

The last thing the UK university sector needs is an inc...

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The [FT has reported](#) this morning that:

A Labour government should take immediate steps to stabilise the UK's university system, raising the annual £9,250 tuition fee in line with inflation, the head of the sector's main lobby group has said.

Vivienne Stern, chief executive of Universities UK, which represents more than 140 universities, said if Labour wins rapid action would be needed to avoid the sector being left in limbo as the new administration beds in.

I agree that the UK university sector is at risk, but this is not the reason.

The sector is at risk because the student loan system is penal and should be scrapped. I address this whole issue and what is, in effect, student taxation in the Taxing Wealth Report 2024.

It is also at risk from migration policy that is making it vastly harder to recruit overseas students now. This should have been the whole focus of any comment the Vice Chancellor's made at this moment.

And the sector is at risk because of its commercialisation. Universities are laden with bureaucracy, the evidence of financialisation, gross micro-management and the pretence that there is a competitive higher education system when there should be a highly cooperative one that seeks to meet differing needs. The existing system does, however, suit university administrators rather well so I could always have doubted that was going to be said.

The Vice Chancellors could have said something useful. As a working academic, I can say that they did not. I suspect most working academics would agree with me.