 Universities UK update November 2016

- **House of Commons Education Select Committee inquiry into the impact of Brexit on higher education**

  The Education Select Committee has requested written submissions as part of its inquiry into the impact of Brexit on higher education. Although a number of Select Committees are currently holding inquiries into the impact of Brexit, UUK believe this to be one of the more important for the sector. UUK will be submitting written evidence and has encouraged institutions to consider doing so too.

  A debate in the House of Lords, proposed by Lord Soley, looked at the potential impact of the UK’s withdrawal from the EU on funding for universities and research. UUK briefed a number of peers with information, evidence and key challenges ahead of the debate.

- **European engagement**

  Universities UK was represented in the first EUA Council meetings since the referendum by Professor Paul Boyle, who presented to other National Rectors’ Conference Presidents on the implications of Brexit for UK universities, the UK sector’s commitment to continued cooperation and ways in which European universities can work together to advocate for an outcome from negotiations which enables universities from across Europe to continue to collaborate with the UK. Professor Paul Boyle is also a nominee for the EUA Board. Elections will take place at the EUA annual conference in Bergen on 6-7 April.

  A delegation of three UK Vice-Chancellors, led by Professor Steve Smith (as Chair of the UUK International Policy network) and supported by UUK staff, returned to Brussels on 6-8 November for high-level meetings with senior Commission officials, MEPs and the Deputy Permanent Representative of the UK to the EU.

  UUK President Dame Julia Goodfellow visited Berlin for meetings with the British Ambassador, the Councillor for EU affairs at the British Embassy, the DAAD and the President of the German Rectors’ Conference.

- **Invitation to UUK/HEFCE conference on post-Brexit challenges and opportunities, Monday 5th December 2016**

  The joint HEFCE and UUK conference, *Putting universities at the heart of a thriving, global post-exit UK*, on 5 December has a strong list of speakers already confirmed including Mark Garnier MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for International Trade, Professor Madeleine Atkins CBE, Chief Executive, HEFCE, Bjorn Conway, Lead Partner & Public Sector Lead, Ernst & Young, David Goodhart, Head of Demography, Immigration and Integration, Policy Exchange, and Phoebe Griffith, Associate Director for Migration, Integration and Communities, Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), as well as a number of vice-chancellors.

  The event will examine the current political and policy environment and explore new models to support and enhance UK universities’ international collaborations across Europe and the wider world. The event will provide a forum to share latest thinking and to hear a range of perspectives from leading figures in the higher education sector and beyond.

- **Telegraph comment piece - a four point plan for universities to thrive post Brexit**

  On 28 October the Telegraph published an article by the Deputy Chief Executive of UUK to highlight the support needed from Government to enable UK universities to thrive post Brexit.
In the article Alistair Jarvis suggests that, as well as needing a favourable outcome from the Brexit negotiations, UK universities will need positive domestic policy change highlighting four priority areas: encouraging students from around the world to choose to study in the UK; making the UK an attractive destination for talented staff; enhancing international research partnerships; and increasing public investment in research, innovation and mobility.

**EU student recruitment fairs**

At the end of October, UUKi attended the first in a series of British Council fairs taking place across Europe this autumn.

The events are an opportunity for UUKi to promote some positive messaging to potential EU students as well as recruitment agents, school heads and media, during this recruitment cycle.

Activities for upcoming events will include panel discussions, seminars, media interviews and meetings, backed up with collateral including key messaging documents for students and attending universities, a short film tailored to each region, postcards and badges.

The first event in Madrid provided important insights into the focus of student and media questions, which focused heavily on recent UK Government rhetoric on immigration and how welcome EU students are.