



leading the  
university agenda

# THE UNIVERSITY THINK-TANK

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015





## Our mission

To develop and shape public policy and university and student funding regimes so that they enable:

> people from every walk of life to benefit from access to universities that excel in teaching, research and knowledge transfer

> businesses, the NHS, the 'not for profit' sectors and government to benefit from the full potential of all universities

We work with a network of institutions that provide high quality courses and outstanding research to promote aspirations and empower and equip students and employers in the UK and in countries throughout the world. These universities play a vital role in supporting and developing the businesses and public services of today and tomorrow.

## Introduction

In the last 12 months, million+ has lived up to its reputation for providing cutting edge analysis and incisive interventions in a political arena dominated, first by the Scottish referendum, and then by the certainty that, under the Fixed-Term Parliament Act, voters would go to the polls in May 2015 to elect the Westminster Parliament.

Those who predicted that higher education would not figure in the run-up to, or during, these elections were proved wrong. Free higher education is now supported by all political parties in Scotland, at least for full-time students, although numbers remain capped.

In England, questions remain about how the Coalition government's policy of de-regulating student numbers will be funded long-term. For its part, the Labour Party waited until February before announcing that, if elected, it would reduce the higher fee cap to £6000.

The modelling work previously undertaken by million+ with London Economics on the short and long-term costs of the post-2012 funding system, has stood us in good stead and been used to underpin comment and evidence submitted to a number of inquiries and commissions.

In our role as a think-tank, we published reports which focused on research and innovation funding, and on the relationship between universities, regional growth and graduate participation. Both reports highlighted the benefits of government re-thinking priorities for investment.

We have also contributed to a wide range of seminars and conferences, published manifestos on universities, teacher education and health education, contributed to important all-party parliamentary inquiries about race and higher education and post-study work visas, hosted round-tables in parliament, briefed parliamentarians, including on the implications of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill, and highlighted the damaging consequences for international students, universities and employers of the government's approach to visa regulation and enforcement.

None of this would have been possible without the support of Vice-Chancellors and the senior staff of universities for whom we offer a range of membership services.

They share a vision about the importance to individuals and to society of higher education, research and enterprise. I would like to thank them, and the staff of million+, for their work and contributions. We enter 2015-16 with a strong sense of purpose and the expertise to provide evidence, undertake advocacy and engage effectively in what is likely to be politically, an even more interesting year.



**Professor  
Michael Gunn**  
Vice-Chancellor  
Staffordshire University  
Chair, million+

## Review of the year

### Member services/Networking

In our role as facilitator of a powerful network of member institutions million+ has continued to provide:

- > opportunities for university leaders to meet and consider key issues and challenges arising both north and south of the border
- > a range of fora in which university vice-chancellors, principals, government ministers, opposition spokespersons and officials engaged to consider policy initiatives and proposals
- > a wide range of working groups for senior staff, creating further opportunities for information exchange, informal networking, evidence collection, policy submissions and advocacy
- > updates to affiliates on a wide range of issues together with focused briefings, consultation responses and analysis

The links that million+ has with universities and the services that million+ provides, offer important benefits to affiliates. However, they are significant for other reasons. These services underpin the exchange of ideas that inform the focus of our research programme and the advocacy work that we undertake. This means that our role as a university think-tank is rooted in real-life challenges and a quest to promote policy solutions and political discourse that properly reflect the realities of the diversity of the student profile, the excellence of research and enterprise across the sector and the complexity of the global institutions managed by senior university leaders in the different funding and governance regimes within the UK.

## Review of the year Policy and Research

Our research and policy reports focused on the role universities play in supporting economic growth and innovation. As key anchor institutions with strong relationships with businesses and other organisations in their local areas, universities provide significant opportunities to boost regional growth and enable individuals to improve their career prospects.



# Review of the year Policy and Research continued

## Smarter Regions Smarter Britain: Boosting regional growth through universities

This report provided new data highlighting the high percentage of graduates who study and work in the same region and used modelling from London Economics to assess the economic benefits of graduates to the regions and the Treasury.

The research revealed both stark regional variations in university participation but also showed that significant numbers of graduates live and work in the regions in which they study. For example, in the North West 76% of graduates in employment studied in the region – a figure which rose to 79% in the North East.

The regional economic impact arising from graduates who obtained employment in the region in which they studied was analysed. This confirmed that the majority of the economic impact generated by universities through the education of graduates takes place in the regions. For example, from a single cohort of graduates, universities in the North East generated £1.7 billion per year with £1.3bn – 80% – generated by those who obtained employment

in the North East after graduation. This economic impact was achieved despite comparatively lower regional participation and attainment rates.

*Smarter Regions Smarter Britain* concluded that boosting the role of universities and incentivising and encouraging participation in higher education would have a positive outcome in terms of regional growth and result in wider positive spill-over effects for employers and regional economies.

## The Innovation Challenge: A new approach to research funding

Successive governments in the UK have lauded the role of research in creating economic growth. Investment in innovation is valued to the extent that the science and research budget was ring-fenced in cash terms from 2010 when most other areas of government spending were significantly reduced or removed. However, our research found that the UK invests less in publicly funded research and development (R&D) as a percentage of GDP than the leading 22 OECD countries and is 19th of OECD countries in terms of private sector R&D investment as a percentage of GDP. The UK also invests less in R&D than the average of other EU member states.

The report concluded that:

> by 2012-13, 25% of the £1.9bn of research funding provided by taxpayers was allocated to five universities with 12 institutions receiving 50% of the funding in spite of there being no reassessment of research quality

> research funding policies concentrating investment in a small number of universities created inequity for students, wasted the talents of university staff across the sector and limited interaction between universities, local businesses and the not-for-profit sector notwithstanding their need to develop new products and services



> a focus on STEM risked under-valuing research in the social sciences and the creative industries in which the UK is a world-leader

> the UK's approach to research funding stood in stark contrast to the model in the Nordic and in other countries which fund research capacity and translational research and have better records in innovation and in attracting private R&D investment

*The Innovation Challenge* recommended that government adopt a new target to increase investment in research, fund all universities to develop research capacity and establish a new stream of funding for translational research to improve Britain's record in innovation.

### Growth by Research

In 2014, million+ provided the secretariat for a Growth by Research (GBR) campaign launched by universities and businesses interested in seeking to ensure that a more balanced research funding environment is supported in the UK. The GBR campaign aims to:

> reassert a commitment to the need for a broad and balanced research base, including investment in the research infrastructure of all universities

> increase the science and innovation budget so that the UK is in the top 10 OECD countries measured by the proportion of GDP spent on science and innovation

> fund excellent research wherever it occurs

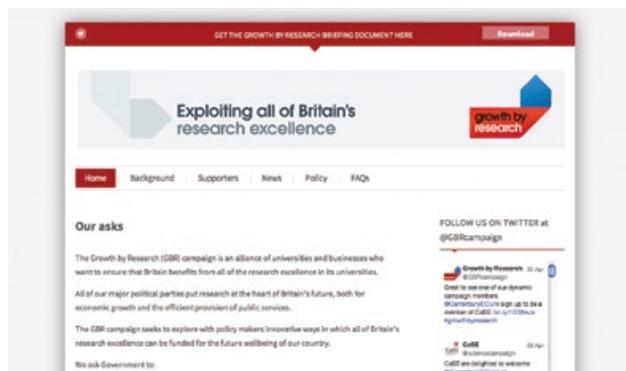
> explore innovative ways of using existing public funds to support greater investment in translational research

The campaign was successful in securing a meeting in Parliament hosted by a cross-party group of MPs to consider ways in which government can be encouraged to support the campaign's objectives.

### The HE Debate: Where next...?

Higher education, science and innovation remain some of the most high profile policy issues for government. In Scotland and in England, universities are key to a number of major political challenges: supporting social mobility; providing businesses with highly skilled graduates; increasing employee skills and productivity; researching new products and innovative solutions for industry and the not-for-profit sectors and developing the next generation of professional and public service employees. Success in these areas will help deliver long term, stable economic growth and social cohesion.

In December 2014, million+ commissioned articles from leading higher education commentators asking them to review the impact of government policies since 2010 and address the future 'HE debate'. As a result the 'Where next for...?' series was published online between January and March 2015.



## Review of the year Advocacy

million+ has hosted a number of events, circulated briefings to parliamentarians and decision-makers and submitted evidence to select committees. In addition, we have sought to encourage MPs and peers to table written and oral parliamentary questions to press Government on issues of importance to higher education.



### Party Conferences 2014

The last party conference season before the 2015 general election saw million+ hold lunchtime panel debates at Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat party conferences in partnership with the National Union of Students (NUS). All three of the main UK-wide parties were challenged to outline their policies on fees, immigration and research funding.

The Conference season began in Manchester at Labour's conference which took place immediately after the Scottish referendum. Shadow Universities and Science Minister, Liam Byrne MP, Paul Blomfield MP, Member of the BIS Select Committee, Toni Pearce, NUS President and Professor Michael Gunn from million+ were on the platform.

Additionally, million+ staff contributed to a number of private roundtable discussions on schools and teacher education, including events hosted by Kevin Brennan MP, Reform and the Fabian Society.

At the Conservative conference in Birmingham, Universities, Science and Cities Minister, Greg Clark MP, spoke alongside Eric Ollerenshaw MP, the Vice-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Students with Toni Pearce and Michael Gunn again making platform appearances.

Finally, at the Liberal Democrat conference in Glasgow our panel comprised Gareth Epps, Co-Chair, Social Liberal Forum and member of Liberal Democrat Federal Policy Committee, Julian Huppert MP, Megan Dunn, Deputy President of NUS, and Professor Nigel Seaton, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Abertay University.



# Review of the year Advocacy continued

## A Manifesto for Universities

Published in February 2015, the Manifesto set out key principles and the reasons why government should continue to invest in but also promote a world class university system. The Manifesto pointed out that supporting more people of all ages to study for a degree and ensuring that all universities are funded to develop research capacity and translational research were some of the best investments that any government could make.

In addition the Manifesto called for government to:

- > fund higher education opportunities for students of all ages and backgrounds
- > enhance the unit of resource and capital funding for teaching
- > expand the science and innovation budget so that the UK is in the top 10 of OECD countries for investment in research and development by 2020

> fund research infrastructure and staff capacity in all universities and moderate the concentration of research funding

> review university title and the regulation of private providers

> amend the visa regulations for international students and staff

> fund a new Prime Minister's initiative to support all UK universities in the international market

## A Manifesto for Teacher Education

Our Deans of Education group played a crucial role in exploring the impact of the government's reforms to teacher education in England in meetings with officials from the Department for Education and the National College of Teaching and Leadership. In addition to facilitating this work, million+ engaged with ministers, opposition spokespersons and MPs. As a result, the implications of decisions to abolish the requirement that teachers should be qualified, the impact of the introduction of skills tests and in particular, the impact on teacher supply of decisions to transfer increasing numbers of initial teacher training places from universities to schools were raised with ministers and in parliament.

This advocacy work culminated in the launch of a million+ *Manifesto for Teacher Education* in the House of Commons on 10 March 2015. Hosted by Kevin Brennan MP, Labour MP and Opposition Spokesperson for Schools and chaired by Professor Michael Gunn from million+, other speakers included Graham Stuart, Conservative MP and Chair of the Education Select Committee, Christine Blower, NUT General Secretary and Nansi Ellis, Assistant General Secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers.



# Review of the year

## Advocacy continued

Drafted with and endorsed by the leading teaching organisations, the Manifesto was welcomed with enthusiasm and described as providing 'a road map' for the next government to deliver a new system to secure the supply of qualified teachers, ensure the quality of their initial teacher training and provide for their continuing development.

### A Manifesto for Health Education

Notwithstanding the debate about the future funding of the NHS, the role of universities in educating health and social care professional staff has received little political or media attention. In 2011, million+ lobbied the Health Select Committee to conduct an Inquiry into the impact on health education in England of the NHS and Social Care Bill which was then being discussed in parliament. In response the government established a new special health authority, Health Education England (HEE), and a series of local education and training boards or LETBs.

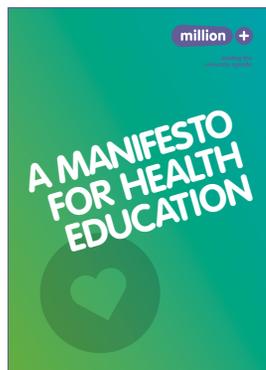
Universities at national level have had to engage in prolonged negotiations with HEE while Deans of Health and Social Care have had to manage

a more fragmented approach at local level, changes in commissioning and the task of identifying quality placements in health and social care providers which have increasingly faced their own funding challenges.

As a result million+ facilitated a working group for senior university staff engaged in delivering health and social care professional education in England and Scotland and lobbied to raise key concerns in parliament. The education, training and development of the health and social care professional and support workforce by universities in partnership with providers, is crucial to the well-being of current and future generations and to the integration of services. This message was taken to the heart of Westminster in March when million+ launched *A Manifesto for Health Education* in the House of Commons.

Hosted by Health Select Committee member and Liberal-Democrat MP, Andrew George, and chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of Bolton University, Professor George Holmes, other speakers at this well-attended launch included Andrew Gwynne, Labour MP and Opposition Health Spokesperson, Joanna Brown, Chief Executive of the College of Podiatry, and Helga Pile, Unison's National Officer for social care and social work.

In addition to the College of Podiatry and Unison, the manifesto was drafted in liaison with other key health organisations and endorsed by the British Dietetic Association and the Society of Radiographers. The Manifesto outlines recommendations and an action plan for government and makes clear that increased investment in health education across the spectrum of careers will be vital if the health care needs and public health demands of the UK population and the ambitions of politicians to integrate services are to be realised.





# Review of the year

## Advocacy continued

### The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act

This Act was one of the last pieces of legislation in the 2010-2015 parliament and million+ carried out extensive lobbying work on this and the draft guidance on the Prevent duty on universities.

From the beginning of the Parliamentary process, million+ raised concerns about the scope and wording of the duties in the Bill as well as the principle of legislating in a way which had the potential to sanction Government interference in the governance of universities. Ministers eventually realised that as originally drafted, the legislation was unlikely to be agreed by the House of Lords. As a result a number of amendments were tabled reflecting million+ advice.

The briefings from million+ were cited by crossbenchers, Liberal Democrat peers and the Opposition Front Bench in the Lords. In addition million+ submitted evidence to the Home Office's consultation on the Prevent guidance duties.

### Engaging in the public debate

The million+ leadership and staff team were again invited to participate in panel discussions and present at higher education conferences and workshops. Key appearances in 2014-15 included:

Pam Tatlow, Chief Executive: *How the UK could be repositioned as a Top Education Destination* (April 2014)

Professor Michael Gunn, Chair: *Competition in the Higher Education Market* (May 2014)

Pam Tatlow: *Global Universities of the 21st Century*, Liverpool (June 2014)

Nick Entwistle, Senior Policy and Parliamentary Officer: *The international student application process in practice: English language testing, visa requirements and regulation* (November 2014)

Professor Michael Gunn: *A response to the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission's annual report* (November 2014)

Pam Tatlow: *The UK government's higher education and science policy and its impact on Scotland*, Scotland's Universities 2014 Conference, Edinburgh (November 2014)

Pam Tatlow: *The role of entrepreneurial universities in regional and national innovation*, Belgo-British Conference, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Brussels (November 2014)

Alan Palmer, Head of Policy and Research: *The National Student Survey (NSS) and fee implications* (December 2014)

Pam Tatlow: *The importance of research and the need for a long term investment strategy* (March 2015)

Alan Palmer: *The future of postgraduate education*, Salford (March 2015)

## Review of the year News and Views

million+ is regularly called on to brief journalists and provide comment on Government and other announcements as well as on million+ research and publications. The Chair and Chief Executive have appeared on BBC Breakfast, Sky News, 5 Live, World at One and local radio stations.



## Review of the year Press coverage

“The schools of tomorrow deserve teachers with academic and professional qualifications and in-service opportunities to reflect on their professional practice. This means a return to both respecting and valuing the contribution of universities to teacher education. It cannot come a moment too soon.”

Pam Tatlow  
**Schools Week**  
October 2014

“It is disappointing that the student support system continues to be modelled on 18-year-olds who study full time when one in three students now enters university for the first time when they are over 21.”

Pam Tatlow  
**Times Higher Education**  
November 2014

“Government policies have resulted in the hyper-concentration of research funding in a few institutions and this is hindering innovation. We need a guarantee that all universities will be funded for research but there should also be a new stream of funding for translational research.”

Pam Tatlow  
**University Business**  
December 2014

“If not reconsidered, this [Counter-Terrorism and Security] Bill may have a chilling effect on free speech and debate in universities. The implications for universities and the recommendations of the joint committee must now be closely scrutinised in the House of Lords.”

Professor Michael Gunn  
**BBC**  
January 2015

“The government’s reforms have incentivised the recruitment of full-time rather than part-time students, but it is clear that modern universities continue to be highly attractive to students.”

Pam Tatlow  
**Times Higher Education**  
January 2015

“We are concerned that the new Counter-Terrorism and Security Act confuses rather than clarifies the role of universities in tackling extremism.”

Professor Michael Gunn  
and 12 other Vice-Chancellors  
**The Telegraph**  
March 2015

**“Supporting more people to study for a degree and ensuring that all universities are funded to develop research capacity and translational research are some of the best investments that any government can make.”**

Professor Michael Gunn  
**Times Higher Education**  
February 2015

**“The next government risks sleep-walking into a teacher shortage unless there is a change of track. [Our] manifesto provides a clear plan to deliver teacher supply and a world-class system of teacher education and career-long professional development.”**

Professor Michael Gunn  
**Times Higher Education**  
March 2015

“Politicians frequently discuss the future of universities in the context of their own university experience... this is a much narrower experience than the majority of graduates, a third of whom progress to university when they are over twenty-one.”

Professor Michael Gunn  
**Huffington Post**  
February 2015

“A much more honest debate about how investment in higher education can be delivered will only happen if the current smoke and mirrors accountancy rules of the Treasury are changed.”

Pam Tatlow  
**Guardian**  
February 2015

# Review of the year Social Media



**The World at One**  
@BBCWorldatOne · Mar 2

Professor **Michael Gunn**: “Ability to speak freely about a range of issues” is important in tackling radicalisation #wato



**The Sentinel**  
@SentinelStaffs · Feb 20

Great column by @StaffsUni Vice Chancellor Michael Gunn on degrees and the General Election: [ow.ly/li2WC](http://ow.ly/li2WC) @StaffsUniVC #Sentinel



Bath Spa University retweeted



**R Armstrong-Haworth**  
@rob\_bsu · Mar 31

Promoting @million\_plus manifesto series to PPCs in Bath, NE Somerset & Chippenham, inviting discussion! @BathSpaUni [goo.gl/py7PVy](http://goo.gl/py7PVy)



**UK in Belgium**  
@UKinBelgium · Nov 20

@millionplusCEO Looking forward seeing you at the Belgo-British conf in #Brussels, #Belgium: [goo.gl/Z82](http://goo.gl/Z82)



million+ retweeted



**Pam Tatlow**  
@millionplusCEO · Feb 20

million+ Chair @StaffsUniVC making the case for fully funding unis whilst lowering #tuitionfees on @BBCNews



**million+**  
@million\_plus · Jan 26

Our CEO Pam Tatlow (@millionplusCEO) was interviewed yesterday by @bbc5live on funding tuition fees – let us know if you tuned in #higherred



**million+**  
@million\_plus · Mar 25

We welcome govt consultation on postgrad loan scheme but will be in the detail for part-time & older learners [bit.ly/1CpBTyC](http://bit.ly/1CpBTyC)



**CDBU**  
@cdbuni · Feb 10

Good sense from Pam Tatlow of million+ on university funding... [fb.me/6ssa0Bd3y](http://fb.me/6ssa0Bd3y)



**Kevin Brennan**  
@KevinBrennanMP · Mar 10

Hosting @million\_plus manifesto for teacher education today – every child should have the right to be taught by a qualified teacher



**Andrew Gwynne**  
@GwynneMP · Mar 13

@million\_plus: @GwynneMP raises so many key issues at our #Health manifesto launch [bit.ly/1F5liBW](http://bit.ly/1F5liBW) #G



**London Met Uni**  
@LondonMetUni · Apr 10

As #ge2015 looms, this manifesto, by @million\_plus, is a must read for those interested in higher education [millionplus.ac.uk/research-pc](http://millionplus.ac.uk/research-pc)



NUS Student Media retweeted



**Julian Huppert**  
@julianhuppert · Oct 6

Now preparing to speak at the @nusuk @million\_plus fringe about students and universities. Lots to cover! #ldconf #fb



**University Business**  
@UB\_UK · Mar 19

Response from @million\_plus [universitybusiness.co.uk](http://universitybusiness.co.uk)



million+ retweeted



**Pam Tatlow**  
@millionplusCEO · Jan 15

Extremely disappointing figures from @ukhesa today showing 22% decline in part-time students in the year after fees' introduction #higherred

## Review of the year Social Media

**million+ has expanded its influence through social media, increased Twitter followers by 15% and more than doubled guest contributions to the website.**

Following the publication of *The Innovation Challenge*, million+ commissioned a series of blogs from practitioners to illustrate the innovative research undertaken in modern universities across the UK.

### **Contributors included:**

- > Catherine Lee, Head of Research and Postgraduate Office at London Metropolitan University on research undertaken in the Child and Woman Abuse Centre (CWASU)
- > Sandra Booth, Director of Enterprise and Commercial Development at Staffordshire University describing the impact of research which resulted in ground-breaking Spectral 360® technology to process CCTV footage and assist police investigations
- > Dr Rajshree Mootanah, Director of the Medical Engineering Research Group at Anglia Ruskin University highlighting the impact of his research on hip replacement surgery across England

> Prof Joe Bennett, Dean of the School of Music & Performing Arts at Bath Spa University explaining how forensic musicology research helped to identify originality thresholds in popular song, develop new methods for collaborative song writing and provide a commercial application to assist courts and copyright owners

### **'Topical' blogs have also been featured. These included:**

- > *Reflections on the immigration debate*, Professor Nigel Seaton, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Abertay University (March 2014)
- > *London Metropolitan's role in Tech City given thumbs up from Down Under*, Jonathan Woodhead, Executive Officer, London Metropolitan University (May 2014)
- > *Global Universities in the 21st century*, Pam Tatlow, Chief Executive, million+ (June 2014)
- > *It's time to open up the debate on research funding in the UK*, Professor Michael Gunn, Vice-Chancellor, Staffordshire University and Chair, million+ (September 2014)
- > *The postgraduate problem: does the treasury have a solution?*, Pam Tatlow, Chief Executive, million+ (December 2014)

## The year ahead Looking to the future

As is evidenced in this report, the contributions of universities to society, the economy and the global interests of the UK, are wide-ranging and go well beyond important, but potentially narrow, debates about fee levels.

The creative industries, the future of education, health and social care, research and enterprise – to name just a few – depend on the engagement and the expertise of universities and the talented graduates that they produce.

With a new government in Westminster, a third of the members of the House of Commons also likely to be new to parliament and elections to the Scottish Parliament in May 2016, million+ is well-placed to provide analysis, comment and advocacy but also to work with Ministers, officials and other partners to find solutions to complex problems.

Our work in 2014-15 set out solutions to some of the challenges that politicians will face in the months after the general election but in addition, we have brought new ideas and voices to the table. With a strong membership offer, a committed leadership and staff team and a clear direction but also the flexibility to respond to changing agendas, we enter the next period confident that, by working with our affiliate universities, we will continue to make an insightful and influential contribution to policy and political agendas throughout the UK.



# million+ in 2014/2015

## The Executive

Chair

**Professor Michael Gunn**

Vice-Chancellor of Staffordshire University

Treasurer

**Professor Michael Driscoll**

Vice-Chancellor of Middlesex University

**Professor George Holmes**

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bolton

**Professor Peter John**

Vice-Chancellor, University of West London

**Professor Dave Phoenix**

Vice-Chancellor of London South Bank University

**Bill Rammell**

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bedfordshire

**Professor Nigel Seaton**

Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Abertay University

**Professor Mike Thorne**

Vice-Chancellor of Anglia Ruskin University

## Staff

**Pam Tatlow**, Chief Executive

**Jayne Franklin**, PA and Office Manager

**Alan Palmer**, Head of Policy and Research

**Nick Entwistle**, Senior Policy and  
Parliamentary Officer

**Rochelle Owusu-Antwi**, Press and  
Communications Officer





leading the  
university agenda

**million+**

90 London Road  
London SE1 6LN

Phone 020 7717 1655  
Twitter: @million\_plus  
info@millionplus.ac.uk  
www.millionplus.ac.uk