

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:

Next steps for international student exchange

Timing: Morning, Friday, 25th September 2026

Taking place online

Draft agenda subject to change



**WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM**

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Dr Scott Arthur MP
- 9.05 **Implementing Erasmus+ in the UK - priorities for delivery, participation and partnership development**
Erika Boak, Erasmus+ HE Sector Lead, British Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Sector preparations for Erasmus+ implementation**
Iona Murdoch, Policy Advisor, Global Mobility, Universities UK International
- 9.40 **Key considerations for transitions from Turing - Erasmus+ programme design and preparation for delivery**
transition from Turing to Erasmus+ and implications for programme architecture | Erasmus+ requirements and flexibilities developed under Turing | provider readiness and operational planning across HE, FE and international partners | governance, funding and partnership continuity within UK association to Erasmus+ | balancing European exchange opportunities with wider global mobility partnerships | institutional delivery models, administrative systems and capacity requirements | ensuring long-term mobility, scale and sustainability of participation
Debbi Marais, Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor, International Education, University of Warwick
Nina Chorzelewski, Policy Manager, Association of Colleges
Mari Lauri, Erasmus Institutional Coordinator, University of Helsinki
Professor Rachel Brooks, Professor of Higher Education and Fellow, Linacre College, University of Oxford
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Dr Scott Arthur MP
- 10.35 Break
- 10.45 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Mohammed of Tinsley, Liberal Democrats Lords Spokesperson, Education
- 10.50 **Assessing the interaction between immigration policy and international education priorities**
Shara Pledger, Legal Director, Pinsent Masons
- 11.00 **Aligning exchange programmes with skills, workforce and economic priorities**
alignment with Industrial Strategy, Skills England priorities and sector workforce planning | integrating exchange programmes with employer-led skills needs | Horizon Europe research and innovation linkages | talent pipelines for students, researchers and graduates | international research partnerships | Graduate Route and immigration policy impacts on mobility flows | strengthening placements, apprenticeships and work-based learning pathways | assessing value for money and labour market outcomes
Vanessa Varvas, Vice-President, Engagement and Chief Marketing Officer, University of East London
William Fillias, Finance Director, Products and Business Strategy, GE Healthcare
Senior representative, research
Senior representative, local authority
- 11.20 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Widening access, addressing barriers to international exchange and measuring impact**
supporting engagement across diverse learner groups | addressing barriers for disadvantaged and underrepresented learners | affordability, funding and student support mechanisms | widening participation across education settings | flexible and short-term mobility opportunities | measuring participation, outcomes and impact | links between mobility and social mobility | role of institutions in expanding access | evaluating impact, value for money and lessons learned from Turing
Marcus Dowse, Head, Mobility, University of Reading
Jude Waites, Liaison Officer, Erasmus+ Re-association, Erasmus Student Network
Liz Green, Workforce and Practice Manager, YouthLink Scotland
Sylke Schnepf, Senior Policy Advisor, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
Lisa Humphries, Associate Principal, Students and Customers, Chichester College Group
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.35 **Policy priorities for international student exchange and Erasmus+ rollout**
Emma Shaw, Head, EU and Erasmus+, Department for Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Lord Mohammed of Tinsley, Liberal Democrats Lords Spokesperson, Education
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum