

**Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:
Next steps for UK transnational education**

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 18th March 2026

*****Taking Place Online*****

Draft agenda subject to change



**WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM**

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **The current landscape for UK transnational education**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Priorities for developing the UK's TNE offer - evolving demand and delivery objectives**
TNE within the forthcoming International Education Strategy | co-ordination with trade, industrial strategy, and wider diplomatic objectives | market sizing | priority regions | diversification to manage regulatory and geopolitical risk | leveraging TNE to support host-country skills pipelines | research collaboration and partnerships | soft-power and reputational safeguards | ethical considerations, academic freedom and institutional autonomy | supporting universities' financial resilience and income diversification through TNE | implications of shifting aid and immigration approaches for long-term sector planning | market access and navigating restrictive regulatory environments | new partnership guidelines in countries such as Nigeria and India | the role of scorecards and decision metrics in guiding investment
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, partner institution
Senior representative, employer
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Tackling barriers to international TNE development - regulatory partnerships, ethics and capacity building**
Eduardo Ramos, Head, Higher Education Systems and Internationalisation, British Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **Building digital capacity for inclusive TNE provision**
Elizabeth Newall, Senior Sector Specialist, Digital Transformation, Jisc
- 11.15 **Developing workforce capacity to support digital TNE strategies**
staff training, CPD, and cross-jurisdiction teaching skills | staffing requirements for international delivery | workforce models - local hire vs UK mobility | managing capacity across domestic and overseas commitments | shared sector approaches | building expertise | addressing variation in digital competence among staff and students | supporting pedagogy and assessment | academic integrity | financial sustainability of operating models | working around gaps in host-country digital infrastructure | licensing restrictions affecting access to learning materials
Senior representative, edTech
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, sector body
- 11.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **Safeguarding the quality and credibility of UK qualifications in Transnational Education**
Shannon Stowers, Head, International Policy and Engagement, Quality Assurance Agency
- 11.50 **Quality assurance, global standards alignment, and transparency**
OfS risk-based oversight for TNE | European Standards and Guidelines and international QA alignment | pressures on British Council resources and its ability to support TNE activity | partner due-diligence and metric for consistent standards | graduate mobility and employability | co-ordination of oversight across UK regulators, host authorities, and international bodies | reliance on alternative diplomatic and regulatory channels | recognition for UK degrees delivered abroad | safeguarding consistent learning outcomes across jurisdictions | implications for graduate mobility and employability in priority regions | safeguarding student welfare in varied cultural and regulatory settings | managing risks associated with concentrated market exposure
Senior representative, sector body
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, international students
- 12.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Next steps for UK Transnational Education - policy priorities and delivery**
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