

## Keynote Veronica Bamber

### Riding the roller coaster of university change

So many changes in higher education (HE), so many new challenges. The 'roller coaster' metaphor captures the sense of constant movement, which is sometimes exciting, often distressing, and not always good for the stomach! The ups and downs of constant change in universities have included changes in national policy, structures and cultures of universities, the nature and intensity of academic work, staff conditions, and in students themselves. What are some of these changes, and what do they mean for us in our academic lives?

In this presentation I will summarise some of the major changes we have experienced in universities over the last 30 years, and ask you to think about practical implications for your identities, and for your practices.

Professor Dr Roni Bamber

Roni is Professor Emerita of Higher Education at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh. Until 2019 Roni was Director of the Centre for Academic Practice at the University, where her research focus has been on managing enhancement within universities, and how we can support staff to continuously improve the student experience. She was Chair of the Scottish Enhancement Theme, [Student Transitions](#), and was previously Chair of the Learning from International Practice in the Taught Postgraduate Student Experience [project](#). She has extensive experience of working internationally across Europe, the Middle East, India and Nepal, both in academic enhancement and staff development.

