THE STATE OF THE RELATIONSHIP: MAPPING UK HIGHER EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT WITH COLOMBIA
This analysis is part of the UUKi series ‘The state of the relationship’ which previously explored engagement between UK universities and those in India and the countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.

It aims to contribute to a better understanding of current levels of engagement between the UK and Colombian higher education systems, and to inform future institutional strategies. The research includes sections on the mobility of staff and students; UK transnational education provision; research collaboration; and UK universities’ activities, strategies and operations in Colombia.

Case studies which provide further insight into the experiences of individual institutions can be found here.

The UK-Colombia higher education relationship is characterised by high levels of research collaboration.

The UK is Colombia’s fourth largest research partner, with significant investment from both Governments – including through the bilateral Newton-Caldas Fund.

While in recent years there has been a small decline in the number of Colombian students coming to the UK, there is significant financial support available to Colombian students, through institutional fee waivers, scholarships and bursaries and scholarships awarded by the Fundacion para el Futuro de Colombia (Colfuturo), funded by the Colombian Government.

There is significant appetite to build on these links on both sides, and UUKi is committed to working with the British Council, as well as the UK and Colombian Governments to support the development of strategic partnerships on both sides.

VIVIENNE STERN
Director, Universities UK International
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<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Primary data**

To better understand the priorities of the UK higher education institutions (HEIs), primary data was sourced through an online survey administered by UUKi, mapping UK institutions’ activities in Colombia. The survey attracted responses from 46 institutions. While the respondents represent 34% of the UK HEIs, they account for 60.62% of the student recruitment from Colombia to the UK in 2017–18. Out of the 25 UK institutions that recruited the highest number of Colombian students in 2017–18, 17 answered the survey.

**Secondary data**

The document draws on data sourced through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics (UIS), the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), and Scopus SciVal.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

UUKi would like to thank ASCUN (Asociación Colombiana de Universidades), the Colombian Embassy in the UK, the British Council Colombia and the Department for International Trade for their support with this document.

We would also like to acknowledge UK higher education institutions who participated in the survey and provided feedback on this document, prior to publication.
1. The UK and Colombian higher education systems have a well-established relationship with a strong focus on research partnerships.

95% of UK HEIs surveyed were currently engaged in Colombia (84%) or planning future engagement (11%).

2. International student mobility from Colombia has increased by more than 300% in the last 17 years with a growing number of Colombian students coming to the UK.

76% of engagement with Colombia is through research collaboration.

Since 2012 the total number of Colombian students in the UK increased by 16%.

However, the market share decreased from 4% in 2012 to 3% in 2016.

3. The UK is among the top destinations for Colfuturo scholars and increased its market share of Colfuturo scholars from 25% in 2008 to 31% in 2018.

54% of UK HEIs surveyed received Colfuturo scholars.

56% of UK HEIs surveyed offer scholarships, tuition fee discounts and other forms of student support.
KEY FINDINGS

4. There is limited TNE provision in Colombia.

215 students enrolled on UK degrees in-country in 2017-18.

93% are enrolled on distance, flexible and online learning.

5. The bilateral Newton-Caldas Fund and the Global Challenges Research Fund have been key enablers in developing the UK-Colombia research relationship.

263 Newton-Caldas grants have been allocated to support collaborative activity.

£27m has been invested by both countries since 2014.

6. UK appetite for collaboration is matched by the Colombian side.

The UK ranked 2nd in terms of countries that Colombian HEIs would be interested in establishing cooperation links with, after Japan (ASCUN survey, 2018)
CHALLENGES AND ENABLERS FOR COLLABORATION*

CHALLENGES

• There are political uncertainties, and financial constraints, in both countries.

• Price sensitivity represents a challenge for Colombian students to study in the UK and there is limited funding available to support mobility.

• Some other challenges in relation to mobility include security concerns, UK immigration policy and a low awareness of the UK as a study destination.

ENABLERS

• A number of important sources of funding to support collaborative research exist, including the Newton-Caldas Fund and the Global Challenges Research Fund.

• UK HEIs surveyed highlighted research funding and scholarships availability (65%), and the UK government projecting a welcoming environment for international students and academics (43%) as key enablers for further collaboration.

• While recruitment and research are defined as key priorities for engagement in the next year, the relationship focus is shifting towards research in the long-term.

• There is a high level of interest from both sides to further collaboration.

*Source: UUKi survey
MOBILITY

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY FROM SOUTH AMERICA

- Colombia is the second largest source country for globally mobile students in South America after Brazil (GRAPH 1).

- There were 36,626 outbound Colombian students in 2017 (1.5% of the total tertiary enrolment in Colombia). This proportion has remained unchanged over the past five years and is below the world average of 2.3% (UNESCO, UIS).

- There was a strong growth in international student mobility from Colombia over the period 1999–2016 with an increase of over 300%. The number of students choosing to study abroad increased 2.3 times from 11,052 in 1999 to 36,656 in 2016 (GRAPH 2).

- Colombia student mobility trends mirror worldwide trends (GRAPH 3).

- The top ten host countries for Colombian students (USA, Argentina, Spain, France, Ecuador, Germany, Brazil, Australia, Italy, UK) host 86% of the total study abroad students (GRAPH 4).
The most significant growth in outbound mobility is to other South American countries, such as Brazil, Ecuador and Argentina. Argentina was the second most popular study destination for Colombian students in 2016, after the US (GRAPH 5). The UK has seen a 16% increase in the number of Colombian students between 2012 and 2016.

Colfuturo is the Colombian national scholarship-loan. The USA, UK, Germany, France and Spain were the top five study destinations for Colfuturo scholars in 2018 (GRAPH 7).

Growth in overall numbers of Colfuturo scholars fluctuated and has been unevenly distributed across host countries. The UK increased its market share from 25% in 2008 to 30% in 2018. Germany from 11% in 2008 to 20% in 2018. These increases appear to have happened mainly at the expense of the US whose share dipped from 37% to 32% over the past decade (GRAPH 6).
**MOBILITY**

**GRAPH 1: GLOBALLY MOBILE STUDENTS FROM SOUTH AMERICA BY COUNTRY 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Mobile Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>52,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>36,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>30,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>19,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>19,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>18,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>14,122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>12,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>8,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>4,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>1,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suriname</td>
<td>940</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In 2017, 36,626 globally mobile students were from Colombia.*

Source: Data extracted on 24 Apr 2019 from UIS.Stat
There was a **331%** increase in the number of mobile students from Colombia between 1999 and 2016.

Source: Data extracted on 18 Feb 2019 12:00 UTC (GMT) from UIS.Stat
Student mobility from Colombia followed the growth pattern of international student mobility from the rest of the world.

GRAPH 3: ANNUAL CHANGES IN STUDENT MOBILITY FROM COLOMBIA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD

Source: Data extracted on 18 Feb 2019 12:00 UTC (GMT) from UIS.Stat
The top three most popular destinations hosted 53% of Colombian students in 2016.

**Graph 4: The ten most popular study destinations for students from Colombia in 2016**

- **USA**: 7,383 (20%)
- **Argentina**: 7,225 (20%)
- **Spain**: 4,713 (13%)
- **France**: 2,890 (8%)
- **Ecuador**: 2,080 (6%)
- **Brazil**: 1,681 (5%)
- **Germany**: 1,852 (5%)
- **Australia**: 1,599 (4%)
- **Italy**: 1,123 (3%)
- **UK**: 1,063 (3%)
- **Rest of world**: 4,723 (13%)

Source: Data extracted on 18 Feb 2019 12:00 UTC (GMT) from UIS.Stat
MOBILITY

The UK has seen a 16% increase in the number of students from Colombia between 2012-2016. However, there was a small decline in the UK’s market share from 4% in 2012 to 3% in 2016.

**GRAPH 5: CHANGES IN HOST COUNTRIES’ MARKET SHARE OF STUDENTS FROM COLOMBIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>6,097</td>
<td>7,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>5,855</td>
<td>7,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>4,713</td>
<td>5,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>2,979</td>
<td>2,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>1,506</td>
<td>2,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>1,245</td>
<td>1,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1,382</td>
<td>1,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>995</td>
<td>1,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>918</td>
<td>1,063</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data extracted on 18 Feb 2019 12:00 UTC (GMT) from UIS.Stat
The UK increased its market share of Colfuturo scholars from 25% in 2008 to 30% in 2018.
The USA and UK were the top study destinations with 63% of Colombian Colfuturo scholars in 2018.

Source: Colfuturo Database. https://www.colfuturo.org/seleccionados/
COLOMBIA – UK MOBILITY

- Colombia is one of the largest sending countries to the UK across South America, second to Brazil only (GRAPH 8).
- There was a steady increase in the numbers of Colombian full-time entrants until 2014–15 when they reached 735 (GRAPH 9).
- The number of Colombian students in 2017–18 was 620 (55 undergraduate, 565 postgraduate) (GRAPH 9). By contrast, a total of 150 UK students participated in mobility experiences to Colombia in 2017–18. Over half (53%) went on study visits, followed by work abroad (30%) and volunteering (17%) (GRAPH 19).
Colombia is one of the largest sending countries to the UK across South America, second only to Brazil.
MOBILITY

The number of Colombian students coming to the UK reached a peak in 2014–15, at 735.

Graph 9: Full-time entrants from Colombia into UK higher education

Source: HESA student record.
COLOMBIA – UK MOBILITY

Undergraduate trends

- There were 55 undergraduate entrants in 2017–18 which represent 9% of the total full time entrants from Colombia. (GRAPH 10).

- Most of the undergraduate student population is self-funded (82% in 2017–18) (GRAPH 11).

- The main areas of study for undergraduate students in 2017–18 were business & administrative studies (20%), followed by engineering & technology (13%), social studies (13%) and languages (13%) (GRAPH 12).
MOBILITY

Graph 10: Full-time undergraduate Colombian entrants 2007–08 to 2017–18

There were 55 undergraduate entrants in 2017–18 which represents 9% of the total new entrants from Colombia.

Source: HESA student record.
82% of undergraduate student entrants in 2017–18 were self-funded.
MOBILITY

Graph 12: Undergraduate Entrants by Main Subject Area

- Business & administrative studies: 20%
- Engineering & technology: 13%
- Social studies: 13%
- Languages: 13%
- Architecture, building & planning: 7%
- Biological sciences: 7%
- Creative arts & design: 7%
- Mass communications & documentation: 7%
- Physical sciences: 7%
- Subjects allied to medicine: 7%

Source: HESA student record.

20% of Colombian undergraduate students in the UK are studying business and administrative studies.
MOBILITY

COLOMBIA – UK MOBILITY

- The number of new entrants at postgraduate level has been increasing until demand dipped in 2015–16 and has remained at lower levels since then, mainly for postgraduate taught students (GRAPH 13).

- In 2017–18, 91% of the Colombian new entrants studied at postgraduate level in the UK; 90% were postgraduate taught students and only 10% research students (GRAPH 13).

Postgraduate taught trends

- In 2017–18 almost half of the taught entrants were self-funded (49%), 24% were funded by overseas sources and 11% had institutional tuition fee waivers. This compares to 63% self funded postgraduate taught entrants and 19% funded by overseas sources in 2007–08 (GRAPH 14).

- There have been significant changes in the subject of study of Colombian postgraduate taught entrants over the past decade. Entry to business and administrative studies increased by 80%. Together with social studies and law, these are the three most popular subjects for postgraduate taught students in 2017–18 (GRAPH 15).
MOBILITY

COLOMBIA – UK MOBILITY

Postgraduate research trends

- The three main sources of funding for postgraduate research students were provider fee waivers, overseas sources of funding and self funding, all at 27% of the total entrants. This split is the same as it was ten years ago. (GRAPH 17).

- The main areas of study for postgraduate research in 2017–18 were: social studies (10%) and physical sciences (10%) (GRAPH 18).
Graph 13: Postgraduate Taught and Postgraduate Research Entrants

Postgraduate demand dipped in 2015–16 and has remained at lower levels since then.

Source: HESA student record.
### MOBILITY

**GRAPH 14: SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT ENTRANTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Absent/No Fees</th>
<th>Charities &amp; International Agencies</th>
<th>No Award or Financial Backing</th>
<th>Other Overseas Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017–18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016–17</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015–16</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014–15</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013–14</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010–11</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009–10</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008–09</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007–08</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HESA student record.

49% of postgraduate taught students were self-funded in 2017–18.
The most popular subjects for postgraduate taught students in 2017-18 were physical sciences and social sciences.

Source: HESA student record.
There was an 80% increase in postgraduate taught entry to business and administrative studies between 2014–15 and 2017–18.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>2014–15</th>
<th>2017–18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; administration studies</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social studies</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering &amp; technology</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative arts &amp; design</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture, building &amp; planning</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological sciences</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer science</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical sciences</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HESA
MOBILITY

The three main sources of funding were:
- provider fee waivers
- overseas sources of funding
- no award or financial backing

all at 27% of the total entrants.

**Graph 17: Sources of Funding for Postgraduate Research Entrants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No Award</th>
<th>Other* Overseas Sources</th>
<th>Provide Waiver</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>2010-11</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>2009-10</td>
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<td>2008-09</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HESA student record.

*Other includes: Absent/no fees; Charities & international agencies; Other/not known; UK industry/commerce & student’s employer.
The most popular subjects for postgraduate research students in 2017-18 were physical sciences and social sciences.

**Source:** HESA student record.
MOBILITY

Graph 19: The UK Study Abroad Students in Colombia 2017–18

- Study only: 80 (53%)
- Work abroad: 45 (30%)
- Volunteering only: 25 (17%)

Source: HESA student record.

150

UK students participated in mobility experiences to Colombia in 2017–18.
MOBILITY

COLOMBIA – UK MOBILITY

Funded students

- Chevening, the UK government’s flagship Scholarship and Fellowship programme, funded 35 scholars from Colombia in 2018, which is the highest level of funding over the past decade (GRAPH 20).

- The highest number of Colombian students came to the UK in 2015, when the overall amount of funding available for scholarships peaked. The highest level of funding comes from Colfuturo. There was a dip in the level of funding available in 2016, followed by an increase in the following two years (GRAPH 21).

- Most Colfuturo scholars were enrolled on social sciences courses in the UK (16%), followed by business and administrative studies (14%), engineering (12%) and law (10%) (GRAPH 23) All of these subjects, except engineering have experienced significant increases in new postgraduate taught entrants (GRAPH 22).
Chevening scholars from Colombia were funded in 2018, which is the highest level of funding over the past decade.

Information provided by the Colombian Embassy in the UK.
Colfuturo funded 286 Colombian students to study in the UK in 2018.

Source: Information provided by the Colombian Embassy in the UK.
* Colombian students supported by national schemes may have more than one scholarship/student loan.
Since 2008, the number of Colfuturo scholars studying social sciences has grown more than in any other discipline.

### MOBILITY

#### Graph 22: Colfuturo Scholars by Field of Study per Year 2008–2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Business and Administration</th>
<th>Design and Architecture</th>
<th>Arts</th>
<th>Basic Sciences</th>
<th>Health Science</th>
<th>Political Science and International Relations</th>
<th>Social Sciences</th>
<th>Law</th>
<th>Economy</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Engineering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<td>550</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Colfuturo database.
16% of Colfuturo scholars enrolled on social sciences courses in the UK between 2008 and 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field of Study</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social sciences</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; administrative studies</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political sciences</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design &amp; architecture</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health science</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic science</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Colfuturo database.
2.2 ACADEMIC STAFF FROM COLOMBIA IN UK HIGHER EDUCATION

- There were 165 academic staff from Colombia employed at UK HEIs in 2017–18, which represents a 32% growth compared to 2013–14.

- 73% of all staff from Colombia are working in four broad subject areas:
  (i) medicine, dentistry & health
  (ii) biological, mathematical & physical sciences
  (iii) engineering and technology and
  (iv) social studies (GRAPH 24).
### Graph 24: Academic Staff with Colombian Nationality by Cost Centre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Centre</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological, mathematical &amp; physical sciences</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social studies</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering &amp; technology</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine, dentistry &amp; health</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; business studies</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities &amp; language based studies &amp; archaeology</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design, creative &amp; performing arts</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture and planning</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HESA

73% of all Colombian staff in 2017-18 were working in four broad subject areas:

- Medicine, dentistry and health
- Biological, mathematical and physical sciences
- Engineering and technology
- Social studies.
TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION

UK-COLOMBIA TNE PARTNERSHIP

• There is limited TNE provision in Colombia with 215 students enrolled on UK degrees in-country. Previous research shows a lack of a regulatory framework for transnational education (TNE) (Ilieva, Peak, 2016).

• While most of the UK TNE globally is at the undergraduate level, in 2017–18, 88% of the Colombian students (180) were doing postgraduate taught degrees (GRAPH 25).

• Most of the provision is concentrated in the distance, flexible and online learning (93%) and delivered by a small number of HEIs (GRAPH 26).
88% of Colombian TNE students are enrolled on postgraduate degrees.

Source: HESA Aggregate Offshore Record.
TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION

GRAPH 26: STUDENTS FROM COLOMBIA BY TYPE OF TNE PROVISION

- Distance, flexible and online learning (registered with UK HEI) 200 93%
- Collaborative provision with an overseas partner (registered with UK HEI) 10 5%
- Studying for award of UK HEI (registered at overseas partner) 5 2%

93% of Colombian TNE students are enrolled on distance, flexible and online learning.

Source: HESA Aggregate Offshore Record.
Colombian research output

- More than half (50.3%) of Colombia’s research output was produced in international cooperation in 2018, mainly with European partners (GRAPH 28) Colombia’s international collaboration rate has grown by almost 5% since 2015 (GRAPH 27).

UK-Colombian research collaboration

- The UK is Colombia’s fourth largest research partner, after the USA, Spain and Brazil (GRAPH 29). The UK accounts for 15% of the internationally co-authored research publications produced between 2015 and 2018. (Scival, 2019).

- Co-authored research between the UK and Colombia had a field-weighted citation impact of 5.08, compared with overall international FWCI of 1.58 for UK and 1.01 for Colombia (Scival, 2019).

- The main subject areas of collaboration are physics and astronomy (28.4%), medicine (15.4%), engineering (8.2%), agricultural and biological sciences (7%), and biochemistry, genetics and molecular biology (6%) (GRAPH 30).
Colombia’s international collaboration rate has grown by almost 5 percentage points since 2015.

**GRAPH 27: COLOMBIA’S INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION RATE (% OF OVERALL PUBLICATIONS)**


![Graph showing the growth of Colombia's international collaboration rate from 2015 to 2018.](image-url)
31% of Colombian international research collaboration between 2015–2018 was with European countries.

The UK is Colombia’s 4th largest research partner, and accounts for 15% of the internationally co-authored publications produced between 2015 and 2018.

**GRAPH 29: COLOMBIA’S TOP RESEARCH PARTNER COUNTRIES 2015–2018**

- United States: 7,160
- Spain: 5,354
- Brazil: 4,058
- United Kingdom: 3,022
- France: 2,755
- Mexico: 2,696
- Germany: 2,650
- Italy: 2,291
- Chile: 2,045
- China: 1,766
- Argentina: 1,752

28% of collaborative research output between Colombia and the UK was in physics and astronomy.

UK-COLOMBIA RESEARCH SCHEMES

Newton-Caldas Fund

- The Newton-Caldas Fund is one of the main enablers to enhance research collaboration between Colombia and the UK.
- Since 2014, 263 Newton-Caldas grants have been allocated to support collaborative activity and around £27 million has been invested by both countries.
- Currently, the priority areas for research identified by the Newton-Caldas Fund are bio-science, stabilization and peace building, food security, health, and agritech.

Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

- 25 projects funded through GCRF have named Colombia as a country focus, the second highest number of GCRF projects in the Latin America region after Brazil. Out of these 25 projects, 21 have been funded by UKRI and four by the UK Space Agency.
UK UNIVERSITIES’ ENGAGEMENT WITH COLOMBIA

MAIN FINDINGS

High level of engagement

- 95% of UK HEIs surveyed were either currently engaged in Colombia (84%) or planning future engagement (11%).

- The most prominent engagement with Colombia is through research collaborations (76%), followed by student recruitment (67%) and engagement with government or national agencies (48%). Other popular areas are partnership development with local HEIs (41%), capacity building at local institutions (33%) and outbound student mobility to Colombia (31%) (GRAPH 32).

Commitment to Colombian students

- 56% of UK HEIs surveyed offer scholarships, tuition fee discounts and other forms of student support. Joint scholarships agreements with funding bodies are offered by 27% of the HEIs. A quarter of the respondents mentioned tuition fee discounts for postgraduate taught students (GRAPH 32).

- Only 9% of the HEIs are involved in TNE in Colombia and further 27% are considering such engagement in the future. Almost half of the HEIs (49%) do not consider TNE engagement (GRAPH 33).
MAIN FINDINGS

Trends in research collaboration

- UK research agencies are the main source of funding for research collaborations with Colombia (71%), followed by support from local funding agencies (43%). Research activities with Colombia were fully funded by the UK HEIs across 24% of the respondents. (GRAPH 34).

- While the arts and the humanities are the most popular subject area for collaborative research (59%) (GRAPH 35), the subject which has attracted the most local funding is biotechnology and biological sciences (33%). Just over a fifth of the UK institutions mentioned that medical research (21%) was funded by local sources (GRAPH 36).

- More than half of the surveyed universities (54%) received Colfuturo scholars, followed by participation in Newton-Caldas (47%). 43% took part in GCRF funded research, and 14% took part in Rutherford Fund Strategic Partner Grants (GRAPH 37).
UK UNIVERSITIES’ ENGAGEMENT WITH COLOMBIA

The most prevalent areas for collaboration are:

- Research (76%)
- Student recruitment (67%)
- Engagement with government or local agencies (48%).

Source: UUKi survey conducted between October 2018-January 2019.
56% of UK HEIs surveyed offer scholarships to Colombian students.

Source: UUKi survey conducted between October 2018-January 2019.
9% of UK HEIs surveyed are involved in TNE in Colombia.

Source: UUKi survey conducted between October 2018-January 2019.
UK UNIVERSITIES’ ENGAGEMENT WITH COLOMBIA

71% of UK HEIs surveyed use UK research agencies to fund their research and business engagement in Colombia.

Source: UUKi survey conducted between October 2018-January 2019.
UK UNIVERSITIES’ ENGAGEMENT WITH COLOMBIA

GRAPH 35: IN WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH AREAS IS YOUR INSTITUTION ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN COLOMBIA?

59% of UK HEIs surveyed are actively engaged in arts and humanities research.

Source: UUKi survey conducted between October 2018-January 2019.
UK UNIVERSITIES’ ENGAGEMENT WITH COLOMBIA

33% of institutions surveyed are taking part in locally-funded research projects in the areas of biotechnology and biological sciences.

Source: UUKi survey conducted between October 2018-January 2019.
**UK UNIVERSITIES’ ENGAGEMENT WITH COLOMBIA**

**GRAPH 37: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SCHEMES IS YOUR INSTITUTION CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING IN, OR HAS LARGELY USED IN THE PAST?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Currently Participating</th>
<th>Participated in the Past but Not Currently</th>
<th>Aware of This Scheme But Have Never Participated</th>
<th>Not Aware of This Scheme</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rutherford Fund</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Partner Grants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton - Brazil</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPES Print programme – Brazil</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCRF</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton-Caldas (e.g., Colombia Bio) - Colombia</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLFUTURO (loans and scholarships) – Colombia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNPq schemes – Brazil</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UUKi survey conducted between October 2018-January 2019. The survey aimed to gather information about UK HEIs engagement with Brazil and Colombia. Therefore, some of the categories respond to Brazilian schemes.

54% of UK HEIs are participating or have participated in Colfuturo schemes.
COLOMBIAN HEIs INTERNATIONALISATION PRIORITIES

• Countries that Colombian institutions collaborate the most with are:
  – 94% Argentina,
  – 93% Brazil, Mexico and Spain,
  – 84% Chile,
  – 81% United States
  – 73% Peru
  – 34% of the surveyed Colombian institutions declared to be currently engaged with the UK.

• Of those 48 Colombian institutions engaged with the UK:
  – 71% have outbound staff and researchers exchange
  – 67% are engaged in research collaboration
  – 42% receive undergraduate UK students
  – 33% send Colombian undergraduate students to study in UK HEIs.

• The UK, together with Canada, ranked second in terms of countries that Colombian HEIs would be interested in establishing cooperation links with, after Japan:
  – 20% of Colombian HEIs surveyed are interested in engaging with the UK.

This information is based on a survey conducted by ASCUN (Asociacion Colombiana de Universidades) to its members in April 2018.
NOTES ON DATA

Sources of information

The research draws on secondary data sourced through the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), and the Scopus SciVal database of research output.

To better understand the priorities of the UK higher education institutions (HEIs), an online survey was administered by Universities UK International (UUKi). The survey was administered to 136 HEIs and received 46 responses. However, not all of the invited HEIs are active in Brazil. While the response rate was 34%, the respondents account for 60.5% of the HEIs recruiting students from Brazil in 2017–2018. Moreover, out of the 80 UK HEIs collaborating with Brazilian institutions awarded by CAPES, 37 answered the survey. The survey also aimed to gather information about UK HEIs engagement with Brazil and Colombia.

HESA data

In 2017–18, there were 164 higher education institutions in the UK that returned data to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). This webpage includes data from these institutions, plus the University of Buckingham.

For further information on higher education institutions visit HESA’s website: https://www.hesa.ac.uk/support/providers.

HESA Student, Staff, Finance and Aggregate Offshore Records as well as the DLHE survey are copyright Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited. Neither the Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited nor HESA Services Limited can accept responsibility for any inferences or conclusions derived by third parties from data or other information obtained from Heidi Plus.

All HESA figures quoted in the publication that relate to student, staff, mobility and TNE numbers have been rounded to the nearest five in accordance with HESA data protection protocols. Unknown domiciles and nationalities were excluded from HESA figures and percentages. All percentages have been calculated using raw figures and rounded, therefore rounded figures may not sum precisely. Add For details about categories definitions see HESA website https://www.hesa.ac.uk/support/definitions

* Unless specified otherwise, the analysis used first-year full-time students, or entrants, to UK higher education, which enables to capture shifts in demand.

** In order to make graphs more legible, when there were too many categories those under 1% were included under “Other” category.
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GLOSSARY

COLCIENCIAS Colciencias is the Colombian government Department of Science, Technology and Innovation.

COLFUTURO Colombian non-profit foundation that provides financial support for Colombian citizens to access postgraduate study programs abroad

COLLABORATIVE PROVISION Registered at reporting provider - studying overseas for UK HEP ward other than at an overseas campus of reporting provider, eg, joint and dual degrees.

COST CENTRE The cost centre describes where resources deployed to teach the student are located and is similar to the academic department of a university.

DOMICILE A student’s permanent country of residence. EEA The European Economic Area (EEA) is the 28 EU countries plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

HESA Higher Education Statistics Agency.

ICETEX Colombian Institute for Educational Loans and Technical Studies Abroad

INSTANCES OF MOBILITY Some students have a number of mobility experiences as part of their course outside of the UK. These are counted separately and not aggregated together.

NATIONALITY The country of legal nationality of staff.

SCIVAL SciVal is a research information tool that offers easy access to the research performance of 7,500 research institutions and 220 nations worldwide. Produced by Elsevier it uses bibliometric information from the Scopus database from 1996 onwards.

SOUTH AMERICA Analysis relating to South America include the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Falkland Islands, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Uruguay, Venezuela.

TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION Transnational Education (TNE) is the delivery of an educational award in a country other than that in which the awarding body is based. It includes but is not limited to online and distance learning, joint and dual degree programmes, fly-in faculty or international branch campuses.

UNESCO UIS The UNESCO Institute for Statistics is the statistical office of UNESCO and is the UN depository for cross-nationally comparable statistics on education, science and technology, culture, and communication.
UNIVERSITIES UK INTERNATIONAL

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