



**All-Party Parliamentary University Group  
Inaugural meeting: 8 January 2020**

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## Election of co-chair

### Paper\_1

Every APPG must have at least 5 elected officers. The chair must be an MP and at least one other office must be an MP. There must be at least one officer from the governing party and official opposition.

All officers of the APPUG are expected, but not required, to attend meetings of the council (further information below) that take place 2-3 times per year. Co-chairs can deputise for the chair at meetings and provide the group with strategic direction.

Vicky Ford MP had to step down as co-chair of the group once she was promoted to Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families which left the Conservative co-chair role vacant.

The group's Chair approached former Universities Minister Chris Skidmore MP about taking on the vacant role. This is also an opportunity for MPs or Peers to put themselves forward to the Council.

The below parliamentarians are the existing members of the council.

Position	Name	Party
Chair	Daniel Zeichner MP	Labour
Co-Chair	Baroness Sue Garden	Liberal Democrat
Co-Chair		Conservative
Treasurer		
Secretary	Paul Blomfield MP	Labour
Vice-Chair	Ben Lake MP	Plaid Cymru
Vice-Chair	Lord Norton	Conservative
Vice-Chair		
Vice-Chair		

**ACTION:** Do all present agree to Chris Skidmore MP taking the role as co-chair of the APPUG?

**ACTION:** Would anyone present like to put themselves forward for an officer position that has now already done so?

The Secretariat (Universities UK) will re-register the groups according to parliamentary rules by 10 January 2020.

## **University APPG 2018/19 activity summary Paper\_2**

The All-Party Parliamentary University Group (APPUG)'s activity runs from August – July annually and therefore there was a very brief period of activity between August 2019 and the general election being called in November 2019. During this period we held one meeting on 23 October on 'Brexit and higher education'.

During the August 2018- July 2019 year the group held the below meetings:

23 October 2018

Skills and employability

14 November 2018

Brexit and higher education

5 December 2018

Data in higher education

30 January 2019

Mental health and wellbeing

24 April 2019

Universities in a Global Britain

30 April 2019

Closing the BAME attainment gap

*(in collaboration with the APPG for Students)*

14 May 2019

FE/HE collaboration

25 June 2019

The Post-18 Education and Funding Review

To note, a meeting was scheduled for 20 March in collaboration with the #MadeAtUni campaign but this had to be cancelled due to a proposed parliamentary security strike.

**Upcoming meetings**  
**Paper\_3**

The following dates have been confirmed for 2020

28 January  
18:15 – 19:30 followed by dinner  
Topic TBC

*Proposed topic: A question and answer session with Universities Minister Chris Skidmore on the government's priorities for higher education*

24 March  
18:00 – 19:30 followed by dinner  
Topic TBC

Additional meetings will be scheduled for May (breakfast meeting) and late June.

*Proposed topics for future meetings:*

- Universities' role in regional prosperity
- University admissions
- Support for disabled students
- Achieving the 2.4% GDP spend on R&D

## **Council Paper\_4**

The APPUG council includes all officers of the group and up to 10 university vice-chancellors appointed to represent the breadth of the group's membership.

The council meets 2-3 times per year ahead of the main speaker meeting and services to:

- Set the programme of meetings for the year
- Review the group's finances
- Decide on any planned group activity outside of the usual programme of meetings
- Review the group's digital activity
- Review the group's membership
- AOB

The universities currently represented on the council are:

- Northumbria University
- University of Stirling
- University of Brighton
- Ulster University
- Cardiff University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- University of Liverpool
- Staffordshire University
- University of Cambridge
- University of Sheffield

**Membership**  
**Paper\_5**

The group will be officially re-formed following this meeting.

At the start of the group's reporting period **90 universities** were members of the APPUG.

Parliamentary membership currently stands at **13 Peers** and **26 MPs**.

**ACTION:** Please encourage your follow MPs and Peers to join the APPUG. Those representing a university constituency have received personalised emails with information about the group.

**Contact details****Paper\_6**

Universities UK provides the Secretariat for the APPUG, led by Harriet Jones, Senior Political Affairs Officer.

Contact details for the group are listed below:

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