

# University Alliance Priorities

## For General Election 2017

### Key recommendations for higher education and research



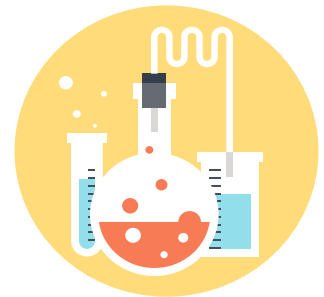
#### Support excellent technical and professional education at all levels

In line with the objectives of a UK-wide industrial strategy, universities play a crucial role in providing people with the academic, technical and professional skills they need to succeed in a changing modern economy. They do this alongside, and in collaboration with, schools, further education institutions and industry. The next government should recognise and support the role that universities play in providing learners from a wide range of backgrounds with advanced technical and vocational skills throughout their working lives.



#### Make Britain the number one destination for international students and staff

The government should ensure the UK is an attractive destination for bright minds from Europe and the rest of the world. International students and staff boost everyday spending in university towns up and down the country, enrich the academic environment, and create long-term links with export markets across the globe. Immigration policy that has the effect of limiting the UK's international competitiveness will only benefit other countries and harm the UK economy.



#### Fund excellence in research and innovation across the whole of the UK

The government should develop a 'balanced portfolio' approach to funding excellence in research and innovation, capturing a broad scope and spread of activities – from big science through to small-scale interactions between universities and local businesses, driving job creation and productivity across the whole of the UK. The government can further secure Britain's future as a high tech, high growth economy by committing to a long-term R&D spending target of 3-5% of GDP.

### In numbers – how Alliance universities are making the difference



Our graduates are the professional workforce of the future – we educate more than **25%** of all undergraduates undertaking STEM courses



We excel at research with impact in the real world – we operate more than **250** research units carrying out world-class research



We design our degrees with business to make sure they are relevant – **37%** of courses are accredited by employers and industry



We are the reason businesses succeed in our cities and regions – we maintain links with almost **17,000** businesses, including **11,000** SMEs