

The bachelor thesis is a case study based on an analysis of the problems of higher education in Great Britain. In the first part, it deals with the genesis of the decision of British government to increase tuition fees of public universities. This took place in 2010 in the United Kingdom (apart from free Scottish schools). The second part analyzes arguments for and against the tuition fee increase. The period studied is from May to December 2010, meaning, between the general election which concluded in the creation of a surprising coalition of Liberal Democrats and Conservatives, and the tuition fees vote in the parliament. The differing views on university funding and on educational budget cuts between the two governmental parties caused disagreements in the coalition as well as within the parties. Liberal Democrats had to solve the dilemma whether to support the decision of promoting fee increase and following the recommendations of Browne's Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance, or to fulfill their pre-election promises, which were basically founded on the rejection of tuition fees. The proposal had some positive reactions from universities (Russell Group, UUK), raising arguments like the graduates' benefits from a degree, increase in competitiveness of British higher education institutions, and lower fees for the poorest students. On the other hand, the wider public especially students (united in unions, such as NUS, UCU) warned against life long debts for young people, commercialization of education, closure of some study programs or possible outflow of students.