

Vision & Excellence

Establishing London as the
Knowledge Capital of the World

*"The quality of London's...
Higher Education Institutions
clearly makes London a successful
and major international centre for
higher education."*

The Rt. Hon. Charles Clarke MP,
Secretary of State for Education & Skills, 2004

LONDONHIGHER
Promoting and Advocating London's Higher Education

Generate

c. £8 billion each year in goods and services

Win

25 per cent of all UK research funding – some £600 million annually – led by a cluster of the world's top research institutions and institutes

Attract

to the UK 65,000 international students from over 200 countries, who in turn spend over £750 million in the UK each year

Contribute

c. 1 per cent of UK GDP and 4 per cent of London's GDP

Did you know..?

The figures about London's HEIs speak for themselves. Collectively they:

Produce

over 66,000 skilled graduates and other qualifiers for the job market each year, with each graduate cohort having the potential to generate £11.7 billion during their working lives

Provide

a first class education for 350,000 students – who are able to choose from over 6,000 undergraduate courses and several thousand postgraduate qualifications

Employ

58,000 FTE staff – and for every one employed by HE in London, one other job is created elsewhere in the UK economy

Sharing the vision

London is already acknowledged to be one of the world's foremost international centres for higher education (HE). London could, however, further excel and become *the* foremost centre – for teaching, for research, for business interaction and for higher level skills delivery and community regeneration. All of these are areas in which London's universities and HE colleges already shine.

This statement sets out the ambition of London's HE institutions (HEIs) to realise this potential – and see London established, and universally recognised, as the knowledge capital of the world.

London's HEIs are an economic and cultural powerhouse – not just for the capital, but for the whole UK and, in many cases, the world beyond. The alumni 'stars', past and present, include world leaders (from John F Kennedy to Junichiro Koizumi – current Prime Minister of Japan), cultural luminaries (from Benjamin Britten to David Hockney), business pioneers (from George Soros to James Dyson) and nearly 30 Nobel prize winners.

Whatever the research, learning or skills demands of a business, organization or individual, they can be met by London's HEIs, whether it be in terms of size, location, specialism or scope. They range from large, multi-faculty and multi-site universities to small, highly specialist single site colleges; they can be found centrally or across greater London; they excel in every subject from science and medicine to art and design; and they cater to all levels of commerce and culture from global networks to individual skill and enterprise, from the established fields to newly emerging markets.



Committed to Excellence: Regional Priorities for London's HE

All correspond closely with London's commercial and professional strengths in business, finance & economics, law, health, medicine & medical research, information & communications technology, biotechnology and education, as well as with its creative and cultural sectors, such as music, dance & drama, fashion and art & design.

Many are also working in novel areas, some of which will spawn new businesses creating future competitive advantages for London and the UK. Through extensive work with their local communities and with further education (FE) colleges and other organisations, our HEIs are regenerating deprived areas of London, securing equal opportunities for the capital's diverse ethnic population and helping to up-skill the future UK workforce.

There is nothing to rival the London HEI cluster in the UK or Europe. In order to achieve our aim to establish London as the unrivalled knowledge capital of the world we now need to *grow* our reputation for excellence – and the resources, both human and material – that underpin it.

Key ingredients for success will include identifying our areas of excellence and working together to develop and enhance them. Examples of both already abound in the capital.

- London is a world city and is uniquely endowed with a wonderfully diverse cluster of world class institutions, knowledge infrastructure, skilled individuals and renowned entrepreneurial spirit. As well as being the capital city and home to the UK government, it is a world leading centre for the financial and business services and the creative industries amongst others.
- London's HEIs already collaborate extensively. They work with: each other; national, regional and local government organizations; schools and FE colleges; business; the health service; museums, galleries and an array of national institutions; and charities & community groups. Collaboration takes place at every level and is effective in London, nationally and internationally.

Our aspiration is ambitious, then, but not unrealistic. Following discussion with our members and key stakeholders we have identified the following four themes, and the ten specific actions that arise out of them, as primary steps towards developing and sustaining London as the knowledge capital of the world.



| N | London H.E. Aspirations | Potential Outputs | Anticipated Outcomes |
|---|--|---|--|
| A | To establish, and to see <i>universal acknowledgment</i> given to, London as the undisputed Knowledge Capital of the world | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A major <i>promotional campaign</i> to demonstrate how and why London is the global knowledge capital for HE 2. <i>Recognition</i> of HE research & teaching excellence in London's core business sectors, e.g. medicine and health, creative industries, business & finance, law, education etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London will be known and recognised the world over as the Knowledge Capital of the world – by potential students and their sponsors; other HE communities; investors and business • London will continue to be able to attract and keep world class research & researchers and other specialist staff • Funding to be distributed according to excellence – <i>wherever it occurs</i> in the UK |
| B | To maintain & develop essential but high-cost HE facilities – with an emphasis on collaboration to maximise use, avoid duplication and spread risk | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Shared <i>Incubator / follow-on space / Science Parks</i> to grow spin-outs and innovation and stimulate entrepreneurial activity 4. <i>Student / academic village/s</i> together with supporting infrastructure such as shops, libraries and recreational facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State-of-the-art HE knowledge and enterprise hubs will boost productivity by encouraging and supporting HE-originated start-up businesses • Increasing the supply of affordable accommodation for London's students, staff and academic visitors will remove a major barrier to growing the market • Academic villages will boost local economies across London |
| C | To continue to be able to <i>recruit, retain and develop</i> world class staff, at all levels. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Recognition of the <i>higher costs HEIs incur</i> operating in London – with appropriate funding adjustments based upon this 6. <i>Keyworker status</i> to be extended to HE 7. A globally attractive <i>London scholarship and Fellowship programme</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract, incentivise and retain quality staff in London HE • Address risks posed by an aging staff profile in London by encouraging younger staff in the early parts of their careers into HE • Scholars & fellows will act as ambassadors for London and UK in general • UK will influence potential future academic, business, cultural and political leaders |
| D | To enhance strategies and continue partnerships to support, contribute to and develop <i>London and Londoners</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Together with FE colleges, schools, community groups and through partnership initiatives such as AimHigher, to work towards achieving the government's goal of opening HE to 50% of young people across all of London's boroughs 9. Employers to recognize and value the diversity in all our graduates 10. Utilize fully the skills of London's migrant workers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To attract non-traditional students and ensure their HE development and progression is successful • Increased employability (and quality of employment) and higher level skills attainment for graduates across the London region, especially among non-traditional students and those resident in HE participation coldspots • Increased productivity – with skilled migrant workers (who are highly represented in London) able to re-certify their qualifications, thereby contributing to the local & national economy |

Meeting the challenge: working with London's HE

Our goal to establish London as the knowledge capital of the world is one that engages London and Londoners. To fail in adequately supporting our HEIs is to fail on a much broader canvas.

This is not an idle threat. Competition from rival cities and HE regions is intense, not just from traditional competitors in Europe, America and Australia, but increasingly from new HE players in the East, in particular China and Japan who are investing heavily in their HEIs (many of whose students currently study in London).

Complacency, too, is a threat. Merely sustaining the current levels of resource and facilities will not be sufficient to compete in the new global HE environment. To achieve our goal we need to *invest* in our excellence (wherever that may lie), *enhance* our facilities, *develop* our staff (and attract new blood), and *grow* our links with the people and businesses of London.

London's HEIs are committed to achieving our aim. To succeed we need your help:

- *MPs, MEPs and Peers.* As respected representatives of the region we look to you to support us by promoting HE in the capital and championing the goals we have set.
- *London Stakeholders.* We share many objectives with key regional bodies such as the London Development Agency, the Greater London Authority, the NHS, the Learning and Skills Council, other regional and local government bodies and with business and business intermediaries. We have an established and dynamic relationship with FE partners – many of which deliver HE directly – that will play an even more important role in the future. We look forward to working more closely with other London stakeholders to fulfil our mutual aims.
- *London's universities and higher education colleges.* London's HEIs endorse the London *Vision* and *Excellence* aims and through their own strategic plans, and in collaboration with others inside and outside the HE sector, are working towards them.
- *London Higher* is the membership organization that promotes and acts as an advocate for London's HE. We will work with our members and stakeholders to support and coordinate progress towards these goals.

To find out more about how you can support this initiative see the relevant insert (enclosed) or contact London Higher (details on the reverse).

Vision & Excellence: the way ahead

We have the excellence – here is the vision. Join the universities and higher education colleges in London in our task of establishing London as the knowledge capital of the world.



