Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:
Next steps for AI in higher education
Timing: Morning, Thursday, 26th 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 **Current use of AI in higher education and considerations going forward**
Ciaran Donaghy, Lead Policy Officer, Devolved Nations, The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
Dr Rebecca Robinson, Data Analyst, Higher Education Insight, The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
Questions and comments from the floor

9.20 **Examining the impact of AI in teaching, learning and assessment in higher education**
next steps signalled in the AI Opportunities Action Plan | implications for regulation and oversight | challenges for adoption of AI pedagogy and curriculum design | ethical considerations | developing AI-driven content delivery | options and parameters for embedding AI in teaching and research | assessing opportunities for enhancing teaching through AI and digital tools | adaptive technologies and accessibility | inclusivity in AI-driven educational practices | AI in assessment, feedback, and student engagement | support for innovation alongside safeguarding quality, equity and transparency | maintaining academic integrity and autonomy | addressing plagiarism and other forms of misconduct | strategies for AI literacy and staff training | fairness and trust in outcomes
Dr Alison Purvis, Associate Dean Learning, Teaching, and Student Success, Sheffield Hallam University
Professor Ian Pickup, Pro Vice Chancellor, (Students), The Open University
Dr Charles Knight, Director, Educational Excellence and Student Success, Advance HE
Ishan Kolhatkar, Global Client Evangelist, Inspera

9.40 Questions and comments from the floor

10.05 **Integration of AI into administrative and institutional operations - efficiencies, workload reduction and ethical practice**
strategies for streamlining administrative functions through AI adoption | leveraging AI to enhance operational efficiency | role of AI in admissions and student services | addressing infrastructure challenges, procurement, and scalability of AI tools | alignment with carbon reduction targets | funding for infrastructure upgrades | governance and risk management for sustainable and scalable adoption | staff training and professional development | ensuring data security in AI administrative systems | impact on staff workload | reducing administrative burdens | financial implications of increased AI adoption
Professor Kate Borthwick, Professor, Digital Education, University of Southampton
Andrea Turley, Partner, KPMG
Senior representative, union
Questions and comments from the floor

10.35 **Priorities for AI regulation, governance and accountability**
Julian Sladdin, Partner, Pinsent Masons
Questions and comments from the floor

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

11.00 Break

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

11.15 **Supporting students to use AI effectively and responsibly**
Sarah Knight, Director, Digital Transformation in Higher Education, Jisc
Questions and comments from the floor

11.35 **AI applications in student learning, assessment, and research**
exploring current and emerging AI use cases for students | supporting equity in access to AI and digital tools across student groups | strategies for fostering responsible academic use of AI and preventing misconduct | improving detection of AI-generated content | effectively supporting student development through AI learning resource and support services | developing internal systems to optimise positive opportunities for AI use and tackle potential concerns
Dr Jonathan Eaton, Pro Vice Chancellor, Learning and Teaching, and Associate Professor, Educational Leadership, University of Cumbria
Sheeba Naaz, Vice President, Postgraduate, King's College London Student Union
Robin Gibson, Director, External Affairs, Kortext
Amatey Doku, Senior Consultant, Moorhouse Consulting
Questions and comments from the floor

12.10 **Developing AI skills, research capacity, and talent pipelines across HEIs**
role of HE in developing AI capability | aligning AI education and skills development with the Industrial Strategy and national priorities | developing partnerships with industry | preparing students for AI-driven sectors | provision of scholarships, fellowships, and apprenticeships to develop diverse AI talent pools | building AI capabilities across sectors | collaborative training programmes | strengthening employability and career pathways through AI curriculum integration
Dr Nisreen Ameen, Director, Digital Organisation and Society Research Centre; President, Immersive Digital Environments SIG, Association for Information Systems; and Ambassador for Research, Institute of Directors
Professor Claire Pike, Pro Vice Chancellor, Student Experience and Education, University of East Anglia
Senior representative, combined authority
Senior representative, employer
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