

Monday

Tier 2 Visas

The government has responded to the Migration Advisory Committee review of Tier 2 migration. The government has announced it will exempt PhD positions and those switching from a Tier 4 student visa to a Tier 2 visa from the immigration skills charge. You can view the response to a written question by the Minister of State for Immigration [here](#).

UK Universities Overseas

Universities that deliver transnational programmes in countries with dubious human rights records have been warned that they are putting more than their reputations at risk. [Human rights warning for universities operating overseas](#). *Human rights warning for universities operating overseas. (THE)*.

Tuesday

University Cooperation

A report by the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education has revealed that negative views of universities based on their perceived “lower prestige” might also be harming efforts to bring together universities, business and government to boost local economic growth. [Status anxiety ‘harms university cooperation’](#). *(THE)*.

Wednesday

Prevent

Research Professional reports that universities risk ignoring laws about protecting freedom of speech in their attempt to protect students against being radicalised. [Cultural cold wars](#). *(Research Professional)*.

Thursday

REF

The extent to which the next REF should focus on overall university performance has emerged as a key battleground between the Russell Group and University Alliance. The Russell Group has argued for more emphasis on critical mass at the institutional level, whereas University Alliance has argued that aggregation of assessment at an institutional level would destroy dynamism. [Universities clash over future of REF](#). *(THE)*.

Friday

Student Loans

The private company that took over 250,000 loans from the Student Loan Company has left graduates in turmoil after it wrongly sent letters demanding early repayments. [Student loans firm Erudio leaves graduates fuming over latest error](#). *(The Guardian)*.

EU Students

Students from other European Union countries attending UK universities generate £3.7 billion for the UK economy and support more than 34,000 jobs across the country, according to analysis from Universities UK. You can view the report [here](#).

Innovate UK

Innovate UK is to reorganise its funding programmes to address concerns that they are too complex and to make it easier for the agency to work with universities, businesses and the research councils. [Innovate UK embraces simplification](#). *(Research Professional)*.