

2018/19

# ANNUAL REPORT

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Gordon McKenzie

## **CHAIR OF EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Dr. David Llewellyn

Vice Chancellor, Harper Adams University

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*GuildHE is one of the two officially recognised representative bodies for UK Higher Education. Our members are universities, university colleges, further education colleges and specialist institutions from both the traditional and private sectors. Member institutions include major providers in technical and professional subject areas such as art, design and media, music and the performing arts; agriculture, food and the natural environment; the built environment; education; law; health and sports science.*

# FOREWORD

It was a pleasure to take over as Chair of GuildHE at the AGM last November. I have since gained a deeper insight into the huge amount of work that is done by the GuildHE team on behalf of our members. I should like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Professor Joy Carter, Vice Chancellor of the University of Winchester, for all her work over her four years as Chair.

With the appointment of two universities and science Ministers, the Augar Review of Post-18 Education and Funding, a possible Spending Review and Brexit it has been another exceptionally busy year for GuildHE. In addition to responding to these key issues, preparing 50 policy briefings and Government consultation responses and holding more than a hundred meetings with government departments and officials, we have continued to help shape the agenda by producing our own reports into practice-informed learning, the economic impact of sports and exercise science and wellbeing in higher education.

We have also worked jointly with partners across the higher education sector to feed into official guidance on freedom of speech, to develop a national statement of intent and grade classification descriptors to help assure the standards of UK degrees and to formulate principles for a new student visa system. Additionally, we have taken over the secretariat and refreshed the work of the Teacher Education Advisory Group.

This report gives a flavour of some of the key issues that GuildHE has been working on, the influence that we have had and the impact that we have made. I hope you enjoy reading it.



**David Llewellyn,  
Chair of GuildHE**

Vice Chancellor,  
Harper Adams  
University



Where we are  
**TODAY**

# INTRODUCTION

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The external political and policy environment that we have been working in has been highly uncertain and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future.

Despite this uncertainty there are clear challenges and opportunities for GuildHE and our members. There is a growing population of young people seeking excellent educational opportunities as well as adults seeking to develop their knowledge and skills. We need to spend much more on research and development if the UK is to become the most innovative country in the world. After Brexit, we need to continue to attract international students, skilled staff and inward investment to bolster the UK's soft power and support the country's global ambitions.

Universities and other institutions must respond to the emerging climate crisis, finding solutions to aid both the UK and the rest of the world. And as a higher education sector, we must demonstrate leadership and improve public trust of universities in a new and developing regulatory environment.

With competing demands for public spending, GuildHE will continue to argue for sustainable funding for quality higher education, a fair deal for students and graduates and for research and innovation policies that recognise and reward excellence wherever it is found.

In the coming year we will publish a new strategy to 2025 with a clear ambition to be the advocate of choice for smaller and specialist higher education institutions.

**Gordon McKenzie**  
CEO, GuildHE

# ANNUAL OVERVIEW

102

**MEETINGS  
WITH  
GOVERNMENT**

362

**MEETINGS  
WITH  
SECTOR  
AGENCIES**

78

**MEMBER  
VISITS**

72

**SPEAKING  
ENGAGEMENTS**

50

**POLICY  
BRIEFINGS AND  
GOVERNMENT  
CONSULTATION  
REPOSNES**

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Published a new GuildHE report on Practice-Informed Learning and ran a joint event with AdvanceHE to raise the profile of this key issue
- Published an analysis of the economic impact of Sports and Exercise Science jointly with The Physiological Society and EMSI
- Published a Wellbeing in Higher Education research report based on interviews with GuildHE institutions which was further disseminated through a well received Symposium
- Jointly developed with QAA and UUK the new sector-wide Statement of Intent for Degree Classifications and degree classification grade descriptors to ensure fair and consistent academic standards and challenge perceptions of “grade inflation”
- Published a joint principles document on a new Student Visa System with Universities UK, Russell Group, University Alliance, Million Plus and UKCISA
- Contributed to the EHRC Freedom of Speech Guidance along with the Home Office, DfE, Charity Commission, NUS, Universities UK, AOC and others
- The Research Excellence Framework guidance on Open Access has been relaxed for small submissions, reducing burdens on smaller institutions.
- The House of Commons Science & Technology Committee report endorsed our recommendation that UKRI should consider additional research funding for small and specialist institutions in between Research Excellence Framework cycles
- Following our lobbying on a fairer approach to knowledge exchange funding, Research England introduced a new development fund intended to widen the range of institutions that could benefit
- Following GuildHE commissioned research by London Economics into shortcomings with Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO), DfE published regional breakdowns of graduate earnings
- GuildHE supported the development of the new Quality Code advice and guidance, contributing to the student engagement section
- Our work on essay mills with QAA and others led to Paypal changing its policy and now banning payments to them

# WORKING FOR OUR MEMBERS

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# COMMUNICATION

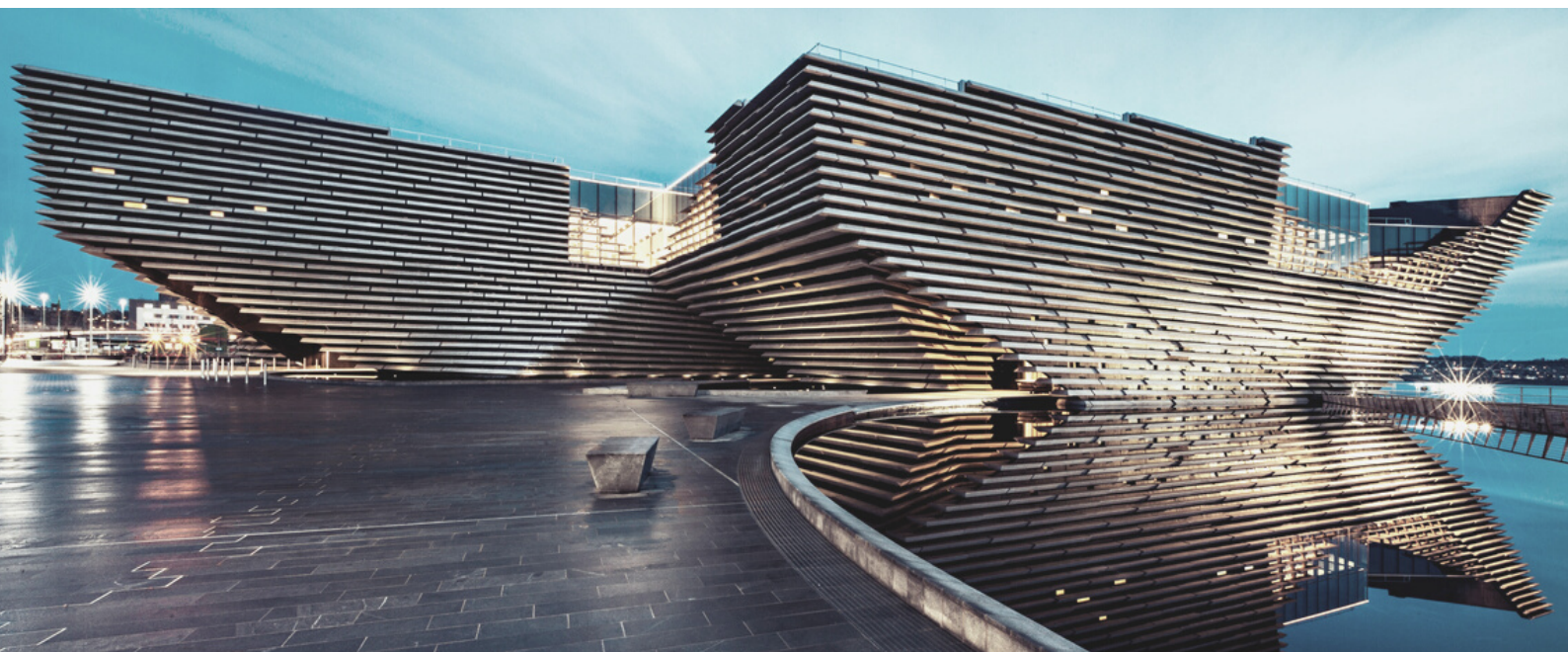
GuildHE seeks to inform and engage with the political and policy debate through various mechanisms, including:

- 50 policy briefings and Government consultation responses
- Over 30 blogs and press articles
- GuildHE's regular newsletter provides information and comment on sector news, policy and events, as well as publicising the work of GuildHE. It continues to be published on a fortnightly basis, with positive feedback from subscribers. The newsletter is currently received by over five hundred active subscribers. Current open rates stand around 40%, well above industry average open rates of ~18%
- GuildHE's twitter presence continues to grow in influence, through regular posts, participating in sector discussions, and using engaging content, graphics and quotes. Follower numbers increased by 25% on the previous year to 7,601
- New Jiscmail email lists for member discussions on a variety of issues
- New website launched in November 2018 with more streamlined content (number of individual pages significantly reduced) and a 12% increase in users year on year
- Throughout the year GuildHE was supported by our Media Advisor on media planning and releases.

Our Annual Conference took us to the banks of the Tay in Dundee with the reception at the stunning new V&A Museum followed by dinner overlooking Captain Scott's RRS Discovery. The conference heard from a number of interesting speakers including OfS Chief Executive, Nicola Dandridge and Labour Education spokesperson, Lord Watson.

## EVENTS & NETWORKS

### Annual Conference



# GUILDHE COUNCIL

GuildHE Council brings together the heads of member institutions who, during 2018/19, were able to hear from Universities and Science Minister, Chris Skidmore, Chris Millward and Susan Lapworth from the OfS, Chris Sayers from the Council of University Chairs as well as speakers from the Higher Education Policy Institute, WonkHE and ShakespeareMartineau.

In addition to the usual array of network meetings (33 this year) we have developed a group for those applying for New and Taught Degree Awarding Powers that has met on a bi-monthly basis, supporting institutions thinking about applying, or currently in the process of doing so.

## NETWORK MEETINGS

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

The GuildHE CEO and senior staff have this year provided keynote speeches and panel contributions at several national events including:

- Wonkfest
- QAA Conference
- An Advance HE Governance and Small and Specialist Institutions event
- AdvanceHE Training for new Governors
- Westminster Forum Events
- CIF Education and Careers Working Group
- WonkHE Secret Life of Students Conference
- Regular contributions to the WonkHE podcast, reaching over 10,000 subscribers
- RAISE (student engagement practitioners) Conference
- AMHEC Annual Conference
- UCEA Board away-day
- Conference on Degree Standards jointly run with QAA, AdvanceHE, Universities UK and GuildHE
- Green Gowns Judging Day
- The Student Engagement Partnership Annual Conference
- AMOSSHE Introduction to Student Services training





# BESPOKE POLICY AND STRATEGY DISCUSSIONS

## ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- GuildHE attended the Ministerial Free Speech Summit and was a member of the subsequent advisory group helping inform the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Guidance on Free Speech. This group included representatives from the Home Office, Department for Education, Office for Students, Charity Commission, Universities UK, NUS, AoC and others.
- GuildHE was represented at the Ministerial Data Sharing Forum to support DfE to better understand the information landscape of the HE sector.
- We also attend DfE groups on Technical Education, Apprenticeships, TEF, and mental health, often collaborating with Universities UK, NUS, AoC and university mission groups to refine Departmental policy.

## SPEAKING AT MEMBER BOARDS

The GuildHE CEO and Deputy CEO have spoken to the Boards of the Royal Agricultural University, the Northern School of Art, Hartpury University, ICMP, Bishop Grosseteste, UCEM, Newman University and Rose Bruford.

## RESPONDING TO MEMBER ISSUES

We regularly work with members on an individual basis to give advice and guidance. These are usually sensitive matters in nature, but often spark additional discussions through jiscmails and network meetings.

## ADMISSIONS, RECRUITMENT AND ACCESS TO HE

The Admissions & Recruitment Network remains a valued forum for supporting and informing GuildHE's institutions on recruitment and admissions issues and policy in the midst of a more competitive environment, and serves to put GuildHE's recruitment and admissions-facing staff in direct contact with UCAS. It has met three times this year and has remained well-attended. Whilst the impact of Brexit on student numbers is not yet known, GuildHE institutions are recruiting at a steady pace. GuildHE's work on degree level apprenticeships has improved our members capacity in building new routes to HE for students. Our Widening Participation network has also been working hard to engage with policy initiatives relating to access and attainment. GuildHE members are represented on the UCAS Board and Council.

## PRACTICE INFORMED LEARNING

GuildHE has been key in raising the profile of the dual-professional working in both industry and higher education. Our well received report showcasing member university activities was launched in November and this was followed-up by a symposium jointly with AdvanceHE in the Spring. This is the start of our activity in this area.

## WELLBEING

GuildHE published a report outlining ways in which members are supporting the mental health and wellbeing of their students. The publication led to national policy discussions on mental health more broadly to include transition into HE, induction, and embedding wellbeing into the curriculum. We shall be continuing this work in conjunction with DfE, OfS and Universities UK in the coming year.



# GUILDHE RESEARCH

GuildHE Research is the research consortium for smaller and specialist universities and colleges in the UK. It is the new name for CREST, the Consortium for Research Excellence, Support and Training. It is a sub-association of GuildHE.

Our dedicated consortium to support research at our member institutions was relaunched as GuildHE Research at The British Library in March 2019, at an event attended by 50 guests from across the sector.

The consortium's mission, values, and strategic aims have been refreshed to align with the changing funding and policy landscape for research in the UK, placing our members' interests and goals at the heart of our activities.

This has been supported by a redesign of our website which gives prominence to our services for members, increased activity on social media, and a new online paper that brings together research updates from across the membership.

## STRATEGIC AND POLICY SUPPORT

We held four meetings of Research Leads, updating members on policy developments and giving voice to their activities, progress and concerns to key sector bodies invited to join us. These have included UKRI, Research England, the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology, UUK International, Universities UK, and the UK Research Integrity Office.

Professor Peter Childs, Acting Vice-Chancellor of Newman University, continued in his role as Director. In light of his extended responsibilities at Newman, we are grateful for his continued dedication to the role, which has included overseeing the transition to GuildHE Research and specific stakeholder engagements on our behalf with the ESRC, on leadership in research, and Research England on research integrity.

The Policy Manager for Research & Innovation joined the Editorial Working Group of the Association of Research Managers and Administrators, contributing to the ARMA magazine and policy briefings projects. In the first issue since her appointment 4 member institutions were profiled in the magazine for their work on the KEF pilots, and a further specialist institution featured - substantially more coverage than our institutions routinely see in such publications.

## EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

We have delivered three participatory workshops to support members' submissions to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise, covering impact case studies, developing codes of practice, and equality, diversity and inclusion in REF 2021.

We continue to develop our offer for postgraduate researchers and early stage researchers. Our annual Summer School was held at Mary Ward House, attended by 27 students from 18 institutions, and comprised workshops from the NCCPE and the Wellcome Collection, and presentations from diverse organisations including the British Library, the Young Foundation, Vitae and Figshare. In November the consortium participated in Academic Writing Month (#AcWriMo) for the first time. #AcWriMo is an annual, global initiative to encourage academics to develop their writing skills and habits. Largely delivered via Twitter, our activities culminated in a writing retreat in London. In June a Research Communications Workshop helped participants build their media skills, including giving interviews to camera, and their awareness of external opportunities to communicate to different audiences, such as via science festivals.



## SHARED SERVICES

We continue to offer a suite of services to our members, including an online postgraduate training course delivered by colleagues at the University of East Anglia (accessed by 15 institutions), an impact tracker which assists in developing impact narratives for the REF (accessed by 6 institutions), and the Research Development Framework planner which assists in researcher development (available to all members).

We have expanded the number of institutions making use of our Research Outputs Repository to 11, and worked with our supplier Co-Sector on creating a better, more consistent package of training and support. In December 2018 a training session on the repository and REF Open Access policies was delivered with Co-Sector and attended by all institutions to great effect. We continue to support repository managers via a dedicated Jiscmail forum and through the support desk at Co-Sector.

## PROJECTS

Our involvement in the Jisc Research Data Management (RDM) Shared Service Pilot has reached its conclusion. Our involvement has supported Jisc in the creation of the Jisc Open Research Hub and Research Data Management Toolkit. Specifically we have offered insights into the use and potential of RDM systems and processes at smaller and specialist institution, from both the perspective of the research support teams and researchers therein. We have developed positive relationships with Jisc and the suppliers we have worked with, including Figshare and Arkivum, and these can be built on in practical ways as institutions prepare for changes to Open Access policies in the year ahead.

# UKADIA

The United Kingdom Arts and Design Institutions Association (UKADIA) is a group of specialist arts and design institutions from across the UK's higher and further education sectors.

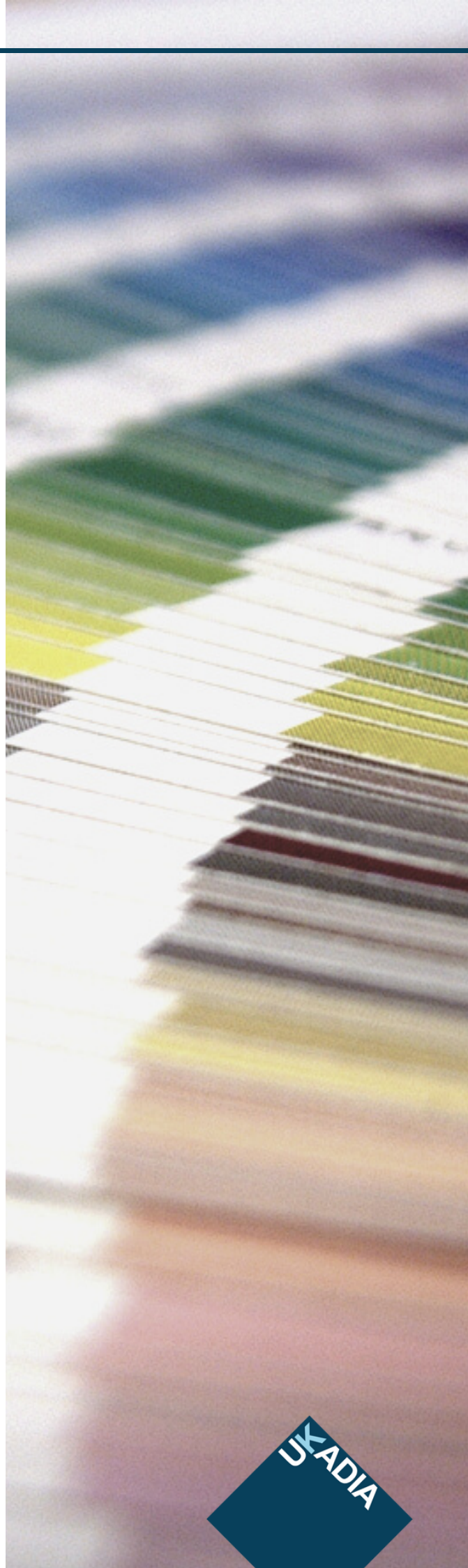
This year UKADIA have been working with The Head Trust on developing new research into the qualifications held by those that apply to do creative subjects at university. This continues on from the work in 2017/18 on the effects of school reform on uptake in creative arts GCSEs and A Levels.

In collaboration with the Head Trust, we also published an Economic Impact Report on LEO data to show the flaws in using graduate salary data as a metric for high quality Higher Education.

Speakers to our board meetings have included, Sir Nicholas Serota, Chair of Arts Council England; Seetha Kumar, Chief Executive, ScreenSkills and Nicholas Mithen from UUKi.

We have also joined as a member of the Creative Industries Federation. This will help us gather more intelligence on the arts sector, and help to influence their policy discussion with our members in mind.

UKADIA members have also continued to collaborate in Access and Participation, with a joint Teacher CPD programme now fully operational across UKADIA members.



# WORKING WITH THE SECTOR



## SECTOR AGENCIES

As a Company Member of many of the sector agencies (AdvanceHE, QAA, HESA, UCEA, Jisc and HECSU) we appoint nominees and observers to their Boards and work closely with them to understand better the needs of the higher education sector and to undertake collaborative work.

## WORKING WITH THE OFFICE FOR STUDENTS

GuildHE meets regularly with the OfS to discuss regulation and accountability in the higher education sector. We provided feedback on the costs and burdens of the new regulatory regime following a survey of our members. Robust GuildHE lobbying established the principle that the designated Quality and Data bodies should consult on a banded model for fees as well as a flat fee option. We responded to consultations on regulating access and participation, supporting the move to longer term planning and stressing the importance of supporting sector diversity and on calculating student numbers. The OfS Chief Executive, Director of Fair Access and other senior staff spoke to members at the GuildHE annual conference and Council meetings.

## DATA FUTURES AND THE DESIGNATED DATA BODY

GuildHE has been working with HESA and Universities K to develop new models of data collection in the sector post HERA, and supported HESA with their new role as the Designated Data Body. We have represented members views on the new data requirements set out by the OfS, and the Policy and Planners network has been able to contribute to discussions with HESA on future subscription models, additional services and ensuring new systems are not burdensome for smaller providers. We have also worked with our members who are new to HESA data returns to understand future requirements.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

As ever, quality assurance has been a major area of policy change and activity for GuildHE over the past year. This has included joint work with QAA and UniversitiesUK on grade inflation and degree standards, including the development of sector-wide Statement of Intent and the reports and sector consultation supporting this. The work was delivered under the auspices of the UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment of which GuildHE is a member and to which it nominates several representatives.

GuildHE has been actively engaged with the QAA about their proposed membership packages through our observer status on the QAA Board and we have also worked with them and the OfS about their role as Designated Quality Body in England. An increasing amount of UK higher education being delivered outside the UK has raised the profile of the quality assurance of Transnational Education. GuildHE has worked with QAA and Universities UK to develop proposals for maintaining confidence in this provision. On the back of a joint advisory group we developed a series of principles and proposed method which will be consulted on in Summer 2019.

In addition, GuildHE has contributed to the development of the new Quality Code, launched in November, and ongoing discussions about "essay mills" by engaging with a sector-wide advisory group as well as with the wider policy debate relating to quality and standards. This has involved speaking at many conferences, chairing round-tables and blogging on key issues. GuildHE also has an active Network of Quality Managers that has heard from speakers from the QAA, OfS, OIA and NUS.



## BALANCE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

GuildHE actively engaged with UKRI colleagues working on the organisation's review of the balance of funding between different parts of the research funding system, namely quality-related (QR) funding, distributed in line with the results of the REF, and research council funding, which is typically project based and competitive. Policy Managers have contributed to stakeholder discussions, sector workshops, and scoping conversations.

GuildHE's CEO also gave evidence in February 2019 as part of the Commons Science and Technology Select Committee inquiry into the balance of research and development funding.

## OPEN ACCESS REVIEW

GuildHE attended initial stakeholder meetings outlining the scope and parameters of this UKRI review of OA policy, putting across views gathered from our members. This was followed up with written contributions to their intelligence gathering, specifically on the effect of OA on monographs in the visual arts and more broadly the implications for the creative sector, and engagement of GuildHE members' researchers in subsequent group discussions.

GuildHE will continue to advocate for our members as this review moves into its formal consultation phase in 2019-2020.

## OPEN ACCESS POLICY FOR MONOGRAPHS

As a direct result of our contributions to the UKRI review, GuildHE has been in regular discussion with Research England as it develops its policy for Open Access monographs that will apply to the next REF exercise after 2021.

## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

GuildHE has fed extensively into the development of the Knowledge Exchange Framework, emphasising members' arguments on the need to look beyond metrics. In particular, seven small and specialists out of 21 institutions were involved in the KEF pilot exercise. We will continue to work with Research England as the KEF is introduced.

GuildHE jointly ran the consultation on the Knowledge Exchange Concordat with UUK. We are now part of the Task and Finish group for taking the results of the consultation forward.

## UKRI STRATEGY, RESEARCH ENGLAND AND INNOVATE UK

GuildHE Policy Managers meet regularly with senior leaders in Research England, Innovate UK and the UKRI Strategy team. This engagement resulted in the RED Fund from Research England including clauses about supporting different forms of KE and consideration of broad definitions of "place" in UKRI strategy work.



UKRI/  
RESEARCH  
ENGLAND

# GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT





# DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION

## POST-18 FUNDING REVIEW

GuildHE actively engaged with the independent review of Post-18 Education and Funding, arguing for a system that supports student choice, is fair to all learners and fully funds the costs of high quality higher and further education. We said that an effective post-18 education system needs to be supported by comprehensive, impartial careers advice and guidance and that since graduate level skills benefit businesses and wider society as well as individuals, the costs should be spread fairly among government, learners and employers. We argued that because higher education fulfil a broad range of economic, cultural, social and intellectual purposes then judgments about value needed to be formed by the views of students and wider society as well as by government. And we highlighted the important contribution of GuildHE members and other higher education institutions to high-level technical and professional education as well as academic excellence.

We welcomed many of the review's recommendations including protection for the higher costs of smaller and specialist institutions, credit-based funding to help students step into and out of education at a pace that suits them, support for lifelong learning, the reintroduction of maintenance grants for poorer students and addressing under-funding of further education. But we said that reducing fees mainly helped high earners and criticised the recommendation to extend the loan repayment period because it would penalise low and middle earning graduates.

## TEACHING EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK (TEF)

## LONGITUDINAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES (LEO)

LEO data is a set of official experimental statistics on employment and earnings outcomes of higher education graduates, by degree subject studied and university attended. It has been used by some politicians and press commentators as a proxy for the value of different degrees but it has significant limitations that are not widely understood. GuildHE, supported by the Head Trust, commissioned London Economics to provide an analysis of these limitations.

London Economics concluded that LEO should not be used as the only measure of graduate success in the labour market because there are too many critical gaps in the data and that for many degree subjects, graduate earnings are a wholly inappropriate measure of economic value. Its focus on individual earnings means it doesn't capture any of the wider economic benefits associated with a degree. For example, these spillover effects for creative arts graduates have been estimated to more than double the direct impact of earnings alone. We shared the research with government; GuildHE members and partners in higher education and the creative industries sector and more widely through social media and articles in the higher education press.

After successful GuildHE lobbying, DfE published LEO data by region in June 2019. The report validated our concern that LEO outcomes were highly biased by region.

GuildHE has been an active member of the government's TEF Delivery Group, providing advice on implementation. We responded to the Independent Review of TEF, arguing that the bureaucratic burden of subject-level TEF outweighed any potential value; that it should take much more account of students' views; that employment outcome metrics had too many limitations; that student choice was too complex for TEF to make much impact and that in future it should focus on enhancing teaching quality.



## PRE-HE QUALIFICATION REFORM

The Department for Education's (DfE's) programme of reforms to pre-HE qualifications continues to roll out and learners taking the new qualifications will soon be applying to higher education. As the reforms have progressed GuildHE has secured funding from the Head Trust to identify potential pipeline issues for the creative arts as a result of the school reforms taking place.

GuildHE is also working with government officials in the development of new T-Level qualifications, the review of Level 4 and 5 qualifications, and higher and degree apprenticeships.

GuildHE is a member of the Higher Education Data Advisory Committee which provides advice to the Minister on strategic questions about access, sharing and use of HE data.

# TREASURY

GuildHE regularly met with Treasury officials to discuss policy including key funding priorities linked to a possible Spending Review, the outcomes of the Augar Report, and the importance of the Industrial Strategy including consideration of the pipelines for key economic areas such as the creative industries and agricultural and food sectors.

GuildHE is a member of the Education Sector Advisory Group which met 6 times during 2018/19 discussing different elements of the Immigration White Paper. The meetings included regular policy updates from Home Office officials as well as discussions surrounding what a future immigration system might look like based on the December 2018 White Paper. Discussions covered a new Tier 2 route and sponsorship policy as well as looking at the visitor and skilled work routes and a possible new Tier 4 route.

GuildHE also worked with sector bodies including Universities UK, UKCISA, the Russell Group, University Alliance and Million Plus to develop a position paper on principles for reforming the student visa system, launched in July 2019.



## BEIS/ MHCLG

GuildHE worked with Universities UK and University Alliance to deliver a roundtable on the development of the UK Strength in Places Fund with the Cities and Local Growth team. We fed into the development of the consultation document.

## DCMS

This year we met with DCMS to talk about the changes to Pre-HE qualifications and how they may affect the creative industries pipeline. We also spoke about the importance of protecting specialist institutions to ensure strong industry links between universities and the creative industries. This is the start of an ongoing conversation with them, ensuring our members are at the forefront in their minds when talking about creative art, design and performance Higher Education.

## BREXIT

GuildHE is an active member of the BEIS/DfE High Level Stakeholder Working Group which provides strategic input to Ministers on the issues for higher education and research arising from the UK's exit from the EU. GuildHE also contributes to the Sub-Engagement Group and meets with government officials from multiple government departments on a regular basis. We have expressed members' views on both potential deals with the EU and No Deal planning. We work closely with UUKi and are members of the sector's Brexit Taskforce. We have also sent out Brexit Briefings to members summarising progress and will continue to do so until Brexit happens.

# POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT AT PARTY CONFERENCES

GuildHE organised dinners at both the Conservative and Labour Party Conferences, jointly with SMF and University Alliance. The Conservative Party Conference dinner was attended by the then Minister for Universities and Science, Sam Gymiah, and the Labour Party Conference dinner was attended by the Shadow Universities and Skills Minister, Gordon Marsden. The heads of 6 member institutions attended the dinners providing a good opportunity to hear directly from the Minister and to outline our priorities.

# WORKING WITH STUDENTS



Student engagement is one of the key features of GuildHE members and is prioritised in our strategic plan. Over the last year this has included feeding in to the development of the new student engagement section of the Quality Code as well as communicating through blogs, conference speeches and a journal article on student engagement. We also worked with the OfS to help develop their own Student Engagement Strategy.

### MENTAL HEALTH/WELLBEING

This year GuildHE published new research exploring how our members are supporting students to develop positive wellbeing habits during university and beyond. The work was led by the student support and students' union network and over 25 members participated in the study. The final report provides the sector with examples of good practice and sets out challenges in how providers may wish to develop their wellbeing strategies to ensure positive mental health in students. Following the success of the report GuildHE ran a Wellbeing Symposium for members to come together and share practice. As a result of this meeting the OfS has committed to a roundtable discussion on how they can better fund and otherwise assist student support innovations in smaller and specialist institutions.

### POLICY HANDBOOK

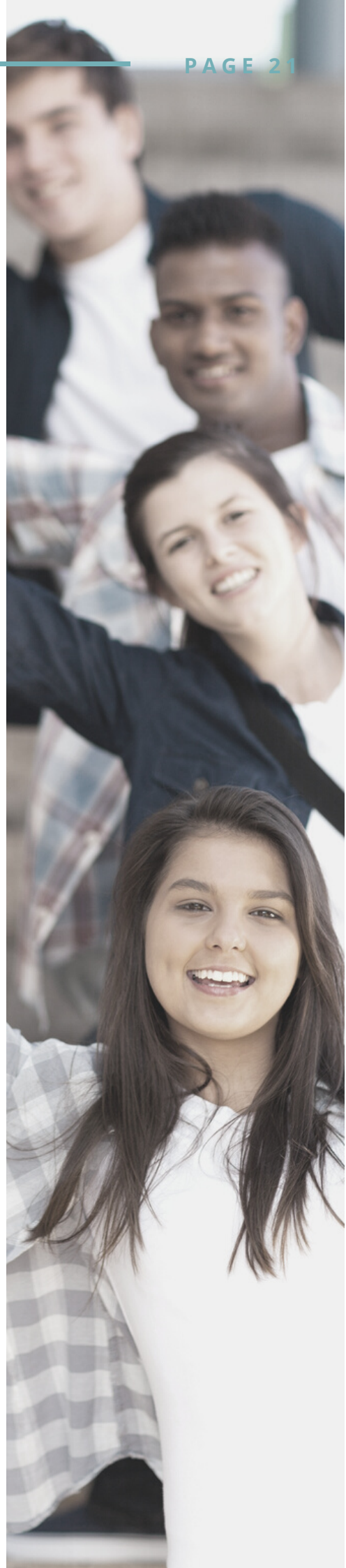
Once again GuildHE refreshed the Policy Handbook for new SU officers to help them better understand the HE landscape. This publication has been very well received, and institutions have also found it a helpful induction tool for new staff, both within our membership and beyond.

### SU NETWORK

GuildHE's students' union network has gone from strength to strength, with several meetings, good attendance at the GuildHE annual conference and over 60 attendees at our fringe at NUS Annual Conference. This provided delegates from member institutions and other smaller unions with a networking opportunity and was well attended and received.

### STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

GuildHE has been providing advice and guidance to the OfS on the creation of their Student Engagement Strategy. We successfully defended the requirement for all OfS providers to engage students individually and collectively within their institutions, and have worked with NUS on a number of policy areas including TEF, Post-18 Funding and Technical Education Reforms.



# WORKING WITH SOCIETY



## SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE EDUCATION: UK ECONOMIC IMPACT

GuildHE took over the secretariat of the joint UniversitiesUK/GuildHE Teacher Education Advisory Group, organising two meetings and a larger Teacher Education Summit to discuss issues relating to this key area of member activity. The meetings heard from key relevant organisations organisations DfE, OfSTED and UCAS and helped to reinvigorate the group.

We partnered with The Physiological Society to commission an economic impact of sport and exercise science in the UK. The report found that Sport and Exercise Science (SES) graduates contribute almost £4 billion to UK economy every year, supporting almost 150,000 jobs and that they earn nearly £670,000 more over their careers

The report was launched at a Parliamentary reception hosted by Gordon Marsden, MP. The project marks the beginning of what is likely to be a strong relationship with the Society.

## TEACHER EDUCATION

GuildHE Deputy CEO, Alex Bols, chaired the Tomorrow's Employees category at the annual EAUC Green Gowns Awards and spoke at the judging event. He also attended an EAUC round-table discussion on the Climate Emergency and will be developing a plan of work for the next academic year about this issue.

## SUSTAINABILITY



**PRIORITIES FOR**

**19/20**





- Influencing the Government's response to the review of post-18 education in England and subsequent decisions on higher education funding in the next Spending Review with the aim of ensuring fair and sustainable funding for quality teaching
- Engaging with the reform of intermediate technical and professional qualifications and the development of degree apprenticeships
- Engaging with the OfS, the designated quality and data bodies, and the review and development of the Teaching Excellence Framework to challenge regulatory burdens and costs
- Showcasing the distinctive contribution of GuildHE institutions to teaching, research and wider society, including through our new communications and public affairs strategy
- Engaging with policies to address geographical inequalities in the UK and with relevant research, knowledge exchange and skills funding discussions with the aim of ensuring the contribution of smaller institutions to local growth is recognised and fairly funded
- Supporting institutions on research and the development of REF2021
- Supporting transitions to higher education and student wellbeing in member institutions
- Work with our members to encourage sector wide responses to sustainability and the climate emergency
- Supporting members in the lead-up to Brexit day and beyond and influencing the Government's future policies on international students and staff
- Supporting the development of the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF)
- Working with partners in key industry sectors including the creative economy, agriculture and food and teacher education to demonstrate the importance of specialist institutions to the future skills pipeline
- Developing our capacity to share knowledge and good practice in relation to widening participation and attainment and supporting members to collaborate in national activities.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Trustees have reviewed the activities of the Charity in the light of the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit. The Trustees are satisfied that GuildHE's activities are for the public benefit. GuildHE provides public benefit to those planning to undertake, those undertaking and those with an interest in the outcomes of UK higher education as a consequence of the assistance it gives its members institutions.. Through the direct advice, information and comment it provides into the public domain and into policy frameworks, it informs the public debate and raises public awareness of a range of educational and other professionally-based issues at subject level. By supporting the heads of institutions, it enables them to lead their charitable and educational organisations more effectively. As a consequence GuildHE has an impact on the delivery of higher education through good practice exchange and advice on policy. The organisations that GuildHE members lead provide a range of higher education opportunities to students from the UK and abroad; and they have public benefit impacts on the cultural, social and intellectual development of their communities.

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