

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:

Next steps for AI in higher education in the UK

Timing: Morning, Friday, 11th December 2026

Taking place online



Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**

Senior Parliamentarian

9.05 **AI in higher education - emerging practice and considerations for quality and standards**

Ciaran Donaghy, Lead Policy Officer, Devolved Nations, The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

Rebecca Robinson, Data Analyst, Higher Education Insight, The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 **Next steps for AI use in teaching, learning and assessment - practice, integrity and the student experience**

pedagogical applications of AI, including feedback, tutoring, personalised learning and student support | accessibility, inclusion and equality of opportunity | implications for disabled and neurodivergent students | unequal access to AI tools and support | assessment redesign and evaluating AI capability | academic standards, qualification credibility and confidence in awards | academic integrity, acceptable use and disclosure | limitations of AI detection and proportionate, evidence-based approaches to preserving integrity | consistency of institutional policies and practice | student involvement in developing institutional approaches | implications for student engagement, attainment and retention

Senior representative, university

Senior representative, students

Senior representative, AI

Senior commentator

Questions and comments from the floor

10.15 **Developing institutional capability for AI across higher education**

Sarah Knight, Director, Digital Transformation in Higher Education, Jisc

10.25 **Approaches to institution-wide adoption, governance and capability**

from experimentation to institution-wide adoption | institutional AI strategies and implementation planning | governance, accountability and human oversight | regulatory options, guidance and the respective roles of regulators, sector bodies and institutions | supporting innovation and opportunity while mitigating risk | staff confidence, capability, readiness and professional development | implications for workload, professional autonomy and organisational capacity | financial pressures and access to expertise | procurement, assurance and accountability for AI systems | auditability, supplier oversight and technological dependency | data protection and safeguarding, and cybersecurity | challenge and redress in relation to AI-supported decisions and processes

Senior representative, university

Senior representative, workforce

Senior commentator

10.40 Questions and comments from the floor

11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**

Senior Parliamentarian

11.10 Break

11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**

Senior Parliamentarian

11.25 **Supporting responsible student use, AI literacy and graduate employability**

AI literacy in practice | responsible and effective student use | balancing AI capability with subject knowledge and independent judgement | graduate outcomes in an AI-enabled labour market, including changes in entry-level recruitment | employer expectations and future workforce requirements | applied learning, placements and industry engagement | TechFirst, TechLocal and related programmes | developing staff and student capability

Senior representative, employer

Senior representative, university

Senior representative, students

Senior representative, AI

Senior commentator

Questions and comments from the floor

12.15 **Developing AI research, innovation and capability**

priorities in UKRI's AI Research and Innovation Strategic Framework and AI for Science Strategy | AI-enabled research, productivity and research integrity | funding priorities and responsible AI-enabled research | data, compute and expertise, including access for institutions of different sizes and types | research data security and IP | collaboration with industry and public bodies | commercialisation, innovation and knowledge exchange | links with emerging AI Growth Zones and regional development | developing AI skills and talent pipelines | cost and sustainability, including infrastructure and energy requirements

Senior representative, university

Senior representative, research

Senior representative, combined authority

Senior representative, industry

Questions and comments from the floor

13.00 **Policy priorities for AI in higher education - emerging evidence and next steps**

Senior representative, policy

Questions and comments from the floor

13.25 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**

Senior Parliamentarian

Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum