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# Internationalisation of higher education in the UK

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# Higher education system in the UK-overview 1

- The UK has a single higher education (HE) system but devolved HE policy in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Quality assurance and immigration are nationally coordinated.
- UK students pay £9,500/year tuition fees (Scotland no fees)
- International students pay £16,000
- EU students studying in the UK pay the same fees as home students
- UK has long been compliant with the Bologna Process
- Strong institutional engagement in inward mobility, teaching and research collaboration within EU programmes and beyond the EU, including developmental and capacity building projects.

# Higher education system in the UK-overview 2

- Three main types of HEI in the UK: universities; university colleges; and colleges of higher education
- Strictly controlled by government, including the level of qualifications they are able to award
- HEIs offering UK degrees must meet strict criteria to be awarded the title 'university', a process controlled by the Quality Assurance Agency
- The UK HE International Unit (IU) undertakes policy engagement on behalf of the UK HE sector related to EU policy
- IU works closely with the British Council which is a government-funded charity, but also generates income from its services to governments, institutions, organisations and individuals (e.g. teaching and exams).

# Student mobility-incoming students

- The prime internationalisation focus has been international student Recruitment
- Of the total number of students in the UK -2.4 mil- some 0.45 mil are foreign students. 13% of students second rank behind the US.
- At post graduate levels 29% of students are from outside the EU.
- Strong sector reliance on recruiting international students
- Recruitment from China 83 790
- India 22 385 students
- Research degrees the proportion of graduating students in 2012-13 was 56 % UK, 14 % other EU, 30 % non-EU

# Student mobility-outbound

- A lack of robust data makes it difficult to measure the full extent of outward student mobility from the UK, particularly for degree mobility, estimated at 22 405 (6% in contrast with 20% target)
- Numbers of students studying for a full degree abroad is increasing, with students travelling to English-speaking countries or to programmes delivered in English (mostly within the EU).
- The International Unit and the British Council are working together to facilitate the implementation of the international strategy through initiatives such as the Generation UK programmes
- The five most popular destinations (hosting over 1 000 UK enrolled students) are France, Spain, the USA, Germany and Italy, and students tend to study in the language of the destination country.

- HESA data shows that in publicly-funded institutions in 2012-13 some 18 % of staff members whose nationality is known (373 780) were from outside the UK (10 % from the EU).
- Data is not publicly available on staff nationalities in the UK.
- Amongst staff with academic contracts, 26 % were international, and 14 % were from the EU, suggesting a significant level of international staff recruitment in the UK HE system.
- Amongst professional support staff, only 9 % were of non-UK nationality
- The UK is also one of the top five receiving countries for Erasmus staff mobility.



# International programmes 1

## International study programmes

- UK HEIs are heavily involved in European funding schemes in relation to education, capacity building and sector reform (Erasmus+) and research (Horizon 2020).
- The UK has the highest participation in Erasmus Higher Education Cooperation projects across the EU, and between 2007 and 2013 there were 540 projects where UK institutions were involved as partners or coordinators (European Commission, 2014).
- In 2011-12 the UK HE sector received 21 % of its research and consultancy income from international sources, including 13 % from the EU (mostly via FP7).
- European research grants contributed 2.4 % of UK universities' income in 2012-13 (HESA, 2014b).

# International programmes 2

## International study programmes

### **-Transnational Education (TNE) campus operations**

-Besides Australia, the UK HE sector is one of the dominant players in the global market for TNE, and collects the most detailed data on this type of HE provision in the world

-A report estimates TNE revenue for the UK for 2012-13 as £496 mill

-TNE represents around 11 % of total international higher education fee revenues to the UK

-Courses in business, finance and management accounted for nearly half of all active TNE enrolments. Masters programmes in this subject area represented 56 % of all TNE revenues, and MBA programmes alone £186 million.

-About 598 925 students were studying wholly overseas for UK HE (and some FE) qualifications, mostly in Asia (Malaysia, Singapore, China, Pakistan and Hong Kong)



# International research and events

- All HEIs are involved in research, but there is significant diversity in terms of: mission, strategy, ownership, size, subject specialisms, student profile, fee levels, focus on teaching and knowledge transfer, research intensity, approach to internationalisation and Trans National Education
- European research partnerships have significantly contributed to the large proportion (80 %) of internationally co-authored papers that are written with partners from other EU countries.
- Focus on international competition for research contracts and skilled researchers.
- Focus on the global nature of research challenges that require leverage of multi-national research capacity.
- Need to seek funding from non-UK sources that require international collaboration. Currently 22 % of all research income is from outside