

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:

Next steps for international students in the UK

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 18th September 2025

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 **International student recruitment in the UK - key challenges and emerging opportunities**
Haleema Masud, Policy Advisor, International Students, UCAS
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 **Recruitment and retention of international students - impact on UK universities and the wider education sector**
assessing current market trends | stakeholder responses to proposals in the Immigration White Paper regarding international students | potential impact of strengthened sponsor institution requirements on international recruitment | next steps for the UK's International Education Strategy | options for reforming and streamlining application processes | strategies to improve institution financial sustainability | the contribution of international students to UK HEI finances and alternative options | clarity on eligibility frameworks | assessing Erasmus+ participation and options for UK-EU youth mobility schemes moving forward | supporting strategic long-term planning | immigration frameworks | maintaining global institutional reputation and competitiveness | developing institutional compliance with enhanced visa requirements | addressing the design of action plans | potential implications of imposing limits on international student recruitment
Vincenzo Raimo, International Higher Education Consultant
Shara Pledger, Legal Director, Pinsent Masons
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, advocacy
Senior representative, FE
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.20 Break
- 10.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.35 **Priorities for maintaining UK HE competitiveness for international students - assessing and meeting expectations across the sector**
Anne Marie Graham, Chief Executive, UK Council for International Student Affairs
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.10 **Next steps for improving the international student experience**
current international student expectations | how the UK can meet expectations | creating welcoming and inclusive campus cultures | tackling harassment and isolation | strategies for improving cultural and academic partnerships | priorities for teaching, learning and support | developing cross-sector engagement and incorporating feedback to improve services | sharing and learning from international competitors and best practice
Lily Rumsey, Director, Global Engagement, Loughborough University
Student representative
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **International student careers and employability post-university**
implications of the graduate route length reduction | support and guidance post-graduation | impact of proposed changes to English language requirements | next steps for the skilled worker route and supporting students to find graduate skill-level employment | considering proposed changes to skilled visa threshold | reviewing post-study work thresholds | strategies to support future global engagement and research partnerships | improving professional development routes | options for sector-specific funding moving forward | priorities for improving provider and employer engagement in placement design and delivery
Tripti Maheshwari, Co-Founder and Director, Student Circus
Laxmi Limbani, Director, Fragomen
Senior representative, employer
Senior representative, university careers service
- 12.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **International student recruitment - priorities 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