

# UNIVERSITIES – KNOWLEDGE FOR SCOTLAND

*A higher education manifesto for the 2007 Scottish Parliament election*

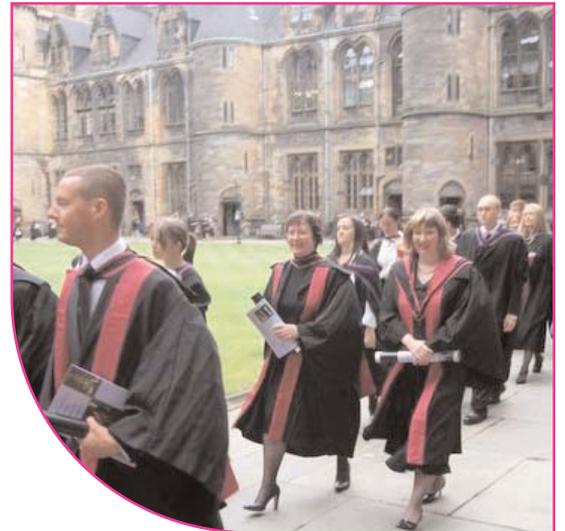
## SUMMARY OF THE KEY ISSUES

### FUNDING OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Scottish universities have a world-class reputation. But they can only maintain it, and indeed enhance it, if they are well funded. The funding of higher education is an investment in Scotland's future, in the health of its civil society and culture, in the personal fulfilment as human beings of the next generation of Scots, and in quality employment and wealth creation.

**Higher education can only deliver for Scotland and the world if the recent significant funding increases are maintained, and the challenge of extra funding for English universities matched.**

A truly multicultural, vibrant and informed society, and knowledge-driven economy, can only be delivered by well-resourced universities.



### STAFF: THE KEY RESOURCE

The key activities of universities rely on all of their highly qualified academic and related staff. They deliver the teaching, promote learning and carry out research. Pay needs

to be significantly increased to reward and retain our academic and related staff and attract postgraduates to work in our universities.

**In line with the European directive, permanent employment should be the norm for academic and related staff.**



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## KNOWLEDGE FOR SCOTLAND

Universities provide the professionals working in every aspect of Scottish society including public services, manufacturing, and research and development. They provide independent experts vital for the functioning of Scottish society.

Business and enterprise spending on research and development in the UK is significantly less than our economic competitors and the figure for Scotland is woeful.

**We recommend that Scottish Enterprise and the SFC use their funding and expertise in facilitating links between industry, research establishments and the researchers themselves.**

## STUDENT FINANCE AND ACCESS

We believe Scotland should stay top-up free and with bursaries at a level which can benefit students from low household incomes. **UCU Scotland is opposed to the use of top-up fees or student quotas.**

There should be increased articulation between further education and higher education - which nevertheless recognises the distinctiveness of the sectors - with the encouragement of the funding councils including the full implementation of SCQF.



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