



London Higher is the representative body for 50 universities and higher education institutions across the capital, collectively educating over half a million students, generating over £12bn in GDP and supporting over 223,000 jobs across all sectors of the UK economy.

London's higher education sector has much to be proud of:

- it is home to **two of the UK's four** "Global Top 10" universities;
- it has retained the title of "**Best Student City**" in the world for the fifth consecutive year; and
- it is a powerhouse of UK **research and development (R&D)**.



Our asks...

- **Provide a better, more joined-up vision for where higher education is headed**, so that higher education institutions (HEIs) know what to plan for long-term.
- **Recognise that higher education is a tried and tested route to support and develop future talent** – not just through knowledge acquisition, but a wider range of life skills and development.
- **Create more positive dialogue around London's world leading HEIs**, showcasing them proudly nationally and internationally, including in the press.
- **Let London's HEIs be the solution to the nation's biggest challenges** by harnessing their knowledge and skills in science, technology, creativity and research, ultimately leading to economic growth.
- **Maintain student choice in the system and recognise the value that different pathways provide.** This means allowing young people, and particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to have the choice of going to university, alongside other options such as vocational and technical education. As part of this, devolving control of government outreach funding to universities at a regional level would help to better address local educational outcomes gaps and deliver on local skills priorities.

1 London's higher education sector is providing opportunity and making London and the UK a better place

- 44% of Londoners on free school meals go on to higher education, compared to an average of 27% elsewhere in England
- All 12 of the top 12 universities for social mobility are located in London.
- Graduates in London earn a median salary of £42,500 compared to £34,500 for non-graduates

2 London's higher education sector is flying the flag for 'brand UK'

- International students in London contribute £9.59 billion in net economic impact per annual cohort
- Of those international students who choose to remain in the UK post-graduation (approximately 2%), 92% were employed in medium or high skilled occupations 15 months after completing their studies

3 London's higher education sector is powering UK innovation and growth

- London's higher education institutions are a hotbed of entrepreneurial activity, with a third of student startups in the UK founded at London universities.
- In 2020-21, the capital received £1.61bn in funding from UKRI

4 London's higher education sector is driving skills and jobs

HEALTH: London's higher education sector is a key source of talent for our NHS, with the UK's largest concentration of world-leading medical schools and higher education institutions providing courses in healthcare, all training high quality training doctors, midwives, nurses and other health professionals.

EDUCATION: Similarly, London's higher education institutions are educating the teachers of tomorrow and can help avoid the projected shortage of high-quality teachers if we incentivise more Londoners to go into the profession and accredit more universities and higher education institutions across the capital to deliver the initial teacher training needed to educate the next generation.

CREATIVE: The creative industries are a key sector of the London – and wider UK – economy and need continued empowerment to continue to thrive. The rise in artificial intelligence (AI) means that graduates with creative and critical thinking skills are in more demand from employers than ever. We should take care to nurture the creative talent base that London's higher education institutions provide and avoid policies that could damage these lucrative London industries and hold back economic growth.

GREEN: Green skills are key to the success of the UK's Net Zero ambition and the nation's growing green economy. London's HEIs are vital to sharing the knowledge necessary to meet new environmental targets and supporting businesses with talent as they retrofit estates, develop green spaces, reduce waste and energy usage, and develop a green conscience.