

Monday

European referendum

Over 100 vice-chancellors, including Professor John Vinney, wrote to The Sunday Times to express their support for staying in the EU. The EU referendum will be held on 23 June. [Brexit will cost universities valuable education alliances](#) (*Sunday Times*).

Tuesday

Health workforce

Ben Gummer, under-secretary of state for health, has written a piece for the Guardian Healthcare Network about the changes from grant support to loans for nursing, midwifery and allied health students. He says that extending student finance reforms will create up to 10,000 more health degree places. [Bursary reform is good for students, nurses and the NHS](#). (*Guardian*).

Wednesday

University merging

In its latest analysis of higher education, Moodys the credit rating agency, states that both governments and universities themselves will seek further mergers between universities to achieve economies of scale and improve efficiency. [More university mergers on the cards, predicts Moody's](#) (*THE*).

Thursday

Recruitment agents

Universities' use of overseas recruitment agents is being reviewed by the UK government, amid warnings that regulation would be another barrier to international student enrolment. [Universities' use of recruitment agents under scrutiny](#) (*THE*).

TEF

A new report from HEPI looks into rating systems in other parts of the education sector and the care sector to conclude with lessons for the TEF. [Designing a Teaching Excellence Framework: Lessons from other sectors](#) (*HEPI*).

Friday

UCAS

According to new data from UCAS, demand for a full-time undergraduate place from English students remains slightly lower than in mid-February 2015. However there are many more EU and international university hopefuls as numbers are up by 6 per cent and 1 per cent, respectively. The data reveals that overall numbers are static but they also conceal big variations between institutions. [2016 cycle applicant figures](#). (*UCAS*).