

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:

Next steps for UK International research partnerships

Timing: Morning, Tuesday 17th March 2026

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Global collaboration in research - opportunities, challenges, and strategic priorities**
Jen Bardsley, Global Head, Science, British Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Expanding UK international research capabilities and aligning with Industrial Strategy**
aligning research priorities with Industrial Strategy | public-private partnerships and co-investment models | sector-specific capability building in key areas such as AI, net zero, life sciences, advanced manufacturing | technology translation and commercialisation pathways | scaling research infrastructure and pilot facilities | skills development and industry-ready doctoral and postdoc programmes | regional innovation clusters and levelling-up opportunities | supply chain resilience and strategic manufacturing partnerships | access to patient capital and mission-oriented finance | procurement-led innovation and demand-side incentives | standards, regulation and market interoperability
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, investment
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Building research capacity and skills for effective global partnerships**
Senior representative, university
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.45 Break
- 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 **Strengthening UK collaboration with the EU and wider international partners**
support for long-term, equitable, mutually beneficial and regionally rooted international partnerships | access to EU and international funding | regulatory alignment and ethics approvals | researcher mobility and talent pipelines | data sharing and research infrastructure interoperability | intellectual property and commercialisation frameworks | research security and risk management | science diplomacy and government-to-government mechanisms | measuring impact and value of international collaboration
James McLaughlin, Regional Director, UK Science and Technology Network, Europe
Senior representative, international university
Senior representative, university
- 11.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Strengthening global research networks through industry engagement**
Carol Fletcher, Head, Academic and Research Partnerships, BT
- 11.55 **Securing the UK's scientific workforce - attracting and retaining research talent**
international recruitment and visa frameworks | competitive research careers and salary benchmarking | PhD and postdoc pipelines | retention and career progression pathways | skills development and continuous professional development | diversity, inclusion and equality of opportunity | early-career support, mentoring and bridging roles | industry-academic mobility and secondments | international students and post-study pathways
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, research institution
Senior commentator
- 12.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.40 **Priorities for building science and innovation partnerships for UK global competitiveness**
Isabel Allgeyer, Deputy Director, Research Talent and European Programmes, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum