

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:

Next steps for degree apprenticeships in England

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 29th April 2025

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Rt Hon Baroness Garden of Frognal
- 9.05 **Degree apprenticeship applications and admissions - key challenges and opportunities**
Philippa Alway, Senior Policy Adviser, UCAS
- 9.15 **The current landscape for degree apprenticeships in England, and priorities going forward**
Horia Teodorescu, Policy Officer, Universities UK
- 9.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.45 **Adapting to the new Growth and Skills Levy and changes in funding**
assessing implications of the new levy | strategies for adaptation | potential opportunities | effects on providers and employers of potential level 7 funding removal | addressing factors for potential university withdrawal | impact on public sector training | future commercial viability for HEIs
Petra Wilton, Director, Policy and External Affairs, Chartered Management Institute
Amina, Youth Ambassador, Youth Employment UK
Ashley Wheaton, Vice Chancellor, University College of Estate Management
Tom Richmond, Founder and Director, EDSK
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**
Rt Hon Baroness Garden of Frognal
- 10.40 Break
- 10.50 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.55 **Improving business-provider partnerships and course delivery**
learning from effective collaborations | strategies for successful courses and delivery | expansion into new subjects and emerging fields | meeting evolving skills needs | options for HEIs to expand their offer | regulation and accountability
Shivani Gug, Education Officer, Leeds University Union
Hollie Whittles, Information Security and HR Director, Purple Frog Systems
Tom Taylor, Head, Degrees at Work, Anglia Ruskin University
Senior representative, training provider
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Strategies for sustaining growth and accessibility in degree apprenticeships and meeting the needs of the labour market**
priorities for under-25s and underrepresented groups | improving participation | outreach initiatives and increasing awareness | retention and progression | role in upskilling and improving regional and local economies
Joy Elliott-Bowman, Director, Policy and Innovation, Independent Higher Education
James Crichton, Head, Talent Management and Interim Head, Future Talent, Royal Mail
Dr Martin Brock, Principal Lecturer, University of Portsmouth
Senior representative, social mobility
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Degree apprenticeships in England - next steps for policy**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum