

Key issues for universities in the new parliament

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Overview

- 1) New parliament, new Government, new ministers
- 2) Key issues for universities in the new parliament
 - Immigration
 - Spending review
 - Economic growth and productivity
 - Devolution
 - Counter-terrorism and extremism
 - EU referendum
- 3) Student experience, funding and teaching

. I'll also touch on a group of issues with a student focus (funding, teaching, VfM, PG loans, quality, regulation). I'll also touch on what we know about the new Universities minister and BIS Secretary of State.

New parliament, new Government, new ministers

- Slim Conservative majority
- No Lib Dem brake
- Role of the House of Lords
- Opposition – Labour, SNP
- Jo Johnson MP, Minister of State for Universities and Science
- Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for BIS
- A focus on the delivery of manifesto commitments



Tightening immigration policy

- Bill to deliver manifesto commitments... 10s of thousands
- “reform student visa system with new measures to tackle abuse and reduce the numbers of students overstaying”
- “clamping down on satellite campuses opened in London”
- “reviewing highly trusted sponsor system for student visas”
- Exit checks and “targeted sanctions for those that fail to ensure that migrants comply with the terms of their visa”
- Dependants, increase English language testing requirements, cap on international student numbers?

Key issues for universities in the new parliament

➤ **Tough spending review**

- Likely significant cuts to BIS budget (IFS 18%?)
- £450m cuts announced to BIS budget in year (2015-16)
- Perception that universities are inefficient and “awash with cash” and haven’t yet suffered from cuts

➤ **Focus on economic growth and productivity**

- Economic value of universities: driving innovation, produce skilled graduates, major export industry
- Chancellors’ science commitment, no student numbers cap
- 3m new apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships
- University Enterprise Zones

Key issues for universities in the new parliament

➤ Further devolution

- Significant changes for Scotland, Smith Commission
- City mayors, powers and money to regions
- Northern powerhouse

➤ New measures to tackle terrorism, extremism

- Terrorism v violent extremism v extreme views
- Restricting academic freedom and freedom of speech?
- New Prevent measures

Referendum on the UK membership of the European Union by 2017



“Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union?”

EU Referendum question

What?

The British people will get a very simple choice on the UK's membership of the EU

When?

The referendum will take place by the end of 2017

Who?

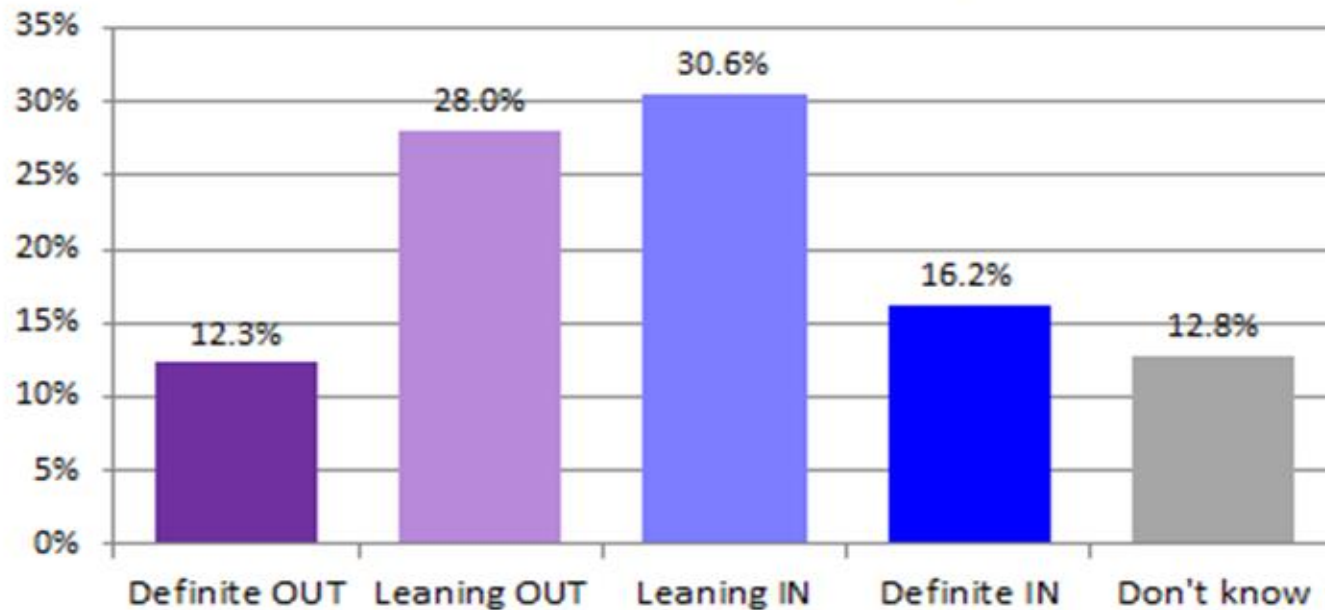
People who were eligible to vote in the General Election, plus citizens of Gibraltar

#EUReferendum

EU referendum and public opinion

"Thinking about a possible referendum on Britain's EU membership, which of the following best sums up your current voting intention?"

Most people have not made a decision about where they stand on Britain's EU membership

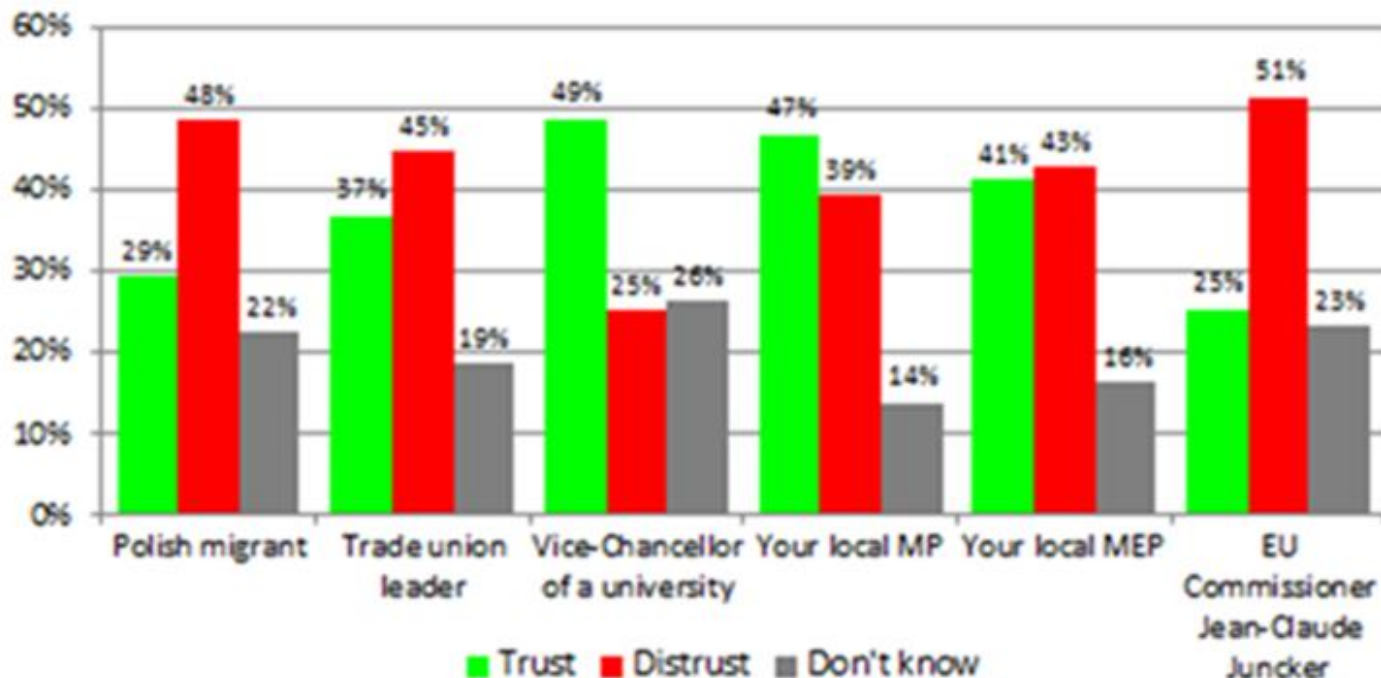


Survation for British Future, May 2015

Does the university voice matter in the referendum debate?

"How much do you trust the following people when they talk about whether Britain should stay in the European Union?"

Certain voices trusted more than others



Universities for Europe

www.universitiesforeurope.com



Student experience, funding and teaching – policy priorities

- Stability of 2012 funding reforms in England
- Abolish student numbers cap in England
- Postgraduate loans
- Focus on value for money for students
- Framework to recognise universities offering the highest teaching quality – funding link?
- Open transparent information, graduate employment data
- Encourage universities to offer more two-year courses

4 ways to keep updated...

- 1) Subscribe to UUK **blog** – regular accessible policy, research and political updates <http://blog.universitiesuk.ac.uk/>
- 2) Upcoming UUK **conferences and events** www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/events
- 3) Join UUK's **Public Affairs Network** – for political relations leads and policy wonks
- 4) Read **Wonkhe** www.wonkhe.com



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