



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**12 November 2014**

### **Charles Clarke Revisits London Met and Higher Education**

London Metropolitan University will play host to former Labour Home and Education Secretary Charles Clarke on the Wednesday 19 November.

Clarke, who formally opened the University's Graduate Centre in 2004, has been invited back to discuss Higher Education in the 21st Century.

Former Member of Parliament for Norwich South, Clarke was also Education Secretary between 2002 and 2004. Whilst in office, he oversaw a number of dramatic changes to the sector including the introduction of University top-up fees.

Ten years on, there have been even bigger changes in the sector, and there is even more to come, with the removal of the cap on student numbers from 2015.

Kay Choudary, the head of Alumni Relations and Development at London Met, said: "The University is excited to welcome Charles Clarke back to the Graduate Centre, which he opened ten years ago.

"With extensive experience in Higher Education, Charles is well placed to discuss the future of the sector, and I'm sure he will offer some interesting insights."

After reading mathematics and economics at King's College London, Clarke was President of the National Union of Students from 1975 to 1977. He climbed the Labour Party ranks first as a Hackney Councillor, and then as Member of Parliament for Norwich South for thirteen years. His current areas of work include International Education and Academic Policy.

His lecture at London Metropolitan University will explore the various factors that drive change in the Higher Education sector in the UK. He'll discuss the impact of these factors, as well as the role the public and the government could or should play.

This open event will take place in the Graduate Centre on London Metropolitan University's Holloway Road Campus, 6.30-8.30pm on Wednesday 19 November.

Please visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/alumni-event-an-evening-with-charles-clarke-higher-education-in-the-21st-century-student-choice-or-tickets-11692120447?ref=ebapi> for tickets.

-Ends-

#### **More information**

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## **About London Metropolitan University**

London Metropolitan University has a rich history with a strong educational heritage dating back to 1848. The University as it is today was created in 2002 with the merging of London Guildhall University and the University of North London, the first merger between two universities in the UK. Its roots however lie firmly in the nineteenth century, with the establishment of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Young Men in 1848.

At London Metropolitan University we believe that everyone has the right to an accessible quality education. Our students enjoy the highest levels of support and our courses recently received top marks from the UK's Quality Assurance Agency. We are proud of the diversity & achievements of our students, alumni and staff.

Here at London Met we put our students at the centre of all we do. London Met is a great place to study, located in the heart of one of the world's most exciting cities. We stand out because we offer courses of quality, in a vibrant, socially diverse environment, which will help launch your career. We are committed to helping our students build rewarding careers. Courses are designed and updated to be directly relevant to the current employment market.

London Met is as dynamic and multicultural as the city in which it is situated. Here you will meet and work with people from around the world, who will enrich your development and learning. Since our students come from a range of backgrounds, we have always made sure that the education we offer is accessible and flexible.

The University is spread over three campuses with the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities and the Faculty of Life Sciences and Computing based at Holloway Road, the Faculty of Business and Law at Moorgate, and the Sir John Cass Faculty of Art, Architecture and Design close by at Aldgate.

Our students have access to excellent facilities, from the recently refurbished Learning Centre on Holloway Road to the Superlab – a cutting edge science facility with over 280 workstations. New studio spaces were recently installed at The Cass, designed by the Faculty's own Architecture Research Unit, to create a stimulating working environment for students. Our Business School is home to the innovative IBM and Bloomberg technology suites.

The University also invests in entrepreneurship and innovation. Accelerator, London Met's business incubator, provides space and support for graduate businesses, and has helped over 30 'start-ups' get up and running in the last two years. Located in Shoreditch, London's hotbed of digital enterprise, Accelerator is the only University business incubator in what has become known as 'Tech City.'

We are very proud of the work conducted by our researchers and the impact that London Met research has on society. In the latest Research Assessment Exercise, more than two-thirds of the University's research output was judged to be world leading, internationally excellent or internationally recognised.