

Liz Shutt

Head of Policy, The University Alliance

Universities and the Research and Innovation Ecosystem: A policy Perspective

Abstract

The key role played by universities in the UK's research and innovation ecosystem is increasingly recognised by Government. Following a series of reviews (Lambert, Wilson, Sainsbury, Witty), there is an appreciation of the wider role of innovation and collaboration taking place across the sector and the wider contribution of universities to economic growth. This has intersected with broader policy aims to integrate publicly funded research to the innovation ecosystem, and to drive local and national economic growth through the knowledge economy. This talk will outline the policy landscape against which the role of Higher Education and knowledge transfer is being shaped, at the same time as the direction of funding constraints is being developed. It will draw on examples of good practice from Alliance universities, who are undertaking innovative and entrepreneurial activities across the UK in partnership with industry and the professions.

Biography

Liz Shutt joined University Alliance in 2009 and is responsible for overseeing a programme of high-quality research and analysis in order to develop evidence-based policy positions across each of the priority areas. Liz has broad experience of the higher education sector joining University Alliance from Universities UK and having previously worked at both Sheffield Hallam University and the Open University. During three years at Universities UK she covered a broad range of policy issues relating to the student experience, international policy, pre-HE and teacher education. Before that she worked at Sheffield Hallam University as part of the project team implementing the National Framework Agreement – following the recommendations of both the Dearing and Bett reviews on the Higher Education workforce. Liz started her career at the Department for Work and Pensions where she was responsible for producing regional and national level performance reports on UK employment levels. Liz studied Politics and History at the University of Kent for her first degree and went on to complete an MA by Research in European Studies, also at the University of Kent.