



# The All-Party Parliamentary University Group

All-Party Parliamentary University Group Meeting  
Wednesday 18 May  
17:00-18:00

Chaired by: Daniel Zeichner MP

## Speakers

- Michelle Donelan, Universities Minister

Daniel Zeichner MP opened the meeting by thanking the Minister for taking time out to speak to the group.

**The Minister for Universities, Michelle Donelan MP**, then began her opening remarks where she acknowledged the role universities have played during the pandemic and thanked the APPG for its role in championing students' mental health.

The Minister went on to note it was a priority to get students back to university safely but also put in place necessary support for students transitioning from university in a challenging job market. She urged members to look at what more their universities could do to support students and graduates to continue studies and prepare for employment.

The cancellation of A-Level, GCSE and vocational exams and the decision that teachers will determine grades was briefly touched on by the Minister while discussing plans for 2021 entry into higher education.

Moving on, the Minister summarised the key announcements relating to higher education in the Queen's Speech, including the Skills and Post-16 Education which paves the way for the government's proposed Lifelong Loan Entitlement.

Finally, the Minister spoke extensively about the government's recently announced Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill. The Minister confirmed the government intended to address self-censorship and no-platforming on university campuses by bolstering the existing legal duties and ensuring strong, robust action is taken if these are breached.