



## 2025 HEPI Annual Conference

***Before, During, After: The route through higher education in changing times***

**Thursday 12 June 2025  
One Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AA  
9.30am – 3.15pm**

**Agenda (subject to change)**

9.30am	Registration and coffee
10.00am	Welcome and introduction by Professor Dame Sally Mapstone
10.10am	<b>Opening Keynote</b>  <b>Vivienne Stern MBE, Chief Executive, Universities UK</b> <i>'Out of Eeyore's Gloomy Place (rather boggy and sad)'</i>  Chair: Nick Hillman, Director, HEPI
10.30am	Questions / discussion
10.40am	<b>Dr Jo Saxton CBE, Chief Executive, UCAS</b> <i>The outlook for HE admissions in 2025</i>  Chair: Nick Hillman, Director, HEPI
10.55am	Questions / discussion
11.05am	<b><i>Before: The applicant experience</i></b>  <b>Speakers:</b>

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**UNITE  
STUDENTS**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jenny Shaw</b>, HE Engagement Director, Unite Students</li> <li>• <b>Professor Nic Beech</b>, Member of the Curriculum and Assessment Review Panel and Vice-Chancellor of University of Salford</li> <li>• <b>Catherine Sezen</b>, Director of Education Policy, Association of Colleges</li> </ul> <p>Chair: Josh Freeman, Policy Manager, HEPI</p>
11.25am	Questions / discussion
11.35am	Break / networking
11.55am	<b>The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith of Malvern, Minister for Skills</b> <i>Video message</i>
12.05pm	<p><b><i>During: The student experience</i></b></p> <p>Launch of the findings from the 2025 HEPI / Advance HE <i>Student Academic Experience Survey</i> (Jonathan Neves, Rose Stephenson and Josh Freeman)</p> <p><b>Panel discussion on the student experience:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jonathan Neves</b>, Head of Research &amp; Surveys, Advance HE</li> <li>• <b>Lewis Wilson</b>, Education and Employability Officer, University of Sussex Students' Union</li> <li>• <b>Cheryl Watson</b>, VP Education UK, TechnologyOne</li> <li>• <b>Professor Nishan Canagarajah</b>, Vice-Chancellor, University of Leicester</li> </ul> <p>Chair: Rose Stephenson, Director of Policy and Advocacy, HEPI</p>
12.40pm	Questions / discussion
1pm	Lunch
2pm	<b>Introduction from James Gray, Chief Executive, Kortext</b>
2.10pm	<p><b><i>After: The graduate experience</i></b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tessa Griffiths</b>, joint CEO, Skills England</li> <li>• <b>Professor Dame Nicola Dandridge</b>, Professor of Higher Education Policy, University of Bristol and author of <i>The Benefits of Hindsight</i></li> <li>• <b>Professor Aleks Subic</b>, Vice-Chancellor, Aston University</li> </ul> <p>Chair: Mary Curnock Cook CBE, HEPI Trustee</p>
2.30pm	Questions / discussion
2.40pm	Nick Hillman 'In Conversation' with <b>Susan Lapworth</b> , Chief Executive, Office for Students
3pm	Questions / discussion
3.10pm	Final thoughts from Nick Hillman, HEPI Director
3.15pm	Conference closes

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