

THE FESTIVAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

11–12 November 2025
Senate House, University of London

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Brought to you by

WONKHE



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

DAY 1: TUESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

MAIN STAGE

All the big policy debates in the round

SECOND STAGE

Challenges and issues for higher education

UNCONFERENCE SPACE

Collaborating and innovating

WONK CORNER

Wonks having a wonkfest

09:00				
09:30				
10:00	Welcome to the festival			
10:30	Opening panel: Higher education and the government's reform agenda; including Remembrance Day observation			
11:00				
11:30	Jacqui Smith in conversation ★	Can there be a common data standard for HEP?	How to be a change agent	Discuss: What's so bad about student number controls?
12:00				
12:30	How does higher education integrate in the skills economy?	Dealing with harassment against a backdrop of free speech		Higher education postcards vs the hidden history of HE – a jolly conversation
13:00				
13:30				How to write for Wonkhe
14:00	Financing quality student outcomes – the evolution of higher education regulation	Making interdisciplinarity work	Coping with global permacrisis with The Venn	
14:30				How to read the higher education news
15:00	Higher education and the state – balancing provider, student and public interests	Research shaping policy		
15:30				Discuss: Feeling chilly – what is a chilling effect and what causes it?
16:00	Internationalisation and regional economies	Designing programmes that deliver students more but for less money	Building a curriculum for wellbeing	
16:30				The Post-18 Project – what is it and what should it do?
17:00				

LUNCH AVAILABLE

JOINING US ON THE MAIN STAGE ★

Jacqui Smith
Minister of State for Skills in conversation



LET'S HAVE A DRINK TOGETHER

A drinks reception at Senate House will close the first day.

Followed by the **Festival late party** - all welcome at a venue offsite for food, drinks and entertainment on us 7pm till late.



DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

MAIN STAGE

All the big policy debates in the round

SECOND STAGE

Challenges and issues for higher education

UNCONFERENCE SPACE

Collaborating and innovating

WONK CORNER

Wonks having a workfest

BREAKFAST
AVAILABLE

LUNCH
AVAILABLE

09:00
09:30
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17:00

The long range forecast for research

Recalibrating graduate employability

Efficiency is our watchword

Discuss: Restoring the sector's reputation will take more than telling better stories

Show them the money – how higher education can make the most of its knowledge assets for inclusive economic growth

Developing higher education leadership at every level

My imaginary university

What should higher education be researching about itself?

Discuss: Bursaries and scholarships are propping up a broken student finance system

The meaning of opportunity these days

Green skills and the opportunity for HE in the sustainability economy

The Wonkhe Show: live recording

What are social purpose jobs in HE and what do they do?

Lean and mean? Sustaining academic community in challenging times

Rethinking level 7 provision

The other kind of HE spinout – creating value from innovation in HE professional practice

Discuss: Are we living through the wholesale collapse of the knowledge system?

How to make regional collaboration work

What does organisational data competence look like in HE?

Closing panel: building an experience that students have reason to value

Closing words

FESTIVAL FRINGE

Throughout both days there will be a series of fringe events running alongside the festival. These will be published later in the year.





Any questions get in touch
events@wonkhe.com