



**Universities UK  
International**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2015-16**

## FROM IU TO UUKi

In August 2016 we changed our name from the UK HE International Unit to Universities UK International (UUKi). This recognises our status as an integral part of Universities UK (UUK), increasingly funded by its members to play a unique role in supporting their international activity as part of the sector's major representative body.

## WHAT WE DO

Through our knowledge, expertise, networks and strategic partnerships we add value to what individual universities can do in working to achieve their international aims. We do this by providing information, influencing others, and actively creating or delivering opportunities through our strategic partnerships.

'UUKi is knowledgeable, collaborative and always accessible to our university. I value their influence, advice and support and they have had a significant impact on our international activities.'

**NICK SLADE, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
UNIVERSITY OF DERBY

### 2015-16 AT UUKi IN NUMBERS

**537**

delegates from  
**104** institutions at  
our networks'  
meetings



**81**

representatives from  
**57** UK universities  
accompanied us on  
**8** overseas delegations

**496**

overseas high-level  
individuals (including  
European Commissioners  
and EC officials, MEPs,  
Ministries' representatives,  
university leaders, partner  
organisations) met with  
representatives from  
**106** UK universities



### UUKi STAKEHOLDER SURVEY 2016

**82%** ✓

UUKi represents the  
interests of my  
institution effectively

**90%** ✓

UUKi positively influences  
UK policy on HE and  
international issues

**86%** ✓

I use and/or consult UUKi's  
information and advice to  
inform my work

**93%** ✓

UUKi networks' meetings  
and communications are  
'valuable' or 'very valuable'

**93%** ✓

Policy and/or information  
notes and UUKi research are  
'valuable' or 'very valuable'

**95%** ✓

Director's Updates are  
'valuable' or 'very valuable'

### Our team:

- Convenes networks – groups of colleagues from across the sector – who gather biannually to share best practice, build knowledge and skills and network
- Influences our own and other governments to create the right conditions for UK universities to work internationally
- Produces reports on key issues
- Shares relevant information and analysis with UK universities.

**Go International programme:** We deliver the UK Strategy for Outward Mobility by working with UK universities to increase the number of UK-domiciled students accessing an international experience as part of their UK higher education.

**Newton Fund:** We inform and support the sector to access funding for international research collaboration, and assist Newton Fund applicants in connecting with host institutions in the UK.

**HEGlobal:** Through this joint initiative with the British Council we support and empower UK universities' transnational education activities (TNE).

**UUKi Student Support Service:** Supporting international scholarship programmes, we act as a pathway to UK universities. We connect international applicants to admissions personnel and prospective PhD supervisors and provide information and advice on their intended government-sponsored funding scheme (Newton Fund, Pronabec, or Ciência Sem Fronteiras).

'UUKi is an invaluable support and source of information to UK HEIs. Its outstanding leadership ensures its work enhances the credibility of the UK HE sector around the world and increases high-value opportunities for all.'

**STEPHEN WILLIAMS, NTU GLOBAL DIRECTOR**  
NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY

# ENABLING UK UNIVERSITIES TO DEVELOP AND DELIVER STRONG INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIES

We convene the UK sector through thematic and regional networks (Newton Fund, Outward Mobility, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East and North Africa) as a route to consult and provide access to opportunities. We also coordinate targeted capacity building programmes and alert universities to challenges and policy developments.

**New:** Pro-Vice-Chancellors Network It allows for strategic-level discussions and decisions.

**New:** Africa and Development Network Focusing on sub-Saharan Africa and wider development issues, it held its first meeting on 20 July 2016.

**'The networks are a great way of keeping up with cross sector issues, hearing colleagues with different experiences and sharing best practice.'**

**SARAH LEACH, HEAD OF STUDY ABROAD  
THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK**

**'It was a fascinating and stimulating day with experience and knowledge oozing out from every speaker: you cannot fail to return to work feeling inspired and challenged.'**

**KATIE BELL, DEPUTY-VICE-CHANCELLOR  
MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY**

Attendee of the *International Higher Education Forum*

## HEGlobal

HEGlobal convened a series of expert-led TNE seminars, including on student experience, the value of TNE and due diligence in TNE.



**'Wonderful, insightful and inspiring discussions! Useful and helpful to hear about experiences from others in the field and forge connections and networks through which we can discover new ways to best support our students in their mobility experiences.'**

**ALIYA SORGEN, INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER  
CITY UNIVERSITY LONDON**

Attendee of the *Go International: Mobility Makes a Difference* conference



**'I can never thank UUKi enough for your wonderful efforts at raising awareness and providing support for Syrians and Syria's educational system.'**

**SYRIAN CARA (COUNCIL FOR AT-RISK ACADEMICS)  
FELLOW AND PHD CANDIDATE**

Following the *HE responses to the Syrian refugee crisis* event held in June 2016 by UUKi and the British Council



# INFLUENCING POLICY AND THE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

Representing the UK HE sector we work closely with relevant UK government agencies to influence their international higher education strategies. We also liaise with international counterparts and in-country agencies to encourage policies which support the UK HE sector.

**'The mission that I took part in to Malaysia and Vietnam was brilliantly planned and delivered, and brought real benefit at sector level but crucially also for University of London.'**

**MIKE WINTER, DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON  
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES**

## Fund-managing the SPHEIR programme

Since 2013 we have been on the UK Department for International Development's Higher Education Taskforce which led to the introduction of a new HE programme, SPHEIR (Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation and Reform). The SPHEIR programme is looking to support up to 12 innovative partnerships supporting systemic change in HE systems in low-income countries. We have been part of the SPHEIR fund management team, alongside the British Council and PwC, since January 2016.



## Supporting Universities for Europe and the post-EU referendum



UUK led a high profile campaign to underline the importance of the European Union (EU) for UK universities in the run-up to the EU referendum, achieving national visibility. The strength of the sector's voice in this campaign resulted in heightened awareness of universities as stakeholders for whom the referendum result presents particular challenges.

We are now working to collect evidence on the implications of the vote for UK universities, provide timely updates on key issues and identify constructive solutions for maintaining and enhancing international research collaboration and the attractiveness of UK universities.

## Defending broad eligibility in Indonesian government scholarship schemes

We campaigned for continued broad inclusion in the Indonesian government's Dikti scholarship as it transitioned ministerial ownership. Over 80 UK institutions remain eligible to receive scholarships studying through the BUDI scholarship, the successor to the Dikti scheme.

## Securing funding for academic exchange in India

UUKi has worked with senior university leaders, the British Council and the Government of India to support India in achieving its HE aims, and propose constructive changes to the GIAN Academic Mobility Initiative that were subsequently implemented. We also sought and achieved funding to support UK participation in the scheme through UKIERI (UK-India Education Research Initiative).



## Influencing the Education is GREAT campaign

We successfully lobbied for a co-ordinated campaign to promote UK universities abroad with significant government investment. With a budget of £6 million, including £3 million from the British Council, the new 'Education is GREAT' digital campaign will be launched this autumn.

## Supporting the Egyptian Higher Education Regulatory and Funding Authority (HERFA)

We have been supporting the Egyptian Supreme Council of Universities in the development of a regulatory and funding model for higher education (HERFA), based on the UK model, by convening UK sector experts in regulation, quality assurance and governance. This will facilitate collaboration between the two HE sectors.



# CREATING DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

We work to increase institutional collaborations and links between the UK HE sector and overseas governments, industries and HE sectors, promoting the UK university sector overseas to communicate the pre-eminence of the UK in education and research.

**'The multiple perspectives afforded through visits to universities, ministries, and other organisations, enabled through extensive preparatory liaison work between UUKi and embassies, gave the delegation a rich and multi-layered understanding of the issues and opportunities in both Peru and Ecuador.'**

**PROFESSOR JANE POWELL, DEPUTY-VICE-CHANCELLOR  
GOLDSMITHS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

## Ensuring collaboration with European counterparts

In June 2016 a delegation of five vice-chancellors met with the German Rectors' Conference (HRK), setting out strategic priorities for continued collaboration with our German counterpart. Following the EU referendum, we coordinated a statement signed by 25 European rectors' conferences to underline European universities' shared commitment to continued collaboration.

## Creating new opportunities with Egypt

A series of visits to scope opportunities for the UK HE sector culminated in the signing of an MOU between the UK and Egyptian governments, which led to the signing of 10 MOUs between UK and Egyptian universities as well as a £1.5 million matched increase to Newton-Mosharafa funding.

## Engaging with Indian industry

We are creating opportunities for the UK HE sector to engage with Indian industry: we organised a roundtable with UK university leaders and CEOs of Indian companies in July 2016, and are now preparing a delegation to participate in the Confederation of Indian Industry Higher Education Summit in November 2016.



## Supporting the UK HE sector's engagement in the Newton Fund

UUKi works in partnership with the British Council and other Newton delivery partners to support and facilitate the sector's engagement in the Newton Fund. Since August 2015, we have:

- Supported more than 50 Newton PhD applicants to secure a host UK institution and supervisor
- Worked with over 200 researchers from 12 Newton Fund countries to match them with a UK collaborator for one of the British Council Newton Fund calls
- At the request of the UK government, sent out a monthly Newton Funding Bulletin to 3000 subscribers with all the latest calls
- Organised two Newton Fund Network meetings to provide a space to share best practice and information about the fund.

## Facilitating UK engagement in Mexico's energy reform

We hosted a delegation of 20 Mexican institutions and senior officials led by SENER (Mexico's Ministry of Energy) in May 2016, presenting UK HE as the 'partner of choice' in the delivery of Mexico's national energy reform programme. By July 2016 at least four institutional collaborations had already started between the UK and Mexican HE sectors.

## Maintaining close links with Brazil

Against a backdrop of substantial economic and political change, UUKi has continued to develop the UK-Brazil relationship, organising three meetings for UK vice-chancellors, with i) Brazilian vice-chancellors from the Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities (GCUB); ii) presidents of the Brazilian state research funding council (CONFAP); and iii) leaders and international directors from member institutions of Brazil's Association of State and Municipal Universities (ABRUEM).

## Supporting UK universities at European Union level

We engaged early and consistently with the European Commission's plans for a European Innovation Council and ensured no Horizon 2020 funding valuable to the sector was cut.

## Increasing institutional links between the UK and Vietnamese HE sectors

Following an MOU signing with British Council Vietnam and the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam in September 2015, we led a delegation of eight UK university leaders to Vietnam in June 2016. There, the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam approved the increase of the number of scholarships offered to students to go and study in the UK. Working with the British Council Vietnam, we followed this up with a two-day networking event.

**'UUKi is the essential national body for global university engagement.'**

**PROFESSOR COLIN GRANT,  
VICE-PRESIDENT (INTERNATIONAL)  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON**

# INFORMING UNIVERSITY DECISIONS THROUGH ACCESS TO INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS

## The UK's Competitive Advantage

The UK HE sector is

**#1** for international student recommendation at every level of study.



In 2014-15 **90%** of international postgraduate research students were satisfied with their education in the UK.

International undergraduate student satisfaction with UK higher education is very high at **91%**

## Gone International: the value of mobility

Report on the 2013/14 graduating cohort

go international

### Gone International: the value of mobility

A comparison of the outcomes of mobile and non-mobile students in the 2013-14 graduating cohort found that:

 Graduates who had been mobile were **less likely to be unemployed**, more likely to earn more, and more likely to be **employed in a managerial or professional role** six months after graduation.

 **Black graduates** were the least likely to be mobile, but those who had been mobile were less likely to be unemployed: only 5.4% compared to 9.9% of their non-mobile peers.

HEGlobal

### The Scale and Scope of UK Higher Education Transnational Education

June 2016



### The Scale and Scope of UK Higher Education Transnational Education

The UK's delivery of HE TNE grew at five times the rate of international student recruitment to the UK, **13.4% vs 2.7%**

between **2012-13** and **2014-15**

**4 in 5** universities who commented on their future plans intend to expand their TNE provision in the next three years.

There are only **15** countries in the world where the UK does not offer any TNE.

**£100,000** per annum: the average respondent UK university spends just under this on university scholarships and bursaries for Indian students.

**80%**: the proportion of respondent UK universities that have an India engagement strategy, of which student recruitment and partnership developments are central elements.

### India mapping report

As part of our India Strategy, this comprehensive report sets out the level of engagement between the two sectors.



### I-notes

We provided regular information notes to the HE sector with new opportunities and policy analysis on the latest developments, including in Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, Erasmus+ and Iran.





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