

# Alternative Access to Higher Education

Underprepared Students or Underprepared Institutions?



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## NEW BOOK ON HIGHER EDUCATION

In response to the access and equity imperative in South Africa, universities have introduced a variety of access programmes, the most common of which are the state-sponsored Foundation Programmes, the success of which has never fully been investigated to assess their efficacy and impact. Based on the empirical work of acknowledged experts in alternative access and Foundation provisioning in South Africa and using the University of KwaZulu-Natal as a case study, this book shifts the gaze, placing under scrutiny the allied question of institutional (under) preparedness.

Some of the main questions the authors address in the book:

- Is the policy framework underpinning the post-secondary sector sufficiently coherent to offer viable alternative access?
- Have universities transformed their curricula and institutional cultures to meet the demands of a rapidly changing student body?
- Has the increase in enrolments at universities resulted in a corresponding increase in graduations?
- Could the investment in Foundation support be better served by rethinking the funding model, the programmes themselves and the students they are meant to serve in relation to the mainstream, since the “mainstream” itself is changing?

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This book makes compelling reading, for higher education policy makers, academics, researchers, funders and for all committed to a responsive and responsible higher education system

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