAA publishes a report under section 1.
- (2) Regulations under this section are to be made by statutory instrument and may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament. 15
- (3) Regulations made under this section may amend, repeal, revoke or disapply any provision of an Act or of an instrument made under an Act (whenever passed or made).

3 Financial provisions 20

There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament –

- (a) *any expenditure incurred under or by virtue of this Act by the Secretary of State, and*
- (b) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums payable under any other Act out of money so provided.*

4 Short title, commencement and extent

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- (1) This Act may be cited as the Master's Degrees (Minimum Standards) Act 2011.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act extends to England and Wales only.

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To prohibit universities awarding Master's degrees unless certain standards of study and assessment are met; and for connected purposes.

*Ordered to be brought in by
Chris Leslie, Nic Dakin, Kerry McCarthy,
Helen Jones, Cathy Jamieson, Bob Russell,
Mr Mike Hancock, Philip Davies,
John Cryer and Mr Dennis Skinner.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 15 February 2011.*

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