

RSB Policy Briefing:

General Election 2017 Education and Science Policies

The education priorities and science priorities identified in the 2017 general election manifestos. As education is a devolved issue, there is additional information specific to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

This document will be updated as manifestos are released.

Conservatives

Science

- Theresa May's Conservatives will deliver growth across the country through our modern industrial strategy and major investment in infrastructure, skills and research and development.
- We will spend more on research and development, to turn brilliant discoveries into practical products and transform the world's industries – such as the batteries that will power a new generation of clean, efficient, electric vehicles.
- We will deliver this and ensure further growth so that overall, as a nation, we meet the current OECD average for investment in R&D – that is, 2.4 per cent of GDP – within ten years, with a longer-term goal of three per cent.
- We will increase the number of scientists working in the UK and enable leading scientists from around the world to work here. We will work hard to ensure we have a regulatory environment that encourages innovation.
- We want universities to enjoy the commercial fruits of their research, through funds that are large enough to list, thereby giving British investors a chance to share in their success.
- A global Britain should aspire to do even more: we will significantly increase our funding of UK-led medical and technical research into the biggest threats to global health and prosperity.
- We will establish new institutes of technology, backed by leading employers and linked to leading universities, in every major city in England. They will provide courses at degree level and above, specialising in technical disciplines, such as STEM, whilst also providing higher-level apprenticeships and bespoke courses for employers. They will enjoy the freedoms that make our universities great, including eligibility for public funding for productivity and skills research, and access to loans and grants for their students.
- We will continue to support research into the diagnosis and treatment of rare cancers and other diseases, including Genomics England's work in decoding 100,000 genomes.

Education

Early years

- Thirty hours of free childcare for three and four-year-olds for working parents who find it difficult to manage the costs of childcare
- Institute a capital fund to help primary schools develop nurseries where they currently do not have the facilities to provide one

Schools

- Continue with our programme of free schools, building at least a hundred new free schools a year.
- We will prohibit councils from creating any new places in schools that have been rated either 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' by Ofsted
- Allow opening of new faith schools - require new faith schools to prove that parents of other faiths and none would be prepared to send their children to that school
- Work with the Independent Schools Council to ensure that at least 100 leading independent schools become involved in academy sponsorship or the founding of free schools in the state system
- Open a specialist maths school in every major city in England
- Allow opening of new selective schools
- We will make sure that no school has its budget cut as a result of the new fair funding formula
- Increase the overall schools budget by £4 billion by 2022
- Protect the Pupil Premium
- Remove free lunches for all infants instead offer a free school breakfast to every child in every year of primary school, while children from low-income families will continue to receive free school lunches throughout their years in primary and secondary education.

School Curriculum

- Strengthen the teaching of literacy and numeracy in the early years
- Expect every 11-year-old to know their times tables off by heart
- Improve schools' accountability at key stage 3
- Expect 75 per cent of pupils to have been entered for the EBacc combination of GCSEs by the end of the next parliament, with 90 per cent of pupils studying this combination of academic GCSEs by 2025

Teachers

- Provide bursaries to attract top graduates into teaching
- Offer forgiveness on student loan repayments while they are teaching
- Dedicated support to help teachers throughout their careers.
- Bear down on unnecessary paperwork and the burden of Ofsted inspections
- Create a single jobs portal to advertise schools jobs

Technical Education

- Replacing 13,000 existing technical qualifications with new qualifications, known as T-levels, across fifteen routes in subjects including construction, creative and design, digital, engineering and manufacturing, and health and science
- Increase the number of teaching hours by fifty per cent to an average of 900 hours per year and make sure that each student does a three-month work placement as part of their course
- Invest in further education colleges to make sure they have world-class equipment and facilities
- Create a new national programme to attract experienced industry professionals to work in FE colleges
- Establish new institutes of technology, backed by leading employers and linked to leading universities, in every major city in England
- Launch a major review of funding across tertiary education as a whole
- Ensure that colleges deliver the skills required by local businesses through Skills Advisory Panels and Local Enterprise Partnerships working at a regional and local level.
- Introduce a UCAS-style portal for technical education

Apprenticeships

- Create 3 million apprenticeships for young people by 2020
- Allow large firms to pass levy funds to small firms in their supply chain, and work with the business community to develop a new programme to allow larger firms to place apprentices in their supply chains
- Explore teaching apprenticeships sponsored by major companies, especially in STEM subjects
- Introduce significantly discounted bus and train travel for apprentices to ensure that no young person is deterred from an apprenticeship due to travel costs

Higher Education / Universities

- We will make it a condition for universities hoping to charge maximum tuition fees to become involved in academy sponsorship or the founding of free schools
- Launch a major review of funding across tertiary education as a whole
- Toughen the visa requirements for students
- Expect students to leave the country at the end of their course, unless they meet new, higher requirements that allow them to work in Britain after their studies have concluded
- Overseas students will remain in the immigration statistics

Lifelong learning

- A new right to request leave for training for all employees
- National retraining scheme. Under the scheme, the costs of training will be met by the government, with companies able to gain access to the Apprenticeship Levy to support wage costs during the training period
- Introducing a right to lifelong learning in digital skills, just as we have done for literacy and numeracy

Scottish Conservatives

Schools

- Make the case for a range of reforms to the comprehensive one-size-fits-all model in Scotland. Diversity and choice, rather than uniformity, with a broader range of government-funded, but autonomous schools which are more responsive to parental demand.
- Support the pupil equity fund

School curriculum

- Review the Curriculum for Excellence
- Broad General Education should be reset so that its main focus is on traditional subjects and on the necessary core knowledge which defines them
- National 4 qualifications to be reformed
- Education Scotland should not be responsible for both curriculum development and for inspections; we would separate these functions and create a new independent inspectorate

Teachers

- New routes into teaching to be introduced in Scotland
- Further incentives to encourage new teachers - bursaries targeted at attracting the best graduates into priority subjects
- Scottish version of TeachFirst
- Ensure that teachers with UK or equivalent international qualifications can be allowed to teach in Scottish schools without significant restrictions
- Improve literacy and numeracy skills in teacher training

FE and Higher Education

- Argue for a much fairer balance between taxpayers and graduates when it comes to university funding
- Commitment to improve college budgets

Apprenticeships

- We will keep making the case for all Apprenticeship Levy funding to be ring-fenced for in-work training only and for it to be used to gradually expand the number of apprenticeship starts, and the provision of shorter training opportunities
- Introducing a new right to request leave for training for all employees

Welsh Conservatives

Schools

- Free schools from local authority control and fund schools directly
- Enable popular schools to expand
- Introduce modern foreign language learning in primary schools as part of a national strategy for modern languages, nurturing a trilingual nation.
- Include programming and coding skills in the new Welsh curriculum to equip learners for the jobs of the future

Technical and Vocational Education

- More high quality apprenticeship schemes
- Encourage the Welsh Government and other interested parties to follow a common approach in the recognition of technical education qualifications across the UK
- Invest in extending access to Welsh-medium education in our colleges and universities

Apprenticeships

- Introduce thousands of flexible apprenticeships, with access to a mix of smaller and larger businesses, boosting take-up and promoting gender balance

Higher Education

- Making higher education more accessible
- Secure funding for our universities
- Maximise research and collaboration
- Student and staff exchange opportunities post-Brexit
- Viability of compressed degrees studied over two academic years
- Encourage the growth of part-time, distance and flexible course options

Lifelong learning

- A new right to request leave for training for all employees
- National retraining scheme. Under the scheme, the costs of training will be met by the government, with companies able to gain access to the Apprenticeship Levy to support wage costs during the training period
- Introducing a right to lifelong learning in digital skills, just as we have done for literacy and numeracy.

Green Party (England and Wales)

Environmental Science

- An Environmental Protection Act to safeguard and restore our environment, protect and enhance biodiversity, promote sustainable food and farming, and ensure animal protection
- Active ongoing cooperation with businesses and other countries to limit global temperature increases to well below 2 degrees and aiming for 1.5 degrees
- Replacing fracking, coal power stations, subsidies to fossil fuels and nuclear with the clean green efficient renewable energy
- A wider, more effective network of marine protected areas around our coasts

Education

- The end of privatisation in education

Early Years

- Free universal early education and childcare for all children

Schools

- Formal education starting at age 7
- Properly fund our schools so real term spending per pupil increases and is protected
- Bring Academies and Free Schools into the local authority system
- Abolish SATS
- Reduce class sizes
- Restore Education Maintenance Allowance

Higher Education

- Scrap university tuition fees
- Fund full student grants
- Greater public investment in further and higher education

Apprenticeships

- Enable apprenticeships to all qualified young people aged 16-25

Labour

Science

- Ensure that 60% of the UK's energy comes from zero-carbon or renewable sources by 2030.
- Create an innovation nation with the highest opportunity of high-skilled jobs in the organisation and development by 2030. We will meet the OECD target of 3% of GDP spent on research and development by 2030.
- To harness the economic potential of new technologies and science, we will complete the Science vale transport arc, from Oxford to Cambridge through Milton Keynes.
- Our stewardship of the environment needs to be founded on sound principles and based on scientific assessments. We will establish a science innovation fund, working with farmers and fisheries that will include support for our small scale fishing fleet.
- We will invest in new public-health driven research and development to find effective and affordable treatments for diseases in developing world, including fighting TB, malaria, HIV/AIDS and neglected tropical diseases.
- Research and development – by committing extra research investment.
- Labour will also retain access to Euratom, to allow continued trade of fissile material with access and collaboration over research vital to our nuclear industry.
- A Labour government will ensure that the UK maintains our leading research role by seeking to stay part of Horizon2020 and its successor programmes and by welcoming research staff to the UK. We will seek to maintain membership of (or equivalent relationships with) European organisations which offer benefits to the UK such as Eurotom and the European Medicines Agency. We will seek to ensure that Britain remains part of the Erasmus scheme so that British students have the same educational opportunities after we leave the EU.

Education

- Labour will create a unified National Education Service (NES) for England to move towards cradle-to-grave learning that is free at the point of use.

Early Years

- Labour would seek to roll out educational provision for early years children as part of a National Education Service
- transition to a system of high-quality childcare places in mixed environments with direct government subsidy
- Maintain current commitments on free hours and make significant capital investment
- Phase in subsidised provision on top of free-hour entitlements
- Transition to a qualified, graduate-led workforce
- Extend the 30 free hours to all two-year-olds, and move towards making some childcare available for one-year-olds and extending maternity pay to 12 months

Schools

- Opposed to new free schools and grammar schools
- Opposed to forced academisation
- Introduce a fairer funding formula that leaves no school worse off, while redressing the historical underfunding of certain schools

- Drive up standards
- Accountability – making sure schools serve the public interest
- Inclusion – wide choice of courses and qualifications, reducing the attainment gap
- Reducing class sizes to less than 30 for 5,6 & 7 year olds
- Free school meals for all primary school children
- No baseline assessments – commission to look at curriculum and assessment
- Scrap apprenticeship levy for schools
- Extend school counselling to improve children’s mental health
- Strategy for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Teachers

- End public sector pay cap
- Give teachers more direct involvement in the curriculum
- Reduce monitoring and bureaucracy – to address teacher workload
- Consult on teacher sabbaticals and placements with industry
- Reintroduce Schools Support Staff Negotiating Body and National Pay Settlements for teachers

Skills

- Devolve the responsibility for skills

Further and Adult Education

- Free lifelong education in FE colleges – everyone can upskill or retrain at any point
- Abandon conservative plans for new technical colleges and redirect funding to increase teacher numbers in FE.
- Support Sainsbury review – want vocational routes to incorporate the services sector.
- Better careers advice
- More funding for 16-18 year olds
- Restore Education Maintenance Allowance
- FE courses free at point of use
- Increase quality in FE
- Improve curriculum breadth
- Target all teaching staff in FE to have a teaching qualification within 5 years.
- Increase investment to deliver T-levels

Apprenticeships

- Supports the apprenticeship levy
- Target to double number of completed apprenticeships at NVQ level 3 by 2022
- Allow levy to be used for pre-apprentice programmes
- Trade union reps in governance for the Institute of Apprenticeships
- Protect the £440million funding for small and medium sized employers

- Targets to increase apprenticeships for underrepresented groups
- Commission on lifelong learning to integrate further and higher education

Higher Education

- Reintroduce maintenance grants
- Abolish university tuition fees
- We will seek to ensure that Britain remains part of the Erasmus scheme so that British students have the same educational opportunities after we leave the EU
- UK maintains our leading research role by seeking to stay part of Horizon 2020 and its successor programmes and by welcoming research staff
- Labour welcomes international students who benefit and strengthen our education sector, generating more than £25 billion for the British economy and significantly boosting regional jobs and local businesses. They are not permanent residents and we will not include them in immigration numbers.

Scottish Labour

- More money for education in Scotland
- Scottish Labour backs the Time for Inclusive Education (TIE) campaign, which aims to combat homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in our education system.
- We want to inspire a new generation of world-leading scientists by removing barriers that prevent young people, especially girls, from entering science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Early years

- We would match (SNP) a planned increase in pre-school entitlement, but would begin to move towards the flexible, all age, year-round, wrap-around affordable childcare Scottish families need.
- fund a breakfast club in every primary school in Scotland
- Labour will extend the current provision of free school meals to all primary school children in England, paid for by removing the VAT exemption for private schools. Scotland would benefit from the Barnett consequential of this policy, which would allow it to be replicated here
- Access to speech and language therapy skills to support parents with the basics of early language, and identify and refer children who need extra help
- Training and qualifications in language and communication development should become a strong 'promotion pathway' for the early years workforce

Schools

- Scottish Labour would cancel the SNP's plans to centralise schools and instead invest properly in schools across the country, with a focus on tackling declining educational outcomes and ending educational inequality within a generation

- A new statutory obligation on government to report on the attainment gap between children from lower and higher income background
- Within ten years, every child leaves primary school able to read to a high standard
- Reform of the senior phase of secondary schooling
- More choice for pupils, both academic and vocational
- A Scottish Graduation Certificate reflecting all achievement, in vocational and voluntary activity as well as traditional exams.
- Use the proceeds from the “sugar tax” to invest in after-school sport.

Teachers

- Address the recruitment crisis
- We would work with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and trade unions to introduce an improved version of the Chartered Teacher scheme to ensure teachers can progress their career while staying in the classroom
- Fund primary school teachers to go on a basic coding course to allow schools to introduce this to pupils from Primary 1, as they currently do in England.

Apprenticeships / vocational and technical education

- Establish a software development and coding apprenticeship path to help Scotland’s young people develop the skills they need.
- Strategic approach to apprenticeships, ensuring that the right incentives exist for businesses to invest in high quality apprenticeships, specifically in sectors the economy needs to grow
- Invest in modern apprenticeships with thousands of new apprenticeships each year

Further Education

- Review and reform the current Further Education bursary and Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) systems so that we provide students with the financial support they need and deserve
- Improvements to ensure that those on low incomes or in straitened circumstances can access further education
- Establish a transition fund to provide support and assistance to people moving from social security into further education

Higher Education

- Would maintain free tuition for Scottish students at university and ensure that recent graduates on lower incomes are not saddled with disproportionate payments due to their student loan liabilities
- Graduates do not start to make repayments on their loans until they are earning £22,000 a year
- Extend the repayment period for student loans to 30 years
- Widening participation in Scotland’s higher education sector would be a Labour priority

Welsh Labour

Early Years

- 30 hours of free childcare a week (including the current minimum 10 hours of free Foundation Phase early years education) for working parents of three and four-year-olds, 48 weeks of the year.
- In Flying Start areas, all two and three-year-olds will continue to be eligible for 12-and-a-half hours of free childcare a week and 15 hours of holiday childcare provision
- Free school breakfast programme

Schools

- Opposing the bringing in of grammar schools and free schools
- Protect funding for free breakfasts in primary schools
- Fund lunch and fun clubs across Wales over the next three years
- Paper-based tests will be replaced by innovative online assessments which adapt to pupils' individual abilities and help teachers shape learning more effectively in the classroom
- Commitment to supporting the attainment of young people from the poorest backgrounds through the Pupil Development Grant and its early years' equivalent
- We will introduce a new system of support for learners with additional needs.

Curriculum

- Through our pioneer schools, we will work in partnership with professionals to take forward the work of the Donaldson Review and develop a new curriculum for Wales that is ready for teaching in 2021

Teachers

- Establishing a new national academy for education leadership and setting new professional teaching and leadership standards
- Setting new accreditation criteria for initial teacher training to support the next generation of professionals
- Work with recognised trade unions to improve the working arrangements and professional development of support staff in Wales

Post compulsory education

- Consult on setting up a new single regulatory, oversight and co-ordinating authority for the post-compulsory education sector, which will be responsible for funding provision at all levels
- This new strategic authority will ensure quality in the sector and be the lead funder of research

Further Education

- We will invest almost £2 billion in our 21st century schools and college programme by 2024

- Deepen our links with employers through our regional skills partnerships
- Develop the next generation of leaders and professionals by working with employers to ensure they continuously update their skills and experience

Apprenticeships

- Create 100,000 all-age apprenticeships
- Focus our apprenticeship programme on increasing the number of apprentices aged 16 to 19

Higher Education

- We are taking forward the Diamond Review proposals to re-shape student finance in Wales
- The package will ensure students receive the equivalent of the national living wage in maintenance during term time while they study
- The new system will provide financial support for students' daily living costs – both full-time and part-time – through a mix of grants and loans
- Develop new and innovative ways of funding post-graduate studies
- If funding allowed, there should be no tuition fees - When a Labour Government is elected at Westminster we will undertake a further review of the impact of any changes made in England on universities and students in Wales and follow the Diamond Review model of consulting with students, universities and employers about any changes in Wales

Skills

- Working with employers through the Wales Employment and Skills Board
- Protecting the Wales Union Learning Fund (WULF)

Liberal Democrats

Science

- Science and research funding: Research is vital for our long-term prosperity, security and wellbeing – but the Leave vote has already started to affect existing and proposed research programmes. We will campaign against any reduction in investment in UK universities and for their right to apply for EU funds on equal terms.
- Protect the science budget, including the recent £2 billion increase, by continuing to raise it at least in line with inflation. Our long-term goal is to double innovation and research spending across the economy. We would guarantee to underwrite funding for British partners in EU-funded projects such as Horizon 2020 who would suffer from cancellation of income on Brexit.
- Ensure the UK is an attractive destination for overseas students. We will reinstate post-study work visas for graduates in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects who find suitable employment within six months of graduating. Give the devolved administrations the right to sponsor additional post-study work visas.
- Invest to eliminate within a generation preventable diseases like TB, HIV and malaria and explore new ways to support research and development into vaccinations and treatment to combat these and other deadly diseases and infections.

Education

Early Years

- High quality early years education
- Every early years setting to employ at least one person who holds an early years teacher qualification by 2022
- Triple the early years pupil premium to £1000

Schools

- Investing £7billion
- Protect per-pupil funding in real terms
- Increasing school budgets and protect Pupil Premium
- Introduce a fairer national funding formula – no school loses money
- Opposing development of new selective schools
- Local authorities – have responsibility for local school places
- Oppose expansion of grammar schools
- Allow Ofsted to inspect local authorities and academy chains
- New schools to be built in areas where there is a need for new school places
- All new policies should have an assessment of how they affect pupils with special educational needs
- Prioritise primary progress measures instead of floor thresholds
- Improve the quality of vocational education, including skills for entrepreneurship and self-employment, and improve careers advice in schools and colleges
- Improve links between employers and schools
- Challenge gender stereotyping and early sexualisation

- Ensure that all teaching staff have the training to identify mental health issues and that schools provide immediate access for pupil support and counselling.
- promoting wellbeing as a statutory duty of a school
- Extend free school meals to all children in primary education and promote school breakfast clubs
- Tackle bullying in schools, including bullying on the basis of gender, sexuality, gender identity or gender expression

School curriculum

- Protect the availability of arts and creative subject
- A curriculum entitlement – slimmed down core national curriculum taught in all state funded schools. Including: Personal, Social and Health Education: a ‘curriculum for life’ including financial literacy, first aid and emergency lifesaving skills, mental health education, citizenship and age-appropriate Sex and Relationship Education (SRE). Include in SRE teaching about sexual consent, LGBT+ relationships, and issues surrounding explicit images and content.
- Make the curriculum the responsibility of an Educational Standards Authority

Family

- A new online Family University, supported by leading organisations such as the BBC and Open University, to provide every family with advice and guidance for learning and parenting at home, as well as inspiring trips out and local opportunities.
- Ensure collaboration between leading education and family organisations

Teachers

- End 1% cap on teachers’ pay rises
- All teachers in state-funded schools will be fully qualified or working towards QTS from January 2019
- Funded entitlement to professional development for all teachers – 25 hours per year by 2020, 50 hours by 2025
- Long term planning of initial teacher training places – partnerships with higher education and specialist routes such as Teach First – focus on recruiting into shortage areas such as science, tech, engineering, arts and maths
- Tackle teacher workload:
 - Establishing an independent Education Standards Authority to pilot, phase in and resource future policy changes in consultation with professionals and experts.
 - Reforming Ofsted inspections so that they include a focus on longer-term outcomes and sustainable improvement as well as teacher workload, sickness and retention.
 - Supporting the establishment of a new, independent Foundation for Leadership in Education, working under the umbrella of the Chartered College of Teaching, to promote high-quality, evidence-based leadership and help the best leaders into the most challenging schools.
- Work with Education Endowment Foundation establish an evidence base for what works well in teaching

Higher Education

- Reinstatement of maintenance grants for the poorest students
- Establish a review of higher education finance in the next parliament to consider any necessary reforms
- Ensure that all universities work to widen participation across the sector
- Reverse the damage to universities and academics by changing the country's course away from a hard Brexit
- Recognise the value of international staff to universities and promote international collaboration.
- Fight to retain access to Horizon 2020 and Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions funding
- Reinstatement of quality assurance for universities applying for degree-awarding powers
- Recognising their largely temporary status, remove students from the official migration statistics.
- Ensure the UK is an attractive destination for overseas students. We will reinstate post-study work visas for graduates in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects who find suitable employment within six months of graduating. Give the devolved administrations the right to sponsor additional post-study work visas.
- Work with universities to ensure a fair and transparent student visa process and find ways to measure accurately the number of students leaving at the end of their course

Apprenticeships

- Extending apprenticeships to new sectors such as creative and digital industries
- Double the number of businesses that hire apprentices
- Work with Apprenticeship Advisory Group to increase apprentices to come from, underrepresented groups
- Aim to fund a wider range of types of training through the apprenticeship levy

Lifelong learning / adult education

- Develop national colleges as centres of expertise
- Seek to solve skills gaps – expanding higher vocational training
- Meet all basic skills needs – literacy, numeracy and digital skills by 2030
- Create accounts for funding mature and part time learners
- Provide adults with access to careers guidance
- Credit transfer and recognition of prior qualifications

Plaid Cymru – Action Plan

- We believe that, in principle, education should be free for all

Early years

- Plaid Cymru will provide free full-time nursery places for all three year olds.

Teachers

- We will raise education standards, by pledging to pay teachers a more competitive salary and improving teachers' training to allow them to reach higher qualifications and perform better.

Schools and colleges

- Create a new network of specialist National Colleges of Vocational Education, for 14+ and post-compulsory education.
- We will oppose any attempts to re-introduce grammar schools.

Young people

- We will create an incentive for those students who remain or return to live and work in Wales after graduating, helping to retain our brightest young people and strengthen our economy.
- Guarantee employment, education or training for any person under-25 looking for work
- Increase the availability of Welsh language education from nursery, to further and higher education right through to adult learning.
- We want to grant 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote and reform the voting system so that it is more representative.

Universities

- We will demand that our universities (in Wales) are properly funded and represented at a UK level.

Scottish National Party

Science

- Call for a Scottish representative to be a standing member of the UKRI board

Education

Early Years

- Expand early years education and childcare to 30 hours a week for all 3 & 4 year olds and vulnerable 2 year olds.
- Free school meals for primary 1-3 in Scotland

Schools

- Continue with the National Improvement Framework
- No selective grammar schools in Scotland
- Expanded the Education Maintenance Allowance

Technical and Vocational

- Increasing numbers of modern apprenticeships

Higher Education

- No university tuition fees
- Reinstate the post-study work visa
- Support the continuation of EURAMUS+

Sinn Fein

Schools concerns

- Brexit will cut €30 million PEACE IV funding from 350 schools as well as funding for 7,000 marginalised young people who are not in education, employment or training.

Higher Education / Universities concerns

- Higher Education Institutions and other researchers here have accessed €15.5 million funding from the Horizon 2020 programme – this funding stream will end.
- Students from the North who wish to study in the South face the prospect of tuition fees levied at the International Student rate which is between €6,750 and €49,000, more expensive than the current €3,000 charge.
- The EU's Erasmus+ programme supports inter-European opportunities for students to travel and study abroad. This is under threat by Brexit.
- There is also no guarantee that qualifications will be recognised in any European country.

Priorities

- Opposing Tory cuts and investing in education
- The North to be designated special status within the EU to safeguard our schools and universities, and our education system
- Continued access to Peace and other funding
- Continued access to EU-wide research opportunities
- An all-Ireland approach to education planning and student studies
- Enable the movement of students across Europe
- Ensure the recognition of qualifications.

UK Independence Party

Science

- UKIP will repeal the 2008 Climate Change Act and support a diverse energy market based on coal, nuclear, shale gas, conventional gas, oil, solar and hydro, as well as other renewables when they can be delivered at competitive prices.
- Withdraw from the Paris climate agreement and the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, to enhance our industrial competitiveness.
- Will set up a new Environmental Protection Act
- UKIP will review all EU environment legislation.
- We will review all current EU environmental rules, keeping those which have enhanced our environment, such as improving the cleanliness of our seas and beaches, and amend or repeal legislation which can be shown to have had a detrimental effect

Education

Schools

- Reintroduce grammar schools
- Abolish key stage 1 SATs
- Require every primary school to nominate a science leader
- End sex education in primary schools
- Range of different schools at secondary including technical, vocational, selective grammars and specialist schools
- Open a grammar school in every town
- Effective career development – higher profile in the national curriculum
- Introduce practical employability lessons into the careers syllabus
- Schools and colleges should establish links with local businesses
- Reverse the policy of closing special schools

Technical and Vocational Education

- Invest in vocational education and technical training
- Students can attend classes at a vocational school and receive on the job training at a company

Higher Education / Universities

- UKIP will stop paying tuition fees for courses which do not lead at least two thirds of students into a graduate level job, or a job corresponding to their degree, within five years after graduation.
- Cease to offer EU nationals student loans when we leave the EU.
- Long term goal to abolish tuition fees
- Will restore maintenance grants
- Abolish tuition fees for STEM subjects – provided they go on to work in STEM for at least 5 years after they have completed their degree
- Cover tuition fee costs for medical students – if commit to work in the NHS for 10 out of 15 years after they qualify