

## Higher Education policy – manifestos compared

<a href="#">Sky News manifesto checker</a>	<a href="#">Full Fact</a> are fact checking the manifestos	<a href="#">Politico have a tool</a> to compare Labour, the Lib Dems and the Conservatives	<a href="#">The IfS</a> are looking at the manifestos and they also did a <a href="#">briefing on HE funding</a>	<a href="#">HEPI comparison</a>
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	<a href="#">Conservative</a>	<a href="#">Labour</a>	<a href="#">Lib Dem</a>	<a href="#">Green</a>	<a href="#">Brexit</a>
<p><b>University fees and funding</b></p> <p>See nurses below in a separate line</p>	<p>Page 37: The Augar Review made thoughtful recommendations on tuition fee levels, the balance of funding between universities, further education and apprenticeships and adult learning, and we will consider them carefully.</p> <p>We will look at the interest rates on loan repayments with a view to reducing the burden of debt on students.</p>	<p>Abolition of university tuition fees (levels 4-6) and the reintroduction of maintenance grants for disadvantaged learners (p41)</p> <p>Develop a new funding formula for higher education that ensures all public HE institutions have adequate funding for teaching and research, widens access to higher education and ends the casualisation of staff (p41)</p>	<p>Establish a review of higher education finance in the next parliament (p37) to consider any necessary reforms in the light of the latest evidence of the impact of the existing financing system on access, participation and quality; ensure there are no more retrospective raising of rates or selling-off of loans to private companies.</p> <p>Reinstate maintenance grants for the poorest students (p37)</p>	<p>Fully fund every higher education student and scrap tuition fees.</p> <p>Write off existing debt for former students who studied under the £9k fee regime</p>	<p>Scrap interest on student loans, which will improve the debt recovery rate</p> <p>Abolish the target to push 50% of young people into Higher Education.</p>
<p><b>Apprenticeships</b></p>	<p>Page 33: look at how we can improve the working of the Apprenticeship Levy</p> <p>Require significant numbers of new UK apprentices for all big new infrastructure projects</p>	<p>Reform the apprenticeship levy so it is more flexible and easier for employers to spend it – allow a wider range of accredited training and allowing employers longer to spend it (p18).</p> <p>Introduce a Climate Apprenticeship programme (320,000 apprenticeships created 2020; 886,000 by 2030) funded by utilising 25% of the Apprenticeship Levy funds. (p18)</p>	<p>A major expansion of high quality apprenticeships (p18)</p> <p>Identify and seek to solve skills gaps such as the lack of advanced technicians by expanding higher vocational training like foundation degrees, Higher National Diplomas, Higher National Certificates and Higher Apprenticeships</p>	<p>Invest £2 billion a year in training and skills (including new apprenticeships) (p 19)</p>	<p>Scrap the cumbersome Apprentice Levy .. Improve tax incentives for employers to take on genuine apprentices.</p>
<p><b>Nurses</b></p>	<p>Page 10: students receiving a £5,000-£8,000 annual maintenance grant every year during their course to help with their cost of living – and they won't have to pay it back. Everyone will receive at least £5,000 with further funding in regions or disciplines that are struggling to recruit – such as mental health – and help with their childcare costs.</p>	<p>We will introduce a training bursary for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals. (p 35)</p>	<p>Target extra help for nursing students, starting with bursaries for specialties where shortages are most acute such as mental health and learning disability nursing, linked to clinical placements in areas that are particularly understaffed</p>	<p>A further £1 billion a year in nursing higher education, allowing for nursing bursaries to be reinstated (p 54)</p>	<p>Re-open the nursing and midwifery professions to recruitment without the degree requirement, alongside a new nursing qualification in social care.</p>
<p><b>Research investment</b></p>	<p>Page 40: We are committing to the fastest ever increase in domestic public R&amp;D spending, including in basic science research to meet our target of 2.4 per cent of GDP being spent on R&amp;D across the economy. <i>[existing policy]</i></p> <p>Some of this new spending will go to a new agency for high-risk, high-payoff research, at arm's length from government.</p> <p>We will use our increased R&amp;D funding from Government to attract and kickstart private investment.</p> <p>We will reform the science funding system to cut the time wasted by scientists filling in forms.</p> <p>We will unlock long-term capital in pension funds to invest in and commercialise our scientific discoveries, creating a vibrant science-based economy post-Brexit.</p>	<p>Target for 3% of GDP to be spent on research and development (R&amp;D) by 2030 (p17).</p> <p>Increase direct support for R&amp;D and reforming the innovation ecosystem to better 'crowd in' private investment (p17).</p> <p>We will fundamentally rethink the assessment of research and teaching quality (p 41)</p>	<p>(p18) Increase national spending on research and development to three per cent of GDP. We will publish a roadmap to achieve this ambition by the earliest date possible, via an interim target of 2.4 per cent of GDP by no later than 2027.</p> <p>Support innovation, with a goal of doubling innovation spending across the economy.</p> <p>Increase the Strength in Places Fund, to boost research and development outside the 'golden triangle' of Oxford-Cambridge-London.</p>	<p>Spending: p85: Research and development for industry: £6 billion</p> <p>Research and development for farming &amp; forestry: £1 billion</p> <p>Research into carbon capture technologies: £0.8 billion</p>	<p>We support investment in medical research and development and will stop the taxpayer being ripped off by pharmaceutical companies.</p>

	<a href="#">Conservative</a>	<a href="#">Labour</a>	<a href="#">Lib Dem</a>	<a href="#">Green</a>	<a href="#">Brexit</a>
<b>Specific priorities for R&amp;D</b>	<p>Page 40: We will focus our efforts on areas where the UK can generate a commanding lead in the industries of the future – life sciences, clean energy, space, design, computing, robotics and artificial intelligence.</p> <p>In particular, we will make the UK the leading global hub for life sciences after Brexit.</p> <p>We will use our £1 billion Ayrton Fund to develop affordable and accessible clean energy that will improve lives and help us to lead the world in tackling climate change.</p> <p>Page 12: Dementia: .. doubling research funding into dementia and speeding up trials for new treatments.</p>	<p>Fund R&amp;D into newer technologies like hydrogen and carbon capture and storage. (p17)</p> <p>We will establish a Foundation Industries Sector Council to provide a clean and long-term future for our existing heavy industries like steel and glass (p 17)</p>	<p>Double innovation spending across the economy, increase the Strength in Places Fund and creating more ‘Catapult’ innovation and technology centres (p18). Emphasise sectors which are critical to the UK’s ability to trade internationally. Back private investment in zero-carbon and environmental innovation.</p> <p>Require that a fair proportion of all public funding for health research should be focused on research into mental ill-health, including research into the different mental health needs of different communities within the UK such as BAME and LGBT+ people. (p 55)</p>	<p>invest in research for clean technology (page 18)</p> <p>invest in research and development into alternatives to plastic (p 19)</p> <p>Establish a Food and Agriculture Research Council to research sustainable and health-promoting methods of food production and distribution.</p> <p>We will also support research into the reduction of methane emissions from livestock and the conservation and development of high quality soils</p> <p>Enable medical scientists to conduct research on psychoactive drugs to develop new treatments for mental and physical illnesses (p67)</p> <p>We will fund research into a sensitive test to enable cattle vaccination [for TB]</p>	N/A
<b>Mobility including Erasmus</b>	<p>Page 20: The small number of the best technology and science graduates from the top universities in the world and those who win top scientific prizes will be offered fast-track entry to the UK –these people can do more than any others to drive scientific progress and help our NHS and our economy.</p> <p>Page 22: Our student visa will help universities attract talented young people and allow those students to stay on to apply for work here after they graduate. <i>[post-graduate work visa policy announced by Johnson government earlier in 2019]</i></p>	<p>We will scrap the 2014 Immigration Act introduced by the Tories with their Liberal Democrat coalition partners</p> <p>If we remain in the EU, freedom of movement would continue. If we leave, it will be subject to negotiations, but we recognise the social and economic benefits that free movement has brought both in terms of EU citizens here and UK citizens abroad – and we will seek to protect those rights. (p 71)</p> <p>We will end the uncertainty created by the EU Settlement Scheme by granting EU nationals the automatic right to continue living and working in the UK (p 91)</p>	<p>Introduce a new two-year visa for students to work after graduation (p18)</p> <p>Reform immigration rules – including enabling industry bodies to sponsor work visas</p>	<p>Nothing specific but general commitment:</p> <p>Bring forward a new humane immigration system with no minimum income rules for visas, full workplace rights for migrants</p>	<p>Reduce annual immigration and address wage stagnation and the skills gap by introducing a fair points system that is blind to ethnic origin.</p>
<b>Participation in EU programmes linked to research</b>	<p>Page 40:</p> <p>We will continue to collaborate internationally and with the EU on scientific research, including Horizon.</p>	<p>Continued participation in EU agencies and funding programmes, including scientific research and culture (p90).</p>	<p>Reverse the damage to universities posed by Brexit and related uncertainty by stopping Brexit and keeping the UK at the heart of the EU.</p>	<p>A UK that remains in the EU, to transform it for the better</p>	<p>Maintain subsidies and grants paid by the EU to UK businesses such as farmers, fisheries, universities and research bodies: this is our money anyway, recycled by the EU.</p>

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<b>Community and civic engagement</b>	We will work with local universities to do more for the education, health and prosperity of their local areas.		Set an ambitious National Industrial Strategy to transform the economy and develop Local Industrial Strategies within it that incentivise clustering by businesses and universities with particular specialisations. (p 17)	N/A	N/A
<b>Teaching quality and related</b>	Page 37: We also will continue to explore ways to tackle the problem of grade inflation and low quality courses, ..and improve the application and offer system for undergraduate students. ...continue to focus on raising standards.	Transform the Office for Students from a market regulator to a body of the National Education Service (p41). Introduce post-qualification admissions in higher education (p.41) We will fundamentally rethink the assessment of research and teaching quality (p 41)	Raise standards in universities by strengthening the Office for Students, to make sure all students receive a high-quality education	University will be fully accessible, with courses being offered as learning experiences, not as pre-work training. Education will be for education's sake (p 57)	N/A
<b>Free speech and academic freedom</b>	We will also strengthen academic freedom and free speech in universities and ..	N/A	A general set of commitments on page 93 but nothing about HE	Establishing a distinct legal entity for political foundations which conduct policy research and political education	Require Universities to incorporate an obligation to protect legal free speech.
<b>Access and social mobility</b>	Our approach will be underpinned by a commitment to fairness, quality of learning and teaching, and access.	new funding formula for higher education that:... Widens access to higher education and reverses the decline of part-time learning (p 41} We will ...work with universities to ensure contextual admissions are used across the system. (p 41)}	Ensure that all universities work to widen participation by disadvantaged and underrepresented groups across the sector, prioritising their work with students in schools and colleges, and require every university to be transparent about selection criteria.	N/A	N/A
<b>Wellbeing</b>	Not specifically mentioned for students. General commitment (page 11): We will treat mental health with the same urgency as physical health. We will legislate so that patients suffering from mental health conditions, including anxiety or depression, have greater control over their treatment and receive the dignity and respect they deserve.	Not specifically mentioned but general commitments on pp33/34 A Labour government will provide an additional £1.6 billion a year to ensure new standards for mental health are enshrined in the NHS constitution ensuring access to treatments is on a par with that for physical health conditions.	Introduce a Student Mental Health Charter (through legislation) (p37) and require universities to make services accessible to their students Ensure that all frontline public service professionals, including in schools and universities, receive better training in mental health, and add a requirement for mental health first aiders in the Health and Safety First Aid Regulations. End period poverty by removing VAT on sanitary products and providing them for free in schools, hospitals, hostels, shelters, libraries, leisure centres, stadiums, GP surgeries, food banks, colleges and universities.	A general commitment: Focus funding to enable major improvements to mental health care to truly put it on an equal footing with physical health care ensure that everyone who needs it can access evidence-based mental health therapies within 28 days. We will ensure that tailored and specific provision is readily available for the particular needs of Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer and Asexual (LGBTIQ+) and Black Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, children and adolescents, and older people.	