

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:

Next steps for international students in the UK

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 18th September 2025

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Dr Danny Chambers MP, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson, Mental Health
- 9.05 **'Progression to undergraduate education in the UK for international students - emerging trends'**
Haleema Masud, Policy Advisor, International Students, UCAS
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 **Recruitment and retention of international students - impact on UK universities and the wider education sector**
assessing current market trends | stakeholder responses to proposals in the Immigration White Paper regarding international students | potential impact of strengthened sponsor institution requirements on international recruitment | next steps for the UK's International Education Strategy | options for reforming and streamlining application processes | strategies to improve institution financial sustainability | the impact of White Paper proposals on the FE sector | the contribution of international students to UK HEI finances and alternative options | clarity on eligibility frameworks | assessing Erasmus+ participation and options for UK-EU youth mobility schemes moving forward | supporting strategic long-term planning | immigration frameworks | maintaining global institutional reputation and competitiveness | developing institutional compliance with enhanced visa requirements | addressing the design of action plans | potential implications of imposing limits on international student recruitment
Vincenzo Raimo, International Higher Education Consultant
Shara Pledger, Legal Director, Pinsent Masons
Dr Caroline Baylon, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, International, University of Reading
Anna Zvagule, Head, Communications and External Affairs, NCUK
Emma Meredith, Director, Skills Policy and Global Engagement, Association of Colleges
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Chair's closing remarks**
Dr Danny Chambers MP, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson, Mental Health
- 10.20 Break
- 10.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.35 **Priorities for maintaining UK HE competitiveness for international students - assessing and meeting expectations across the sector**
Anne Marie Graham, Chief Executive, UK Council for International Student Affairs
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.10 **Next steps for improving the international student experience**
current international student expectations | how the UK can meet expectations | creating welcoming and inclusive campus cultures | tackling harassment and isolation | strategies for improving cultural and academic partnerships | priorities for teaching, learning and support | developing cross-sector engagement and incorporating feedback to improve services | sharing and learning from international competitors and best practice
Lily Rumsey, Director, Global Engagement, Loughborough University
Dr Tabetha Newman, Senior Research Consultant, Jisc; and CEO, Timmus
Sanam Arora, Chair, National Indian Students and Alumni Union
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **International student careers and employability post-university**
implications of the graduate route length reduction | support and guidance post-graduation | impact of proposed changes to English language requirements | next steps for the skilled worker route and supporting students to find graduate skill-level employment | considering proposed changes to skilled visa threshold | reviewing post-study work thresholds | strategies to support future global engagement and research partnerships | improving professional development routes | options for sector-specific funding moving forward | priorities for improving provider and employer engagement in placement design and delivery
Tripti Maheshwari, Co-Founder and Director, Student Circus
Laxmi Limbani, Director, Fragomen
Paul Grattrick, Head, Operations, Student Experience and Enhancement, University of Liverpool
Senior representative, employer
- 12.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **'International students and graduates: immigration policy challenges'**
Dr Madeleine Sumption, Deputy Chair, Migration Advisory Committee
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