

University Alliance is a mission group representing professional and technical universities across the UK. Our members will be critical to delivering a post-pandemic economic, social, and cultural recovery for the nation.

As a crucial Comprehensive Spending Review approaches, we have considered how best we can support the government's priorities and ambitions in three key areas.

To unlock this contribution, government should work in partnership with a diverse range of universities to:

Level up across the UK



Ensure regulation is proportionate and risk-based and does not hinder the bold ambitions set out in the Lifelong Loan Entitlement to expand access to short courses and modules.

Avoid limiting progression routes to higher education and employment by ensuring students can choose from a range of technical and vocational qualifications at Level 3.



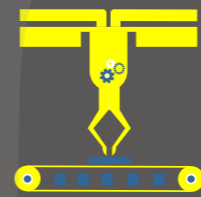
Improve student and employer awareness of degree apprenticeships and continue to make them more flexible.



Build on the impact of combining EU Structural Funds with research and innovation funding on regional economic development and underpin the UK Shared Prosperity Fund with a national framework that balances allocation of funding to skills development, business support and research & innovation.

Include universities as a delivery partner in the Levelling-Up agenda and consultation for the forthcoming White Paper.

Unleash innovation and deliver the plan for growth



Secure the involvement of a diverse range of universities in developing the UK R&D Place Strategy and ensure these views are translated into the Levelling-Up White Paper.



Reward excellence in all its forms and maintain the funding ramp for 3 and 4* activity in the QR settlement post-REF2021

Conduct a review of the Higher Education Business & Community survey and its relationship to the Knowledge Exchange Framework, and scale-up the Higher Education Innovation Fund as a proven way to stimulate regional university-business partnerships and economic growth.



Provide stability on Horizon Europe funding and clarity on how these costs relate to a longer-term strategy for increasing domestic public R&D spending and achieving the 2.4% target.

Ensure strong and innovative public services



Remove barriers and improve incentives for more schools to offer increased placement opportunities for trainee teachers.

Support the role of university/school partnerships in driving change within the Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) agenda and enable the sharing of services across education groups to be formally recognised in governance arrangements.



Work in partnership with universities to increase capacity on nursing and allied health courses to meet future NHS workforce needs. This could be achieved by boosting clinical placement tariffs; enhancing the use of simulation and virtual/augmented reality; and expanding placements beyond the NHS.