

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:

Next steps for UK International research partnerships

Timing: Morning, Tuesday 17th March 2026

Taking Place Online

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30	Registration
9.00	<u>Chair's opening remarks</u> Senior Parliamentarian
9.05	<u>Global collaboration in research - opportunities, challenges, and strategic priorities</u> Jen Bardsley, Global Head, Science, British Council Questions and comments from the floor
9.30	<u>Expanding UK international research capabilities and aligning with <i>Industrial Strategy</i></u> <i>aligning research priorities with <i>Industrial Strategy</i> 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</i> Senior representative, university Senior representative, industry Senior representative, legal Senior representative, investment Questions and comments from the floor
10.20	<u>Building research capacity and skills for effective global partnerships</u> Senior representative, university Questions and comments from the floor
10.40	<u>Chair's closing remarks</u> Senior Parliamentarian
10.45	Break
10.55	<u>Chair's opening remarks</u> Senior Parliamentarian
11.00	<u>Strengthening UK collaboration with the EU and wider international partners</u> <i>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</i> James McLaughlin, Regional Director, UK Science and Technology Network, Europe Senior representative, international university Senior representative, university Questions and comments from the floor
11.45	<u>Strengthening global research networks through industry engagement</u> Carol Fletcher, Head, Academic and Research Partnerships, BT
11.55	<u>Securing the UK's scientific workforce - attracting and retaining research talent</u> <i>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</i> Senior representative, university Senior representative, research institution Senior commentator Questions and comments from the floor
12.10	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
12.40	<u>Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks</u> Senior Parliamentarian Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum