

Please find below this week's policy update. As today is my last day at BU, this will be the last policy update you will receive from me. If you have any questions, or would like more information about anything listed below please email Jane Forster.

### **Higher Education and Research Bill**

The Committee stage of Higher Education and Research Bill has so far seen Jo Johnson MP and the Conservatives successfully blocking all amendments from the opposition. You can read the amendments so far debated and scheduled to be debated [here](#).

### **Liberal Democrats**

John Pugh MP, the Lib Dem Education Spokesperson has said that the party is looking at a graduate tax policy proposal that would see fees fall below the current £9,000 threshold. He also said that the party plans to amend the higher education and research bill when it reaches the House of Lords. [Lib Dems to revisit student finance \(Research Professional\)](#).

### **Brexit**

John Pugh MP had previously written to Vice-Chancellor's to ask their opinions on Brexit. Three-quarters of UK vice-chancellors surveyed said they believed Brexit was a risk to the international standing of UK universities. [Universities fear UK's global reputation in jeopardy due to Brexit \(The Guardian\)](#).

### **Research-informed teaching**

University Alliance and the Higher Education Academy have launched a report aiming to highlight the value of research-informed teaching. The report suggests there are different types of research-informed teaching: research-led, research-oriented, research-tutored and research-based learning. You can view the report [here](#).

### **OFFA**

OFFA has launched a scheme which will link widening participation practitioners with academic mentors to publish research into social mobility in academic journals and at international conferences. You can view more information about the scheme [here](#).

### **ONS**

The Office for National Statistics has published new data which reveals the 18-24 full-time student population has doubled since 1992, with a sharp increase between 2008 and 2012, and levelling out as £9,000 fees were introduced. You can view more information [here](#).

### **Mental Health**

A new [report](#) by HEPI has made several recommendations to support the mental health of students. For example, the report recommends that students should be simultaneously registered with a general practitioner at home and at university as well as ensuring that vulnerable students on leave from studying have sufficient mental health care provision.

### **Jo Johnson**

Jo Johnson has written in the Times saying that the government would like to see more universities working with schools, not only to encourage students to have the confidence to apply to them, but to help raise standards and tackle poor exam results- one of the biggest barriers that pupils face to higher education. [British universities can't afford to rest on their laurels \(The Times\)](#).

### **Brexit and UK universities**

The Guardian reports that British universities are considering plans to open branches inside the European Union in an effort to soften the blow of Brexit. [UK universities draw up plans for EU campuses ahead of Brexit](#) (*The Guardian*).