

## The Autumn Statement 2022

Modern universities make up over half of the UK's higher education sector, educating over a million students a year and make a huge contribution to their regional economies as anchor institutions, generating **£17bn** in expenditure-related gross value add (GVA) as a result of their economic activity. These institutions are also drivers of social mobility and an important cog in the Government's levelling up agenda.

Although it is being delivered amidst a difficult economic environment, the Government **should reaffirm or implement the following proposals** in the Autumn Statement to support our world-leading universities and boost the skills agenda.

Universities play a vital role in a country's economic success, driving growth, fuelling innovation and knowledge exchange and providing a highly-skilled workforce to boost levelling up, with the majority of research at modern institutions assessed as world-leading or internationally excellent.

**The Government should recommit to investing £20bn every year in research and development by 2024–25.**



Higher education institutions in England continue to deliver world-class teaching and research against a backdrop of economic uncertainty. By 2024–25 the £9,250 annual tuition fee will only be worth £6,600 in 2012–13 prices.<sup>1</sup> **The Government must at least maintain the current unit of resource for higher education to ensure universities can help to deliver the skills agenda.**



Analysis from MillionPlus's recent Learning with the Lights Off report shows that nearly 300,000 students will be at risk due to the cost-of-living crisis, with traditionally underrepresented groups in higher education hit the hardest. **The Government should implement an immediate increase to maintenance funding for students, ideally in the shape of maintenance grants, and ensure students are included in any further cost-of-living measures introduced.**



The impact of the pandemic highlighted the importance of our key public services, particularly the need for a robust and resilient NHS. To build on what we have learned, and to ensure the UK is better prepared in the future, **the Government should invest in high quality placements in the NHS, social work and teaching to enable a pipeline of skilled workers throughout our public services.**



As we emerge from the pandemic it is vital we have a flexible post-18 education system, able to meet the challenges of an ever-changing economy and support current and future learners into new and exciting careers. Modern universities are well placed to step up and deliver the courses our economy needs, so **the Government must recommit to the Lifelong Loan Entitlement and ensure we have a skills system that delivers for people and for economic growth.**

