



Department for International Trade

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Dear Roberta,

Thank you for your letter to the Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox, copied to my predecessor Mark Garnier MP. I am responding as the newly appointed Minister for Investment.

The Government very much recognises the benefit that education exports, particularly those for the higher education sector, brings to the UK and continues to support its growth. The Department for International Trade (DIT) are doing more to promote the UK transnational education offer via the DIT's dedicated Education Team, which has been enhanced with the appointment in 2017 of a secondee from the higher education sector. During 2017 we were pleased to support a number of Universities in developing their international business, including those of Nottingham, Birmingham and Sunderland.

You will know that the Government actively promotes study in the UK through the GREAT Campaign and through the British Council, which promotes the UK in over 100 countries. There continues to be no limit to the number of overseas students who can come here to study.

Both Universities UK International and Independent Higher Education are represented on the DIT Education Sector Advisory Group, which met for the first time in December.

The Advisory Group discussed the £30bn target, originally set by the previous government. In this discussion, the then Universities Minister, Jo Johnson, recognised that the target is rightly ambitious; he was clear that this is important to encourage a high level of ambition for the sector's international aspirations, and that the Department

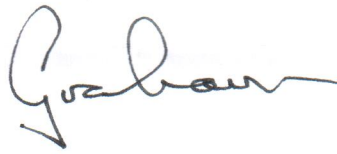
for Education (DfE) and DIT remain committed to working with the rest of Government and the sector to drive progress on exports.

The Advisory Group also discussed future trade deals. DIT colleagues intend to meet with sector representatives over the coming months to ensure that their views are understood and can be represented in any future discourses.

The Advisory Group includes other Whitehall departments with a stake in the UK higher education offer. We will be inviting Caroline Nokes, Minister of State for Immigration at the Home Office, to the next meeting in April.

I would be delighted to join a future meeting of the APPUG to discuss these issues further.

Yours ever,



GRAHAM STUART MP

Minister for Investment, Department for International Trade