

Diversity matters in universities. As in natural ecosystems, variation and interactions underpin innovation and resilience. As Robert J Sternberg says, “Without diversity, the intellectual life of a [university] campus is constricted. People may come to believe that their own point of view is the only sensible one, or even the only one.”<sup>1</sup> Different medical schools can produce graduates with different outlooks,<sup>2</sup> but creating effective diversity is difficult.

Widening participation, according to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), is a key priority for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), and

## Reference List

- (1) Sternberg RJ. College admissions for the 21st century. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press; 2010.
- (2) Saha S, Guiton G, Wimmers PF, Wilkerson L. Student body racial and ethnic composition and diversity-related outcomes in US medical schools. *JAMA* 2008; 300:1135-1145.
- (3) Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), Opportunity, choice and excellence