

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:

Next steps for postgraduate research in the UK

Timing: Morning, Monday, 15th April 2024

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Professor Paul Manners, Director, National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement
- 9.05 **The New Deal for Postgraduate Research and the call for input - assessing sector responses and identifying key priorities**
Ewan Nicholas, Senior Policy Advisor, UKRI
- 9.15 **The structure of PGR funding**
increasing the stipend spend for PhD students | investment in doctoral training programmes | changes to the distribution of training grants | strategies for the commercialisation of research
Ceri Nursaw, Chief Executive, National Centre for Entrepreneurship in Education
Dr Nigel Eady, Director of Research Talent, King's College London
Dr Rebekah Smith McGloin, Director, Research Culture and Environment, Nottingham Trent University
Professor Lindsay O'Dell, Director, Graduate School, Open University
Dr Benjamin Miles, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Spin Up Science
- 9.40 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.00 **Improving student opportunity and engagement in PGR**
widening participation | enhancing research supervision and the student experience | assessing proposals for PhD flexibility and multi-disciplinary programmes | the potential of distanced and part-time courses to increase participation
Dr Karen Clegg, Director, Research Super-Vision Project, University of York
Dr Irit Opher, Vice President of Research, Verbit
Aimee Yeoman, Professional Doctorate in Education, York St John University
Professor Amaka Offiah, Faculty of Health Director for Wellbeing and EDI, Chair of Paediatric Musculoskeletal Imaging and Honorary Consultant Paediatric Radiologist, University of Sheffield
Nicholas Chukwudike Ankwue, Postgraduate Research Representation Assistant, Queen Mary Students' Union
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Professor Paul Manners, Director, National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement
- 10.55 Break
- 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Ewan Nicholas, Senior Policy Advisor, UKRI
- 11.10 **PGR in a wider context**
strengthening relationships between PGR departments and employers | rolling out the benefits of research to wider society | attracting international talent | maintaining the UK's global research standing
Professor Carena Lewis, Professor for the Public Understanding of Research, University of Lincoln
Professor Paul Manners, Director, National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement
Joanna Hurry, Disability and Employment Specialist, Joanna Hurry Consultancy
- 11.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 **Priorities for supporting students and research departments across the sector**
Professor Christopher Smith, Chief Executive, UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Transitioning to the workplace - increasing the accessibility of research careers**
Francesca Long, Head of Training and Talent Development, Faraday Institution
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Ewan Nicholas, Senior Policy Advisor, UKRI
Jessica Lear, Westminster Higher Education Forum