

2019 General Election: Our Tests

Throughout the general election, we will be analysing political party positions on three priority areas where our members are working with industry partners and other sectors to drive innovation and change, including public sector workforce training, technical skills provision and creative education.

These are the areas University Alliance will be campaigning on in the year ahead. Over the coming weeks and months we look forward to stacking our own detailed asks and lived experiences of our members alongside the priorities of political parties and a new government to identify bold and evidence-based policy solutions. We stand ready to work in partnership with departments across the next government to help deliver solutions to the UK's biggest challenges.

Alliance universities have been at the forefront of recent innovations in higher education, including accelerated degrees and degree apprenticeships. They are reshaping what university is, and how it is delivered, working across disciplines and bridging gaps between STEM and creative subjects.

Alliance Universities...

Work with employers to deliver practical skills-based learning and innovative applied research to solve the problems of the future and train the workforce of tomorrow.

Are leaders in professional education, providing practical learning pathways giving students the mix of broad-based knowledge and specific occupational skills needed for the modern economy.

Are trailblazers in higher technical education, working closely with businesses to develop courses and research that aligns with industry needs.

Training the Public Sector Workforce

The public sector workforce is our country's backbone, but it has been *decimated* by years of financial cuts and poor planning. Front-line professions, including nursing and teaching, are facing an *unprecedented recruitment crisis*.



Will political parties pledge to combat the public sector workforce crisis by providing support and investment for training and development and meaningful incentives for those entering public service professions?

Investing in Technical Skills

The global economy is evolving rapidly, but *gaps in skills* have left the UK lagging behind the curve in a number of areas, including *engineering, ICT and the creative industries*.



Will political parties commit to making post-18 education more accessible and flexible to allow people to learn and upskill throughout their lives and ensure the UK keeps up with the global pace of innovation post Brexit?

Broadening the Definition of Value

The value of *creative arts and humanities subjects is under attack*- creative subjects in schools are being squeezed. Graduate earnings have become a proxy for course value, willfully ignoring the range of motives for pursuing higher education and the *wider benefits universities deliver* for students, employers, society and the economy.



Will political parties commit to defining value beyond salary based metrics and creating diverse talent pipelines to a range of industries at all levels of education?