

# The Role of Higher Education

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# The Role of Higher Education

1. Robbins and Beyond
2. What Next?
3. Five Questions
4. Conclusions: the Roles of the University

# Changes to Higher Education

- Scale – ‘Massification’
- Diversity
- Expanded Mission
- Globalisation
- Economic Size

# Question 1

- ‘How can universities take on an expanded responsibility to produce systematic new knowledge without losing their duty to seek knowledge for its own sake?’

# Question 2

- ‘How can universities continue to be places for critical reflection while growing in scale and ambition?’

# Question 3

- ‘As universities have become bigger players they inevitably become more central to the political process. How can universities remain politically disinterested?’

# Question 4

- ‘Universities are now financially vast not-for-profits. . . . How can universities be grand economic actors and retain enlightenment values?’

# Question 5

- ‘Universities have traditionally been geographically concentrated. . . . How can universities learn to be multilocational actors?’



# Conclusion

- Four types of University:
  1. Elite universities with global attraction
  2. Globally networked universities
  3. Specialist institutions with international renown
  4. Mass institutions with limited research capacity