Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:
Next steps for international students in higher education in the UK
Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 8th December 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 **The current landscape for international students and UK higher education**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 **International Student Levy, recruitment and provider sustainability**
preparations for implementation of the International Student Levy and implications for university finances, recruitment strategy and institutional sustainability | future role of international fee income in supporting university finances and investment priorities | responding to changing recruitment patterns, market conditions and international competition | student demand, affordability and choice across different markets | course and country mix, recruitment planning and forecasting | balancing responsible recruitment with institutional resilience
Tom Young, Partner, Veale Wasbrough Vizards
Zelin Shao, President, City & Guilds College Union
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, finance
Questions and comments from the floor

10.20 **Regulation, compliance and accountability**
implementation of the new student sponsor compliance framework | strengthened expectations around oversight | revised Basic Compliance Assessment thresholds, Red-Amber-Green ratings and intervention measures | responsibilities across universities, regulators and government in monitoring compliance, supporting improvement and managing risk | immigration policy, provider regulation and institutional autonomy
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, legal
Questions and comments from the floor

10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

10.55 Break

11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.10 **Assessing the international student experience in the UK**
Senior representative, sector body

11.20 **Improving the international student experience, support and outcomes**
supporting international students through student protection, continuity arrangements and fair treatment | wellbeing, mental health and academic support | participation, engagement and integration within institutions and local communities | employability, careers support and graduate outcomes | international student representation and voice | the OfS' proposed Condition C6: Treating Students Fairly and implications for fair treatment and student protection arrangements | continuity, complaints, information and support across the student journey | affordability, accommodation pressures and wider factors affecting student wellbeing, participation and success | Graduate Route reform and post-study work opportunities | pathways into employment, further study and research careers
Tara Foulsham, Partner, Shakespeare Martineau
Bartosz Rogala, President, Wellbeing and Community, University of St Andrews Students' Association
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, employer

11.40 Questions and comments from the floor

12.05 **International student exchange, research collaboration and global partnerships**
maintaining a competitive and high-quality UK offer for international students and research institutions | implementation of the UK's return to Erasmus+ from 2027 and participation in Horizon Europe | international research collaboration and academic partnerships | growth in transnational education and overseas partnerships - quality, reputation and student outcomes | Graduate Route reform, transition to employment and employer demand | contribution of international students to skills, regional economies, research, innovation and the UK's international standing
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, international higher education
Senior representative, research
Senior representative, local authority
Questions and comments from the floor

12.50 **Policy priorities for international students in higher education moving forward**
Oscar Tapp-Scotting, Deputy Director, International Evidence and Trade, Department for Education
Questions and comments from the floor

13.15 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum