



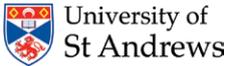
TIME TO LISTEN

Perspectives from Future Transatlantic Leaders

In proud partnership...



With thanks to...



“Now is not the time to cling on to policies that worked in the past. It is time to adapt to and accept the changes in the modern world and make the most out of the opportunities available. Trying something new involves taking risks and the best way to share this risk is to act collaboratively.”

Alicia Edgar, University of Glasgow



In Autumn 2018,

We set out with a mission: to speak with young people about their views on the relationship between the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States (US). We wanted to take the conversation out of the traditional forums to discover whether the relationship, the 'special relationship', really meant anything to the next generation of transatlantic leaders. After all, they are the ones who will be tasked with deciding what it will look like.

What we found exceeded our hopes for the programme. Students had a deep understanding of the history of the relationship and its role and impact in the world. They also had clear answers for the issues they would like to see the two countries focus on and how the relationship can be made more accessible and appealing to them. Each session presented new ideas and perspectives, validating our belief in the importance of involving younger, more diverse populations in the policy process.

We hope you enjoy reading what we discovered as much as we did meeting the students who participated.

WHAT COMES TO MIND
WHEN YOU HEAR 'THE SPECIAL
RELATIONSHIP'?

WHAT DO YOU
UK-US RELAT

WHAT ISSUES DO
YOU THINK THE
UK AND US
SHOULD FOCUS
ON IN THE 21C?

WHAT TYPE OF
PROFESSIONAL
ARE MOST APPEALING

WHAT FACTORS WOULD
IMPACT YOUR DECISION
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AN
EXPERIENCE
IN THE US?

**THINK OF THE
RELATIONSHIP?**

EXPERIENCES
TO YOU?

WHAT ARE THE
MOST **EFFECTIVE**
PLATFORMS TO ENGAGE
YOUNG PEOPLE
ON **UK-US** COLLABORATION?

What we learned....

The mission of the Future Transatlantic Leaders (FTL) programme was to give undergraduate students in the UK the opportunity to share their views on the UK-US relationship. The FTL programme engaged students from diverse academic disciplines and regions in the UK, resulting in a wide variety of perspectives.

Participants' responses were encouraging, revealing that the UK-US relationship is viewed as highly relevant. Among other things, their dual ability to set and affect global norms and standards stood out as the main point of relevance. Whilst most participants viewed the relationship positively, there was also a notable number of responses that cited negativity surrounding the perception of certain elements.

Many of the answers given throughout the sessions reflected the traditional themes of the relationship: history, security, trade and shared culture. A sizeable number of responses, however, questioned the substance behind the often repeated phrase and its relevance in today's world.

Participants were clear about the areas they wanted to see the UK and US focus on in the twenty-first century. The environment and climate change were the most frequent responses across all universities, as was the need to tackle shared security threats, most notably cyber-security, and managing the rise of new geo-political and economic powers. Healthcare, including mental health, was also among the top themes, alongside collaboration on emerging technologies and their impact on both societies.

Notably, the majority of participants had not taken part in an academic or professional programme in the US, citing lack of awareness and financial barriers as the main reasons. They were, however, eager to do so, reflecting a clear need to better promote and expand access to pre-existing programmes and those created in the future. Professional development opportunities in the private sector were consistently the most appealing, with an additional interest in better understanding the country through involvement in American government and political campaigns.

Across the board, students expressed their enthusiasm to engage with policy-makers. Whilst social media platforms did feature heavily in participants responses on how they could better engage young people on policy, in-person engagements were the most popular choice. Engaging students from diverse backgrounds and universities ensures a wider variety of inputs and a deeper understanding of how this relationship is perceived.

It would be a missed opportunity to not involve students in a conversation regarding the future of the UK-US relationship. We look forward to continuing to work with government and young people on both sides of the Atlantic to ensure that a substantive and genuine conversation takes place.

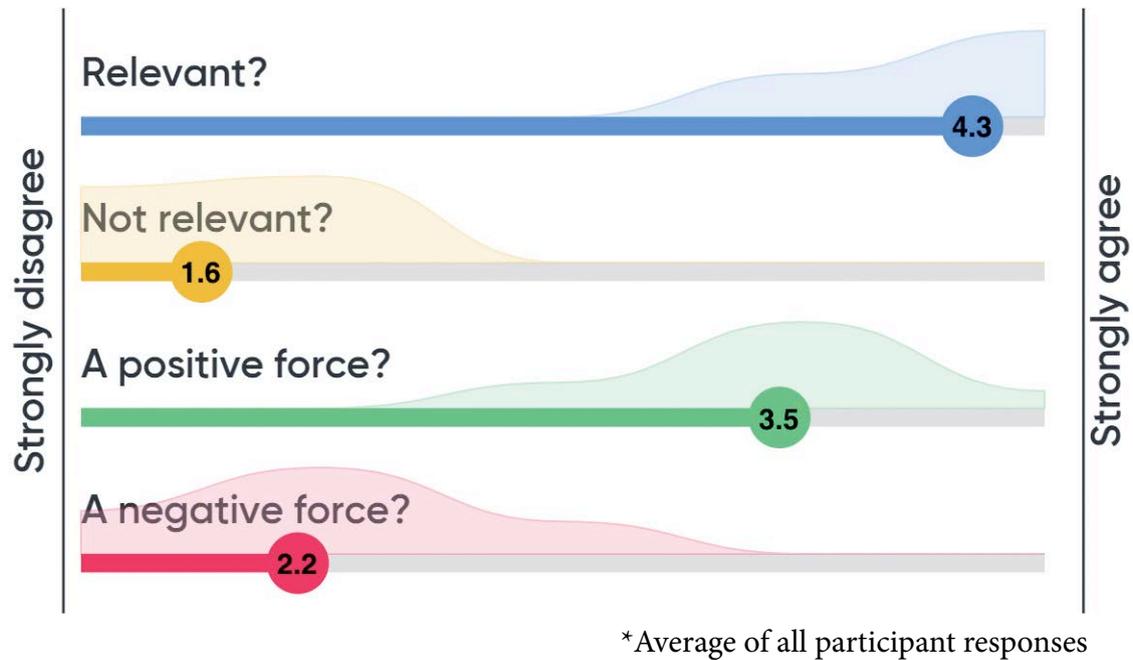


What comes to mind
when you hear
'THE SPECIAL
RELATIONSHIP'?

BUS
WEAL
RESPEC
TRADE
ECONC
POWER
SEC

BUSINESS CHURCHILL LANGUAGE WWII
SUGARCOATING STRONG ASSISTANCE
LTH POWER SUPPORT MIGRATION
CTFUL FORCE FOR GOOD IMPORTANT
MILITARY TIES CULTURE
HISTORY INTELLIGENCE PARTNERS
FOREIGN POLICY BREXIT SIMILARITY FRIENDS
OMY CONNECTION COLONISING
PARTNERSHIP MUTUAL INTERESTS IDEOLOGY
RFUL IMBALANCE THATCHER WESTERN REAGAN
TRADITION VALUES CONFUSING
URITY ALLIES MYTH LANGUAGE
EXAGGERATED

What do you think of the UK-US relationship?



In their own words...

“The key to the maintenance and growth of our partnership is to focus on the fundamentals of our ‘special relationship’, in addition to building upon each other’s weaknesses. It would set an example for the world to follow.”

Kieran Seidu, University of Hull

“In order to engage with younger generations, both countries need to listen and start addressing the issues we are pushing for. We need a platform to speak and something we can be passionate about.”

Emily Armstrong, University of Leicester

“To make UK-US relations relevant in the 21st century, there must be an exchange of diverse, young professionals. Financial support and a subsidized visa process are necessary to ensure that opportunities are available to all, regardless of social class and ethnicity.”

Zahra Ali, Cardiff University

“Times are exceptionally uncertain regarding Britain’s place in the world. As the UK’s strongest and most important ally, strengthening the UK-US relationship can make up for any EU loss.”

James Addis, University of Bath

SPACE
DATA SHARING
TECHNOLOGY REVITALIZING COMMUNITIES
SECURITY HUMAN RIGHTS
CLIMATE CHANGE
HEALTHCARE TRADE TERRORISM
FDI DEFENCE EDUCATION FIVE EYES
ENVIRONMENT
EQUALITY FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY
IMMIGRATION RISE OF CHINA
HOMELESSNESS
MEDICINE DISINFORMATION
RENEWABLE ENERGY FUTURE OF TECHNOLOGY

What issues do you think the UK and US should focus on in the 21C?

“The UK and US need to act as a united front on humanitarian and economic issues. The two are interconnected and can be advanced together. It would strengthen their negotiating position on trade and create greater influence on international development than separate unilateral action.”

Jay Doiny, University of Bath

Tomorrow’s leaders have their focus on strengthening economic ties, advancing scientific research and keeping up with developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Technology. As global leaders in the industry, students believe the US and UK need to help establish a international set of ethics and legal outline for the growing industry of AI.

When given the chance to elaborate on the specific issues they wanted the UK-US to address, an overwhelming majority of students wanted to see more scientific collaboration and research on protecting the environment and reducing the effects of climate change. Since the UK and US are two of the world’s major powers, participants said they should combine their efforts to combat global inequality and tackle the causes of the recent trends in migration. Healthcare came up frequently, with students wanting more collaboration between the UK and the US on disease alleviation and improved global public health, which could be done if data and research were more widely shared across the Atlantic. Students also strongly emphasized the need to collaborate on tackling mental health.

What are the most effective platforms to engage young people on UK-US collaboration?

Direct Engagement:

Government needs to make the first move in engaging with young people. They want interactive, honest exchanges on campuses where participants feel like their voices are being heard. No one is doing it and it could help produce a greater understanding of the policy-making process and new ideas on UK-US policy collaboration.

Diversity of Opinion:

It was clear that UK-US policy-making was associated with London and Washington DC. Engaging with regional audiences will bring valuable new opinions borne out of diverse experiences. The discussion needs to leave the usual locales and speak directly to audiences of more diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

Promote Existing Opportunities:

Young people want to have experiences in the US but are not being made aware of the programmes that exist. Better promotion of the opportunities offered to study and work in the US is clearly needed.

Social Media and Digital Platforms:

Using social media and digital platforms as a starting point for conversations involving a structured exchange of ideas would demonstrate that policy-makers are serious about engaging with younger generations on policy formulation.

Annual Transatlantic Youth Summit:

Across all universities, the idea of an annual transatlantic youth summit, focused on specific policy themes and led by both governments, was brought up as an opportunity to build relationships between future transatlantic leaders and engage them on policy collaborations. Having the outcomes and policy recommendations delivered to relevant UK and US Government bodies would help ensure the meetings have a purpose and an outcome.



“The UK and US need to utilise social media to engage with our generation. They are the best platforms for keeping people up to date on new developments. Additionally, in-person and online conferences and workshops to engage with counterparts at American universities should be more readily available.”

Chinny Olemuo, University of Leicester

What types of professional experiences are most appealing to you?

“The issue of limited work experience opportunities is a shared issue amongst British and American young adults about to enter the workforce. Offering a broad range of opportunities, including state and local government, would allow British young adults to learn more about America, and access sectors that are often closed off to international students.”

Jacob Horsthamp, University of Glasgow

Participants offered a diverse range of answers, demonstrating a high level of interest in and understanding of the industries that exist in the US. Traditional sectors, like financial services, journalism, and the tech industry, were featured heavily, but so were experiences in the US Government, such as Congress, NASA, and the State Department. Participants were also eager to gain experience with US Non-Governmental Organisations and political campaigns. The duration of the experiences was also mixed, with long-term programmes of over six months and short-term programmes of six months or less holding similar appeal.

Building support for the UK-US relationship relies on expanding opportunities for involvement. For many participants, the biggest barriers to taking part in programmes in the US are financial. Government should consider whether the opportunities that are currently available reflect the areas participants express interest in and are financially accessible to all.

"I'm interested in..."

ARTS AND CULTURE

JOURNALISM

START-UPS

POLICY FINANCE

TEACHING AND ACADEMIA

INTERNSHIPS

LEGAL GOVERNMENT

GOING BEYOND THE COASTS SILICONE VALLEY

POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS MUSIC INDUSTRY

PUBLIC SECTOR NGOS MEDIA

SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE

What factors would impact your decision to take advantage of an experience in the US?



*Average of all participant responses



James Addis Aaron Clayton Ian Halliday Sylvania Guiva Da Conceicao Ferreira
Elvis Ezebuenyi Maxime Costerousse Emily Gardner Emily Armstrong Görkem Ataben
Abigail Gambel Jonathan Crowe Jena Harrison Kathryn Dainty Elie Douenias
Kayla Andrews Alicia Edgar Molly Elliott Hannah James Alex Harvey Luis Hartl
Aruzhan Baltayeva Zahra Ali Bushra Ahmed Skye Kaur Vineet Daswani Joukani Elizabeth Hayes
Hadid Diamee Connor Hill Laura Hirvonen Rhys Davies Mia Clarke
Victoria Hoyt Giovanna Drysdale-Anderson Jacob Horstkamp Daniel Lavorchik
Aitana Bellon Hannah Eckl **OUR FUTURE LEADERS** Asisa Johal Jay Dominy
Emanuela Ruby Bende Alex Butterworth Jowi Hewitt Xavier Ingham Andrei Laslau
Alexander Benjamin Sam Barrick Dania Ahmed Pedram Bani Asadi Henna Ali
Charlotte Birnbaum Megan Lawton Sophie Kiedaisch Clarissa Le Neindre-Hubbard
Freddie Johnson Gabriel Garcia-Ochoa Lee Finlay Le Bouille Conner Bradshaw
Olivia Brink Thomas Gellender Simon Brown Fraser Keith Ben Levy
Jessica Center Jack Leeson Charlotte Guckian Eirin Combs Jonah Kelly Leah Kurien
Oliver King Smaranda Ioana Camber Emily Glanville

Lauren Cataldo Lea Poórová Yaqi Zuo Chris Van Der Merwe Qiuyang Lu
Andrew Macdonald Sherif Shahin William Tench Megan Vicary Caitlin Wake
Caroline Marzi Jane Pursey Alvaro Zimeri Jonathan Walker Lina Schroeer
Miriam Owusu Tamara Salibova Wenkai Xu Rhys Thomas Juliet Sayer
Miriam Owusu Samuel McGuire Jack Mitchell Ruth Walters Kiswah Tariq
Shannon McFadden Tomos Lewis James Wallice Mathew Willis Ming Pei Neoh
Yifei Lin Nabilah Nawi Kieran Seidu Kirstin-Anne Woodman
Yifei Lin Nabilah Nawi Fatima Mahnoor Sheikh Jack Wright Eric Major
Alkistis Mitsaki Josh Vowles OUR FUTURE LEADERS Grace Mo Michael Shaw
Yihan Xie Aymeric Sion Zoe Smith Nadia Phillianina Andriy Zapotichny
Sam Merrett Jack Stallard Jack Rees Fergus McCullough Yuanmin Zhu Giorgio Wu
Ellie Paul Catherine Sirotkin Maria Thornhill Liberty Potter
Ellie Paul Emily Warnakulasuriya Chinny Okemuo Leonardo Zussner Toni Storie
Michalina Zelaznowska Iain Millar Jonathan Riddell Chiara Pesci Georgiana Pauna
Susanna Thomas Joshua Plank Abigail McPherson Bianca Tay
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WHAT SHOULD PROGRESS LOOK LIKE?

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