

Summit 2020

*Building on our strengths and serving our  
communities through crisis and beyond.*



University  
Alliance

2nd - 3rd June

# University Alliance Summit

2-3 June 2020

Joining instructions

# Summit 2020

Building on our strengths and serving our communities through crisis and beyond.



2nd - 3rd June

## A message from the CEO

**We are delighted to welcome you to this year's Summit event.**

Whilst we are disappointed we will not be able to gather in person this year, and especially at Kingston University's new Town House Building, we are so pleased that we can still come together online.

Since joining the organisation last spring, I have been immensely proud to have been working alongside our Vice-Chancellors, with our networks and across our membership to build a strong voice for the Alliance. With Brexit, a General Election, several ministerial reshuffles and now a global pandemic, we have been navigating a rocky political and now economic environment that has been challenging for individuals and institutions alike. That said, through the disruption and adversity I believe we have found real strength in our collectivism and the true value in working together as an Alliance.



Our mission has always been driven by the students, communities and industries we serve, and as we have seen over recent weeks, this role has never been more important. The challenges are far from over, but as we look to the future we believe Alliance universities have a vital role to play in supporting an economic, social and cultural recovery from this crisis.

We hope that our free virtual event affords our colleagues across the Alliance a chance to come together and hear from a range of external speakers and discuss how, as professional and technical universities, we are learning, responding and adapting to the challenges posed by the pandemic, and how we can continue our ambitions to serve our communities throughout and beyond the crisis.

I look forward to joining you all online, for what looks set to be an exciting event.

Vanessa Wilson, CEO



## Event running order

There are a range of live-streamed talks and interactive workshops to attend over the two days. All sessions are optional and attendees are encouraged to 'drop-in' to the sessions of interest. Workshops will need registering for. More information on the sessions and how to register is available on page [5](#).

Colour code:

Keynote or open session
Workshop
Social activity
Closed session

| Tuesday 2 June 2020   |  |
|---|--|
| 11:00-14:00   | <b>Members meeting</b><br>Closed meeting for Vice-Chancellors  |
| 14:30-15:00   | <b>Opening plenary with messages from University Alliance CEO Vanessa Wilson and the Westminster Universities Minister Michelle Donelan</b><br>Pre-recorded opening plenary for all guests, with welcome from the Universities Minister and University Alliance, available on the website to view. |
| 15:00-16:00   | <b>Key note 'In conversation with' Lord O'Donnell</b><br>Live-streamed discussion with the UK's previous Cabinet secretary and head of the civil service, on how Alliance universities can navigate the economic and political uncertainty ahead   |
| 17:00-18:00   | <b>UA Quiz</b><br>Join us for a virtual social activity...the big UA quiz  |
| Wednesday 3 June 2020   |  |
| 09:00-10:15   | <b>NOUS</b><br>Facilitated session for Vice Chancellors and designated senior leaders "Prospering after a 'black swan event' – a strategic session on how to make the most of the current situation"   |
| 10:30-11:30   | <b>Key note 'in conversation with' Emma Hardy MP, Shadow Universities Minister</b><br>Live-streamed 'in conversation' with about how Alliance universities can support an economic/social/cultural recovery post COVID-19  |
| 12:00-13:15   | <b>Wellcome</b><br>Workshop on facilitating a positive and inclusive researcher culture and wellbeing  |
| <b>Lunch break- please use this time to stretch your legs and step away from the screen. Or join us in the 'virtual coffee room' to chat with other delegates</b> |  |
| 14:00-15:00   | <b>Public First</b><br>Workshop on 'Making the case for Alliance members' in today's political environment   |
| 15:30-16:30   | <b>Student Minds</b><br>Workshop on supporting student mental health and wellbeing   |
| 17:00-17:15   | <b>Closing plenary</b><br>Live-streamed closing plenary, with concluding remarks and the results of the Alliance Awards  |

## How to join the event

This virtual event will be taking place online using Zoom. For each of the sessions, we have created a dedicated Zoom meeting link, which can be found within the [programme](#) or via the [Summit website](#). You will need to access each session individually.

- ➔ For the 'live-stream' keynote sessions, you can just click on the link within the [programme](#), or on the [website](#) to access the zoom webinar.
- ➔ For workshops, we ask that you register your interest in advance, using the links within the [programme](#), as some sessions may have a limit on attendees. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with the link to access the session. The workshops will each have an individual password, captured alongside the session below, or you will be sent the password when your registration is confirmed.

### Using zoom:

- Click the zoom link provided within the programme or the confirmation email, or copy the link into your browser.
- If you do not have Zoom installed, select 'click here' at the bottom of the web browser screen. It will prompt you to open Zoom. We'd recommend using Google Chrome as your chosen browser to avoid technical issues.
- You will then be placed into the 'waiting room' until the session. To ensure a prompt start, we would be grateful if you could join us 5 minutes before. The UA team will be on hand to help latecomers or those with connection problems to orientate themselves.
- There is a short [video](#) on YouTube outlining these instructions
- If you do have any questions about the technology, please email [summit@unialliance.ac.uk](mailto:summit@unialliance.ac.uk) or click [here](#) to visit the virtual coffee room to chat with a UA team member.

### During the sessions:

- During keynote sessions, only the camera of hosts and speakers will be enabled. There is a Q&A function if you would like to ask a question, or you can email questions for speakers in advance to [summit@unialliance.ac.uk](mailto:summit@unialliance.ac.uk). In addition, the UA Team will help facilitate by monitoring the chat, Q&A and feedback options.
- On entry to workshops, you will be muted and remain so until the interactive element but your camera will be enabled, which you can turn off at any time.
- For workshops, there will be a combination of 'broadcast/presentation' and interactive discussion. For some sessions we will break you out into smaller groups using the 'breakout' function. This will happen automatically, meaning your video call will switch to another 'room' with a small number of participants. At the end of this session the host of the sessions will click a button and you will be 'pulled' back into the main room.

**TIP: Remember to stay hydrated, stretch regularly, and give your eyes a break by looking at a distant object or closing them occasionally.**

## Communicating throughout the event

We may not be together in person, but we'd like to keep in touch throughout the event!

- ✚ Please contact [Summit@unialliance.ac.uk](mailto:Summit@unialliance.ac.uk) throughout the event for help or to ask questions.
- ✚ Whilst the sessions will mostly be delivered in Zoom, we have created a '[virtual coffee room](#)' on Microsoft Teams which will remain open throughout the event so participants can both access support from the UA team and engage with each other and share resources and information. Click [here](#) to join the virtual coffee room team.
- ✚ We have set up a dedicated [website page](#) where you can access all the information and content throughout the event.

## Join in with the conversation



If you would like to post about the event on social media, don't forget to include our Twitter handle [@UniAlliance](https://twitter.com/UniAlliance) and the hashtag [#UASummit2020](https://twitter.com/UniAlliance)



Don't forget to send us your questions for the speakers, email [Summit@unialliance.ac.uk](mailto:Summit@unialliance.ac.uk) with 'Question for Lord O'Donnell' or 'Question for Emma Hardy'



We will be using [Padlet](#) to capture your feedback throughout the event, and enable real-time discussion. [Please use this link](#) to engage with other participants throughout the event.

## Doctoral Training Alliance 'Images of Research 2020'

We've challenged all [Doctoral Training Alliance](#) (DTA) PhD students to submit an image with a short blurb that represents their current research project or topic area for our annual 'Images of Research' competition.

All entries will be displayed at this year's Summit and again at the Summer Schools, where prizes will be awarded for a people's choice, judge's winner and runner up.

To view this year's entries visit our [website](#)

## University Alliance Virtual Awards

A new feature for this year's Summit is the University Alliance Virtual Awards. We'll be announcing the winners of 7 award categories, based around the UA principles of working, which recognise those individuals and teams that have demonstrated the behaviors and values that as a collective we believe are most important.

The judging panel will comprise of representatives from each UA member. The winners will receive an award in recognition of the work, values and the behaviors they have displayed.

For more information on the 7 Award Categories, visit our Awards [webpage](#).

# Programme

Attendees will have the opportunity to access a range of content over the two days via a combination of live-streamed or pre-recorded keynote discussions and interactive workshop sessions led by external speakers. Any questions, please contact [Summit@unialliance.ac.uk](mailto:Summit@unialliance.ac.uk).

Colour code:

Keynote or open session Workshop Social activity Closed session

## Tuesday 2 June 2020

**11:00-14:00** Members meeting

Closed meeting for Vice-Chancellors

**14:30-15:00** Opening plenary with messages from University Alliance CEO Vanessa Wilson and Westminster Universities Minister Michelle Donelan MP

Join University Alliance CEO Vanessa Wilson for a pre-recorded welcome speech, and a chance to look-back on the work of University Alliance over 2019-20.

The event will also be opened with a pre-recorded message for delegates from the Westminster Universities Minister, Michelle Donelan MP.

Please take the time to watch and hear from both the Universities Minister and University Alliance CEO Vanessa Wilson ahead of the event start.

The videos will be available to view on the Summit [website page](#), on Tuesday.



**15:00-16:00** Keynote 'In conversation with' Lord O'Donnell  
Hosted by University of Hertfordshire VC Professor Quintin McKellar.

Lord O'Donnell worked at the heart of the UK government during the 2008 recession and has since advised international governments and the World Bank on economic policy. But it's Lord O'Donnell's lessons on wellbeing and happiness movements, having established the What Works Centre on Wellbeing, that we could learn the most from as we look to navigate a period of significant economic uncertainty post COVID-19. During this session, participants will have the chance to hear from Lord O'Donnell on his advice for the years ahead, and why we should be centering people and communities in strategic change, policy and decision making in times of crisis.



Please send any questions that you may have for Lord O'Donnell to [Summit@unialliance.ac.uk](mailto:Summit@unialliance.ac.uk)

Join here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TmlTkMONQ-eERcklj4Bw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TmlTkMONQ-eERcklj4Bw)



**17:00-18:00**
**Big UA Quiz**

We will be wrapping up the first day of this year's virtual summit by inviting all those who wish to attend to join us as we host the first ever Big UA Quiz!

Rounds will vary from pictures to fun facts about our members! Please grab yourselves a refreshment and play along with us as we test your knowledge on your industry!

**Join here:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwoceipqzkrH9QAKOyp0XEdCLLQUjFnTKFr>

**Password: 996250**

**Wednesday 3 June 2020**
**09:00-10:15**
**Nous workshop on navigating strategic change**

Professor Iain Martin, Vice-Chancellor and President, Deakin University  
 Simon Lancaster, Principle, Nous and Sophie O'Connor, Principle, Nous

In this session for Vice-Chancellors and designated senior university leaders, we will be thinking about how bold strategic thinking now can pave the way for tomorrow's success. We'll push you to think beyond the 2020/21 academic cycle, to reconsider the assumptions that underpin our universities' models and consider what the five and ten-year horizons might look like.

Chaired by Simon Lancaster, Nous' UK team leader, the session will include expert speakers Professor Iain Martin (Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University and former Vice-Chancellor of Anglia Ruskin) and Sophie O'Connor, Nous Principal and international higher education specialist.

**This session is for Vice-Chancellors and designated senior university leaders. Due to the nature of the session, space is unfortunately limited. Please contact [Summit@unialliance.ac.uk](mailto:Summit@unialliance.ac.uk) with your name, job title and email address to register for this session.**


**10:30-11.30**
**Keynote 'In conversation with' Emma Hardy MP**

Hosted by University of Greenwich VC Professor Jane Harrington.

Regional and anchor institutions will have a vital role to play if we are to mitigate the long term social and economic impacts of this crisis. Join the Shadow Universities Minister, Emma Hardy, for a discussion on how Alliance universities can support a social, cultural and economic recovery, and what changes may be needed to realise these ambitions.

Please send any questions that you may have for Emma Hardy to [Summit@unialliance.ac.uk](mailto:Summit@unialliance.ac.uk)

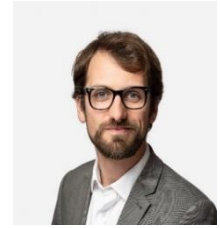
**Join here:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_uMYjT1PPR2CiFAbiHgn\\_Ug](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uMYjT1PPR2CiFAbiHgn_Ug)



**12:00-13:15 Wellcome workshop on researcher culture**  
Ben Bleasdale, Senior Policy Advisor

Join to hear the latest from Wellcome's Reimagine Research initiative, which seeks to promote a more creative, inclusive and honest research culture. Part of the session will include a chance for you to reflect on the initiative's findings, and feed you own ideas for change back to Wellcome via their virtual Café Culture kits. In advance of the session, [check out the kit here](#).



**Register here:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqcemqrzkqG92Vnb2Ea-bODriQkcW247I-> **Password: 362550**

**14:00-15:00 Public First workshop on political influencing**  
Jonathan Simons, Director of Education

Coronavirus has significantly impacted the nation and the political agenda, but what has this period of crisis meant for the government's longer term policy agenda and how should universities be responding? Using insight from a University Alliance commissioned poll, Jonathan Simons of Public First will explore how we can use the perceptions of the public to position ourselves effectively as a group of universities within the current political environment.



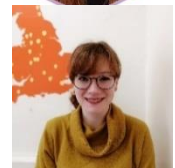
**Register here:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkcuv6vqz0oG9RuN7Q\\_-HCANwzgfllJ3Y0w](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkcuv6vqz0oG9RuN7Q_-HCANwzgfllJ3Y0w) **Password: 016120**

**15:30-16:30 Student Minds workshop on student mental health and wellbeing**  
Leigh Spanner, Sector Improvement Lead and Rosie Tressler, CEO

During this session participants will hear from Student Minds on their research into the impact of the pandemic on student and staff mental health, and have a chance to discuss how members can support the mental health and wellbeing of their communities in a Covid19 context.



**Register here:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAuce-sqDqvEt3w89pdJQUsPYdtQ-NcFG8r> **Password: 432227**

**17:00-17:30 Closing plenary and University Alliance Awards Show**  
Professor Debra Humphris, University Alliance Chair

Join us online for our final session of the Summit, where University Alliance chair Professor Debra Humphris will close the conference and announce the winners of the University Alliance Awards.



**Join online:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_CFye3xWSQK6uqhrvAH91A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CFye3xWSQK6uqhrvAH91A)





## Speakers:

### **Vanessa Wilson**

#### **Chief Executive Officer, University Alliance**

Vanessa joined University Alliance in March 2019 from UK Sport, where she had been Director of Commercial Communications. During her 7 years at UK Sport, Vanessa worked on four Olympic and Paralympic Games including the Games hosted in London. Concurrently between 2014-2018 she was an external trustee and Deputy Chair at the University of Lincoln Students' Union, bringing her to the heart of the issues facing Higher Education. She has also held senior communications and marketing roles in the Department for Education and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural affairs.



### **Lord O'Donnell**

#### **Chairman, Frontier Economics**

Lord Gus O'Donnell was Cabinet Secretary and Head of the British Civil Service from 2005-2011 and in 2010, he oversaw the introduction of the first coalition government since the Second World War. He oversaw the introduction by the Office of National Statistics of the UK's national wellbeing data. After retiring as Cabinet Secretary he has worked intensively on wellbeing issues, helping to establish the What works centre on wellbeing and writing on how to use wellbeing as a guide to policy. This includes ch.6 of the World Happiness Report, 2013, and chairing the report on Wellbeing and Policy. Most recently, as Co- chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Wellbeing, he has overseen a report on what a Spending Review based on Wellbeing would look like.



He was Permanent Secretary of the Treasury from 2002-2005 and served on the IMF and World Bank Boards. Gus is currently Chairman of Frontier Economics, Strategic Advisor to TD Bank, Executive Director and Strategic Advisor to Brookfield Asset Management, Chair of PwC's Public Interest Body (PIB), President of the Council of the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) and Chair of the Board of Trustees for Pro Bono Economics. He is also a Visiting Professor at LSE and UCL, a member of the Economist Trust, and Chair of the Behavioural Insights Team Advisory Board at the Cabinet Office. He studied Economics at Warwick University and Nuffield College, Oxford, then lectured at Glasgow University. Knighted in 2005, Gus was appointed to the House of Lords in 2012, sitting as a crossbencher. Gus is an Honorary Fellow of the British Academy and Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.



**Professor Quintin McKellar CBE**  
**Vice-Chancellor, University of Hertfordshire**

Professor McKellar has been the Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University of Hertfordshire since 2011. He is chair of the Hatfield Renewal Project Board. In 2015 he was elected as a Board member of Universities UK (UUK) and in April 2020 was appointed as UUK Vice-President (England and Northern Ireland). He also chairs the UUK Innovation and Growth Policy Network. He was chair of the University Vocational Awards Council until 2019 and has been a member of the government's Apprenticeship Stakeholder Board since 2016. He was Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Pirbright institute between 2015 and 2019 and since 2018 he has been a Non-Executive Director of the Centre for Innovation Excellence in Livestock.



Professor McKellar was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2011 for services to science. He was a distinguished researcher with interests in the pharmacology of anti-infective and anti-inflammatory drugs in domestic animals.

He graduated from Glasgow University Veterinary School in 1981 and went on to gain a PhD in Veterinary Parasitology in 1984. In August 1997 Professor McKellar took up the post of Scientific Director of the Moredun Research Institute and Chief Executive of the Moredun Foundation. In 2004, he was appointed Principal of The Royal Veterinary College of the University of London.

**Sophie O'Connor**  
**Principal, Nous**

Sophie is a higher education and transformation expert with experience leading large strategy and implementation projects. Client's value Sophie's ability to quickly understand complex operating environments and work with stakeholders to draw insights together and quantify new opportunities. She has worked extensively in higher education across Australia and in Canada.

**Simon Lancaster**  
**Principal, Nous**

Simon leads Nous Group's London office. He is an experienced project director who provides consulting services to high profile public and private sector organisations, with particular expertise in strategy development, strategic and business planning, stakeholder consultation, strategy implementation, organisational design and public policy. Simon is a highly skilled facilitator, with a proven track record of leading significant (and sometimes sensitive) meetings and workshops with senior participants, in diverse formats, and ensuring effective outcomes are delivered.



**Professor Iain Martin**  
**Vice-Chancellor and President, Deakin University**

Professor Iain Martin is Vice-Chancellor and President of Deakin University in Australia.

He came to Deakin from the position of Vice-Chancellor of Anglia Ruskin University in the United Kingdom. Prior to that, he was Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic at the University of New South Wales in Australia. Professor Martin spent a number of years at the University of Auckland in New Zealand with positions including Professor of Surgery, Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Health Science, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor with responsibility for external and strategic partnerships.



Professor Martin grew up in the United Kingdom and attended the University of Leeds where he completed his medical degree, doctorate and Master of Education. After graduation he trained as a surgeon specialising in gastrointestinal and laparoscopic surgery, whilst holding clinical academic appointments.

**Emma Hardy MP**  
**MP for Hessle and West Hull and Shadow Universities Minister**

Emma Hardy was born and brought up in the East Riding – a few miles from the seat of Hessle and West Hull that she now represents in Parliament. Before becoming an MP, Emma was a primary school teacher for over ten years.

She left teaching in 2015 to become a full-time organiser for the National Union of Teachers, and served as Deputy General Secretary of the Socialist Educational Association before being elected to Parliament. Following her election in 2017, and subsequent re-election in 2019, Emma has risen in the Labour Party to become Shadow Minister for Further Education and Universities in 2020. Teaching and education are at the forefront of Emma's agenda and she is constantly fighting to ensure all of our young people receive the educational provision and support they need.



**Professor Jane Harrington CMgr CCMi  
Vice-Chancellor, University of Greenwich**

Professor Jane Harrington joined the University of Greenwich as Vice-Chancellor in December 2019. She has worked in Higher Education for over 27 years and her specific interests include teaching excellence, the student experience, widening access into higher education and social mobility and improving partnership working across the business, community and university sectors.

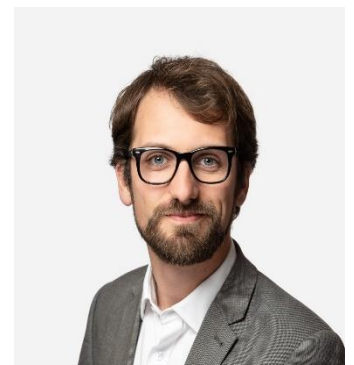
Before joining Greenwich, Jane was Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost at the University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE, Bristol) for five years and previously worked in senior roles within the university's Faculty of Business and Law, including holding the role of PVC and Executive Dean.

Jane began her career as a Research Associate and became a full-time lecturer in 1990, completing her PhD in 2000. Jane is proud of the fact that she was the first member of her family to go into Higher Education and recognises how education transformed her life which she strives to achieve for all students.

Jane has held numerous external roles including chair of Cabot Learning Federation (a large multi academy trust), a director of 91 Ways, a member of Bristol Women's Commission, a member of the South West CBI, chair of the South West Chartered Management Institute, vice chair of CABS. Jane is passionate about education and about the power of partnerships to transform young people's lives and to provide skills into the regional economy. Jane in her spare time enjoys her charity work with 91 ways and remains a member of Cabot Learning Foundation. Out of work Jane enjoys yoga, travelling and walking as well as an avid fiction reader

**Ben Bleasdale  
Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer, Wellcome**

Ben is a Senior Policy and Advocacy Adviser at Wellcome. His role involves monitoring and influencing the factors which support good science – from Government investment, to research culture. He has previously held roles at the Academy of Medical Sciences and the Medical Research Council, after completing a PhD in virology at Imperial College London.



**Jonathan Simons,  
Director of Education, Public First**

Jonathan Simons is the Director of Education and head of the education practice at the consultancy Public First, which works with some of the biggest organisations in English education to help them shape their message and improve policy.

Jonathan has spent the past fifteen years working in and with government on education issues— including eight years in government including a spell in the No10 Strategy Unit; as the Head of Education for the think tank Policy Exchange; and working in international education for the global charity Varkey Foundation. In these roles, he has written extensively on all elements of the English education system and is a frequent media commentator and columnist. Jonathan is a Member of Astrea Multi Academy Trust, a Trustee of Education Development Trust and of the Anthem Multi Academy Trust, and is the co-founder of Greenwich Free School.

**Leigh Spanner  
Sector Improvement Lead, Student Minds**

Leigh is Sector Improvement Lead at Student Minds, the UK's student mental health charity. Leigh works in partnership with students, staff and organisations across the sector to deliver programmes which aim to enhance approaches to university mental health. She currently leads on Student Minds' two major sector enhancement programmes: the University Mental Health Charter and the Students' Union Support Programme.

**Rosie Tressler OBE  
CEO, Student Minds**

Rosie is the CEO of Student Minds, the UK's student mental health charity. Student Minds develops innovative approaches to support healthy university communities, collaborates on research, and empowers students, university professionals and connected communities to create change. Rosie has been working on the issue of student wellbeing for several years. She became Student Minds' Chief Executive Officer in 2015, and prior to this worked in a range of student facing organisations in roles involving campaigning, volunteer management, fundraising, and programme development.



Over the last few years, Rosie has overseen the development of the University Mental Health Charter, a government-backed, research-led initiative which will reward universities taking preventative, whole-institution approaches to mental health. She has been undertaking a Churchill Fellowship to explore preventative approaches to student mental health and was awarded an OBE in 2019 for services to Mental Health in Higher Education. Outside of work, Rosie is a trustee for the Mental Health Foundation and enjoys being inspired by a feminist book, play or film. Find Rosie on twitter: @rosietressler.

