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Deciding for or against participation in higher education : the views of young people from lower social class backgrounds

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**Abstract**

The main concern of this paper is the decision making of young people from lower social class backgrounds about whether or not to participate in higher education. In the light of recent reforms of student funding and renewed efforts to widen participation in British higher education, an examination is made of the factors influencing the choices made by young people close to the time of making application for entry. Drawing on the findings of a research study undertaken in 2000 and conducted with recent and prospective undergraduate entrants, a contemporary perspective is offered on the issues facing different groups of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. By way of conclusion, consideration is given to the need for improved information sources to guide young people in their decisions. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)