

**Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:  
Next steps for UK international research**

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

\*\*\*Taking place online\*\*\*



**WESTMINSTER  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
FORUM**

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Dr Conor Snowden**, Head, International Research Engagement, University of Edinburgh
- 9.05 **Assessing UK international research and innovation impact, areas for development, and key considerations for policy**  
**Frances Wood**, International Director, UK Research and Innovation  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Increasing the UK's international research capabilities and expanding key skills sectors**  
*priorities for policy and the new Government | shaping longer R&D funding cycles | stimulating private investment | improving industry partnerships | strategies for job creation | widening diversity and participation | supporting regional clusters | supporting the financial sustainability of HEIs | strategic business partnerships*  
**Professor Sandrine Heutz**, Head, Department of Materials, Imperial College London  
**Shane McHugh**, Interim Associate Director, International, Royal Academy of Engineering  
**Gary Way**, Head, EU and International R&T Programmes, Rolls-Royce  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.05 **'EU-UK cooperation in Research and Innovation under Horizon Europe - the view from Brussels'**  
**Carole Mancel-Blanchard**, Head of International Cooperation Unit - Europe and Americas, European Commission Department for Research and Innovation  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Dr Conor Snowden**, Head, International Research Engagement, University of Edinburgh
- 10.35 Break
- 10.45 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Jessica Lear**, Westminster Higher Education Forum
- 10.50 **Harnessing opportunities to strengthen collaboration with international partners**  
**Dajana Dzanovic**, Head of Global Research and Innovation Policy, Universities UK International (UUKi)
- 11.00 **Enhancing the UK's role in collaborating with the EU and forging wider international partnerships**  
*growing Horizon participation | demonstrating the UK's added value | supporting intra-European collaboration with third countries | helping shape Horizon 2028-2035 | identifying and developing new international partnerships | enhancing collaboration with the Global South | priorities for new partnerships | benchmarking and monitoring progress | assessing next steps*  
**Professor Michele Acuto**, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement, University of Bristol  
**Dr Jen Bardsley**, Global Head of Science, British Council  
**Alice Chadwick El-Ali**, Senior Research and Policy Officer, UK Collaborative on Development Research  
**Dr Angelo Martelli**, Assistant Professor and LSE-Bocconi Programme Director, London School of Economics and Political Science
- 11.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 **Strategies for attracting and retaining talent, and supporting the position of UK R&D in the wider international market**  
*promoting and incentivising international partnerships | making the UK a centre for research | improving researcher mobility | addressing barriers to access | strategies for retaining researcher expertise | harnessing established research clusters | alternative graduate visa policy options*  
**Dr Conor Snowden**, Head, International Research Engagement, University of Edinburgh  
**Dr Nathan Robertson**, Scientific Director, Biologics Discovery and Development, LifeArc  
**Mercedes White**, Head, UK Global Talent Network, Department for Business and Trade  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **'Priorities for international collaboration in Horizon Europe and beyond'**  
**Isabel Allgeyer**, Deputy Director, Research Talent and European Programmes, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**  
**Jessica Lear**, Westminster Higher Education Forum