



Further & Higher Education Policy

Advance UK Education Policy



The following proposals are the most radical reform of British education proposed by any party.

These policies unapologetically prioritise academic excellence, free speech and merit.

These policies will return universities to scholarship, restore vocational pathways, and put British students first.

Universities have been captured



British universities have been captured by a dominant ideological framework rooted in cultural Marxism. This worldview has hardened into institutional orthodoxy, shaping hiring, promotion, research funding, curriculum and teacher training.

Universities are the upstream institutions that train the civil service, judiciary, journalists, regulators, teachers, corporate managers and political advisers.

When one ideological framework dominates the training ground, it inevitably migrates into the state and wider culture. Generationally, it becomes self-reinforcing. This is institutional capture.

Universities have been captured



The mass-expansion of higher education has produced an enormous debt burden of £292bn, rising to £500bn by 2040. Only 56% is expected to be repaid – the taxpayer covers the rest.

First-class degree awards have doubled from 15% to 30% since 2010 (vs. 9% in 1976) – qualification devaluation on an industrial scale.

30-40% of graduates are not in graduate-level jobs 15 months after finishing. Polytechnics were closed; high-quality technical education has largely disappeared.

Universities have been captured



A vast DEI apparatus is now embedded across universities, influencing hiring, promotion, curriculum design, student discipline and speech regulation while absorbing substantial human and financial resources.

State-linked entities from China, Qatar and Saudi Arabia have poured billions into campuses, buying influence, shaping research agendas and embedding corrupting dependencies.

State funding without accountability has rewarded expansion, bureaucratic proliferation and ideological entrenchment. Universities will not reform themselves – the system is functioning as designed.

The Policies: Reset

Incrementally abolish all standard government funding over 10 years – Funding Body Grants (£6.3bn) and the government-funded element of Research Grants (£5.64bn). Universities to become financially independent by 2037.

Cut all funding for net zero, EDI, critical race theory and allied Marxist doctrines immediately.

Reroute funding toward areas of core national interest – including bolstering degree apprenticeships and other valuable forms of non-university further education, as well as specific new departments/research centres.

Remove or raise the cap on student loans to allow universities to make up the shortfall in funding.

The Policies: Reset

Implement a direct link between aggregate student loan repayment and future university funding, creating a much more robust market mechanism and over time significantly reducing loan default rates.

Universities below a 15-year rolling-average repayment threshold will face a sliding scale of fines, paid to the Treasury. (Adjustments made for socio-economic status, gender and recent investment.)

Granular course-level repayment data to be made publicly available to inform both student choice and strategic decision making by universities concerning future course portfolios.

The Policies: Reset

Part of fines redirected into degree and higher level apprenticeships, scholarships and individual support, particularly for able students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

General scrapping of work visas below a 100 K salary (see Advance UK immigration policy) will strongly boost demand for skills in the indigenous workforce in many key sectors, significantly incentivising both the higher education and private sectors to provide more training and education in those areas.

Exceptional talent visas (see Advance UK immigration policy) will ensure that the best and brightest who wish to contribute to Britain will be able to do so.

The Policies: Reset

Abolish the Equality Act (2010) and pass primary legislation to prohibit DEI-based discrimination in all schools, technical colleges and universities.

Eliminate DEI programmes, identity-politics courses and 'woke' curricula. Restore focus on education rather than political messaging.

Protect free speech in law, with real penalties for institutions that allow censorship or harassment.

Ban funding from foreign governments, corporations or wealthy individuals where that funding is tied – explicitly or implicitly – to political objectives.

The Policies: Reclaim

Establish Western Studies departments at top universities.

Initiate a culture restoration counter-offensive: free speech, objective truth, constitutional literacy, civic duty, British history, the Christian roots of Western Civilisation, and diversity of thought.

Civil Service to give priority to applicants who have attained qualifications in these subjects, driving demand for new Western Studies departments.

Higher Education to be recognised as the custodian of a cultural canon unique to Britain. If we do not promote the values on which our culture is built, we end up with another culture's values – and another culture.

The Policies: Rebuild

Return university education to its core purpose: students with exceptional academic ability and professions requiring higher academic ability.

Establish alternative routes to allow high levels of academic capability to be achieved and accredited outside the university system.

Expand intermediate certificates for each year of university attended – a flexible 'get on, get off' model that incentivises able people from less privileged backgrounds.

Assessment to return to what AI cannot fake: oral examination, sustained in-person argument, problem-solving under scrutiny.

The Policies: Rebuild

Expand higher and degree-level apprenticeships (currently only ~10% of degree courses).

Reinvigorate and expand technical colleges to deliver vocational training, apprenticeships and skills-based programmes.

Move vocational training in trades, business, healthcare, creative, media and technology from the university setting to technical colleges.

Industry portion of apprenticeships offset through reduced corporation tax or extra foreign-visa surcharge – incentivising domestic over foreign talent.

The Policies: Rebuild

Create a new qualifications body to oversee efficient, productive and meritocratic certification.

All qualifications to take the form of an exam, invigilated by AI, with human assessment on a randomised sample to maintain quality.

Exams accessible at low cost (under £100) on a rolling basis. Any citizen may sit any exam at any time. Pass and the qualification is awarded immediately.

Tax breaks for companies hiring qualified holders – restoring financial incentives to excellence and embracing AI-accelerated training.

Protect and Restore

Give priority to British applicants in critical fields including science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine. Reduce fees for British students in these critical subjects.

Foreign students from countries not on the Green List (see AdvanceUK immigration policy) to pay all tuition fees up front. Make it illegal for students to apply for asylum after starting a UK course unless the circumstances for the basis of claim pre-date the start of their studies in the UK.

Move research output to open-source university websites and internal journals – ending cabal-controlled peer-review and slashing taxpayer costs.

Insist on absolute focus on reproducibility in any quantitative academic output to solve the replication crisis plaguing British research.



ADVANCE UK

Our Future Together

**A party run by its members
for the people of the United Kingdom**