








Party Manifesto Commitments on Higher Education

			
Fees and funding		Act to create a 'secure future' for HE	Establish a review of HE finance
Research	Raise public R&D spending to £22bn a year (from £20bn); maintain R&D tax reliefs; invest in compute clusters; continue with Advanced Manufacturing Plan; distribute £1.5bn through Catapults	Scrap short funding cycles for key R&D institutions, replace with 10-year budgets; work with universities to support spinouts	Continue to participate in Horizon Europe; join the European Innovation Council; aim for 3% of GDP invested in R&D by 2030, 3.5% by 2034;
International			Return to Erasmus Plus (CH9); take international student flows out of migration statistics
Maintenance support			Reinstate maintenance grants for disadvantaged students
Non-traditional routes into HE	Create 100,000 apprenticeships by 2029	Develop a post-16 skills strategy including on the role of providers, moving between institutions, and regulation; establish Skills England	Create £5,000 Lifelong Skills Grants for adults to spend on education and training
Other	Scrap 130,000 'low-quality' degrees	Act to improve access to HE	Statutory duty of care for higher education institutions; ensure universities 'work to wide participation'; require universities to be transparent about selection criteria

				
Fees and funding	Scrap interest on student loans; extend loan repayment periods to 45 years	Scrap undergraduate tuition fees. In the long-term, cancel all graduate debt.	Defend free university tuition in Scotland.	Aim to make university free for all; work with universities to support financial viability
Research		Increase investment in R&D by £30bn in next Parliament.	Prioritise research and investment in AI.	Increase investment in R&D. Devolve R&D funding.
International	Close back door immigration route by shutting low-quality courses	Give visa-holding residents right to vote. Allow students to bring dependents.	Agree a post-Brexit youth mobility scheme with the EU.	Supporting retaining the graduate route visa
Maintenance support		Restore maintenance grants and 'fully fund' every student.		
Non-traditional routes into HE				Support 'flexible pathways' into HE; create a Lifelong Learning Allowance
Other	Restrict undergraduate numbers 'well below current levels'; enforce minimum entry standards; cut funding to universities that undermine free speech; require the provision of 2-year graduate courses	Tackle challenges posed by changes to employer contributions for Teachers' Pension Scheme.	Extend the right to vote to international students.	Work to increase the number of students in HE;