

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference

The graduate labour market post COVID-19: priorities for university careers services and the role of universities, employers and government in preparing students for employment

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 20th October 2020

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Bilimoria, Chancellor, University of Birmingham and President, CBI
- 9.05 **An overview of the graduate employment market**
Dr Charlie Ball, Head of Higher Education Intelligence, Jisc
- 9.15 **The impact of COVID-19 on university careers services**
Dr Bob Gilworth, Senior Lecturer in Careers Guidance, School of Education and Professional Development, University of Huddersfield
- 9.25 **The effect of the pandemic on graduate employers and their future offer to students**
Stephen Isherwood, Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Student Employers
- 9.35 **Priorities for careers services and employers - responding to changing demand, meeting student expectations, and the impact of postgraduate qualifications on employment prospects**
Dr Kate Daubney, Head of Careers and Employability, King's College London
Kwame Asamoah Kwarteng, General Secretary, University of Manchester Students' Union
James Darley, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Transform Society
Dr Erika Kispeter, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick
- 9.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 Break
- 10.30 **Ensuring university courses prepare students for employment after graduation - providing skills employers need, course structures, employment opportunities and student choices, and graduate outcomes (LEO) data**
Ellen Cocking, Assistant Director, Enhanced Employability and Careers Progression and Head of Careers and Employability Services, The Open University
Dr Andrew Gunn, Political Economist of Higher Education, University of Leeds
Naomi Oosman-Watts, Director of Data Insight, Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services and Head of Strategic Projects, Student Services, Newcastle University
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.10 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Bilimoria, Chancellor, University of Birmingham and President, CBI
- 11.10 Break
- 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**
Emma Hardy MP, Shadow Minister for FE and Universities
- 11.25 **Widening access - supporting the link between students and employers**
James Uffindell, CEO and Founder, Bright Network
- 11.35 **The role of employers and government in supporting students into employment - building strong employer links post-COVID-19, the impact of unpaid internships and widening access**
Dr Matt Dickson, Reader in Public Policy, Institute for Policy Research, University of Bath
Rob Fryer, Director of Student Life, University of Leicester
Andrew Bargery, Campus and Schools Engagement Leader, PwC
Augusta Chidinma Nnajifor, President, University of the West of England Students' Union
Questions and comments from the floor with James Uffindell, CEO and Founder, Bright Network
- 12.25 Break
- 12.30 **Improving graduate employment prospects - key policy priorities**
Senior speaker confirmed from the Department for Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Emma Hardy MP, Shadow Minister for FE and Universities
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum