

Submission	<p>Tessa Blackstone is unique in higher education, having straddled the worlds of academia, politics and academic leadership over a lifetime of outstanding achievement in all three.</p> <p>From the London School of Economics, where she began her career, she moved to the Cabinet Office as an early member of the Central Policy Review Staff, to the Institute of Education, University of London where she resumed her academic career, before transferring to the Inner London Education Authority as deputy education officer. She was awarded a life peerage in 1987 and become Baroness Blackstone.</p> <p>Her next role was a master of Birkbeck, University of London, where she stayed for a decade, transforming the college's fortunes and enabling it to become the vibrant success it still is today.</p> <p>After the 1997 general election, she was appointed minister of state with responsibility for higher education, a post she held for the whole of the first Blair administration, bringing much-valued stability along with a depth of knowledge of and sympathy for the sector. Rarely has higher education had such an effective champion in government.</p> <p>1998, Baroness Blackstone was one of four European ministers for higher education to sign the Sorbonne Declaration. This paved the way for the Bologna Process, which is having a profound impact on the development of higher education throughout Europe and more widely.</p> <p>In 2004, Tessa joined the University of Greenwich as vice-chancellor, and oversaw the growth in size and reputation of an already sizeable university. She retires from this post in 2011.</p>
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