

The Third Convention for Higher Education **The Higher Education and Research Bill:** *Organising to defend Higher Education – and defeat the Bill*



Saturday 15 October, 10am-5pm
University College London

Speakers include: Professor Alison Wolf (KCL), Professor Martin McQuillan (Kingston, CDBU), Malia Bouattia (NUS President), contributors to the *Alternative White Paper for HE*, UCU and others

The *Higher Education and Research Bill* is a plan to scrap university regulation and quality control, while increasing central government control. The Bill removes much existing strict regulation, quality control and inspection. It will allow private companies with little or no track record to call themselves Universities, charge £9k fees backed by loans, and award degrees. It will intensify a race to the bottom as companies are likely to cherry-pick profitable courses taught at existing universities, forcing many public universities to adopt a similar strategy. Student choice will reduce. As in the USA and Australia, students risk graduating with worthless degrees and a lifetime of debt.

Staff will also suffer. As universities compete for students, they will tend to replace research-active professors with teaching-only staff. London Met is already doing this: a third of lecturers face dismissal this year. The Bill will remove the QAA, HEFCE and Privy Council oversight, deleting state protection for academic freedom. Across the sector, we face the end of the University as we know it.

Hosted by University College London UCU, supported by the CPU and UCU.
For more information and to register go to <http://heconvention2.wordpress.com>