



The All-Party Parliamentary University Group

Minister of State for Universities,
Department for Education,
Sanctuary Buildings,
Great Smith Street,
London,
SW1P 3BT

All-Party Parliamentary University Group remote meeting – 20 May 2020

Dear Michelle,

I'm writing to thank you for taking the time to join us for the All-Party Parliamentary University Group remote meeting last week.

I am extremely grateful for your presentation and for allowing ample time to answer questions from our parliamentary and university members. Universities, students and staff are clearly facing unprecedented challenges and will have appreciated the opportunity to gain further insight into the government's response and future plans during and beyond the Covid-19 pandemic.

From last Wednesday's meeting, and a previous session we held on 20 April, it is clear that particular concerns remain and therefore we would appreciate if you could provide the group with updates in the following area as soon as they are available:

- How the government will ensure a safe, fair and consistent approach to university campuses re-opening
- What additional financial support can be made available to students (especially those from underrepresented groups or disadvantaged backgrounds) to compensate for lack of ability to undertake part-time work
- What measures the government is taking to ensure the UK remains a world-leading destination for international education, and confirmation of the fee and loan regime EU students starting in 2021 will be subject to
- Assurances that the government will not allow the Office for Students' proposed condition of registration to inadvertently hinder universities' ability to widen participation
- Additional financial support from the government to protect the research base and enable institutions to fully contribute to the UK's economic recovery

The group acts as a channel of communication between cross-party parliamentarians and a diverse range of universities, allowing discussion of the key issues facing

institutions and how to support the higher education sector. We will therefore be re-visiting several of the topics discussed last week, and will invite you to address members again in the coming months.

I hope you found the meeting helpful and thank you for your support on behalf of all members of the Universities APPG.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Zeichner', with a stylized, flowing script.

Daniel Zeichner MP
Chair, All-Party Parliamentary University Group