

INTERNATIONAL FACTS AND FIGURES

Higher Education May 2017

This annual guide gives a data snapshot of UK higher education and internationalisation. We examine international students choosing the UK; where our students come from and their choices; and student satisfaction.

Then we move on to the UK sector's provision for students who want to study outside the UK; UK student mobility; international staff and research collaborations; and the economic benefit of international higher education.

The analysis in this booklet shows that the UK's world-leading universities are becoming increasingly global in nature. This amplifies their success and contribution to the UK economy and society. The extensive international networks and experience of our university staff and students will be especially valuable as the UK leaves the European Union and establishes new relationships around the world.

Vivienne Stern

Director

Universities UK International

May 2017

The UK is an extremely popular destination for international students, attracting more students from abroad than any other country except the much larger USA (page 4).

International students have a great experience studying in the UK – we are the most recommended country at both undergraduate and postgraduate taught levels (page 9).

International students also bring great benefits to the UK, enhancing the experience of domestic students, developing the UK's international networks and reputation, and boosting national

and local economies. On and off-campus spending by international students and their visitors generates £25.8 billion for the UK economy (page 10).

However there is no room for complacency. Other countries, including the USA, Australia, France and Germany, are keen to increase their market share and their international student cohorts are growing faster than the UK's.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

WHERE DO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS STUDY?

2nd

The UK is the second most popular destination in the world for international students.

Figure 1: Share of international student enrolments, 2014

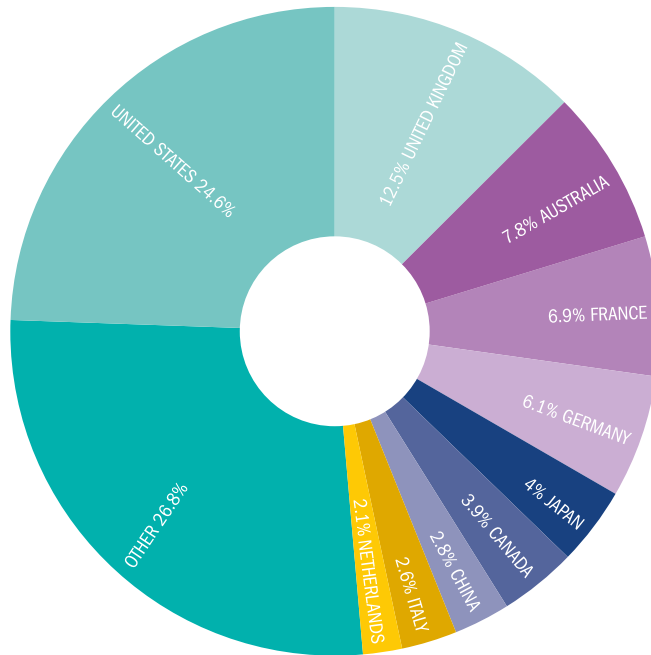


Figure 2: Number of international students by country, 2014 (2013)

1	United States 842,384 (784,427)	7% ▲	6	Japan (135,803)	- ▶
2	United Kingdom 428,724 (416,693)	3% ▲	7	Canada (135,187)	- ▶
3	Australia 266,048 (249,868)	6% ▲	8	China (96,409)	- ▶
4	France 235,123 (228,639)	3% ▲	9	Italy 87,544 (82,450)	6% ▲
5	Germany 210,542 (196,619)	7% ▲	10	Netherlands 70,692 (68,943)	3% ▲

Source: OECD (2016) Education at a Glance

Note: Information on market share is derived from data on all OECD countries, as well as Brazil, China, Russia, and South Africa. Data on Japan, Canada and China is from 2013 as data is not yet available for 2014.

TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLMENTS IN THE UK

438,010

international students studied in the UK in 2015–16.

Figure 3: Number of EU and non-EU students in the UK, 2007–08 to 2015–16



Source: HESA Student Record (2007–08 to 2015–16)

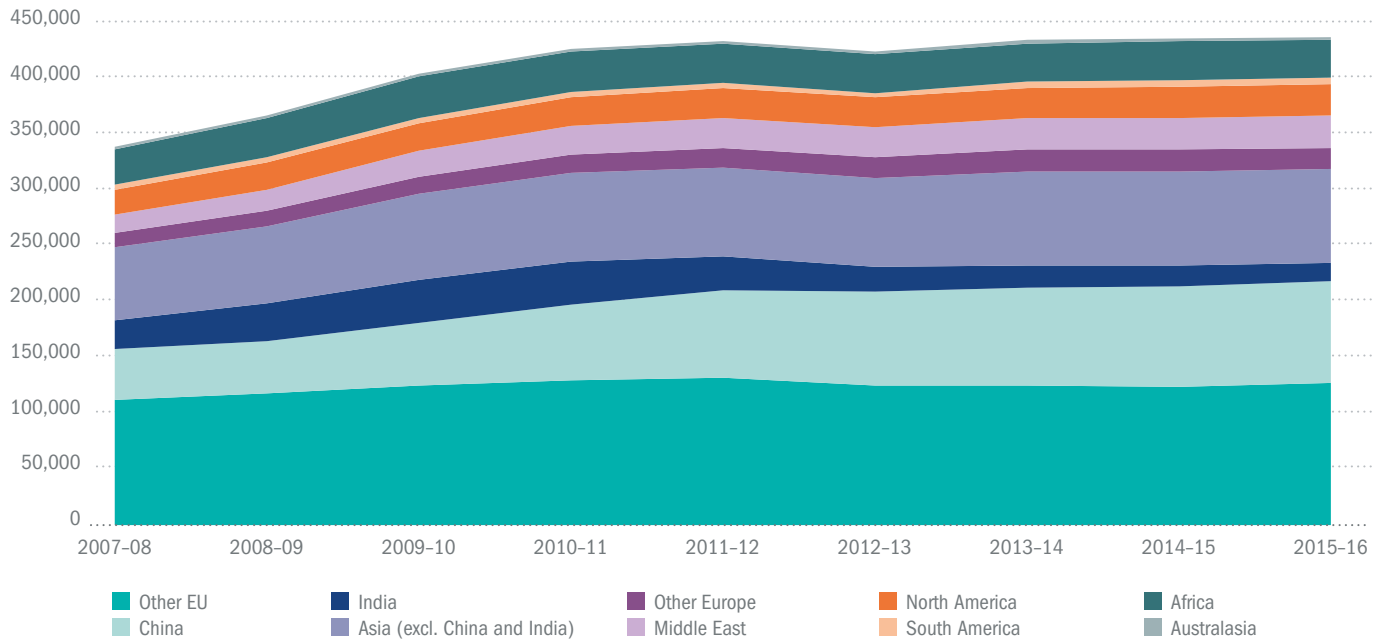
Note: All figures for non-EU, EU and total non-UK enrolments are rounded to five.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLMENTS IN THE UK

28%

increase in the number of international students in the UK since 2007-08.

Figure 4: Number of EU and non-EU students in the UK, by students' place of origin, 2007-08 to 2015-16



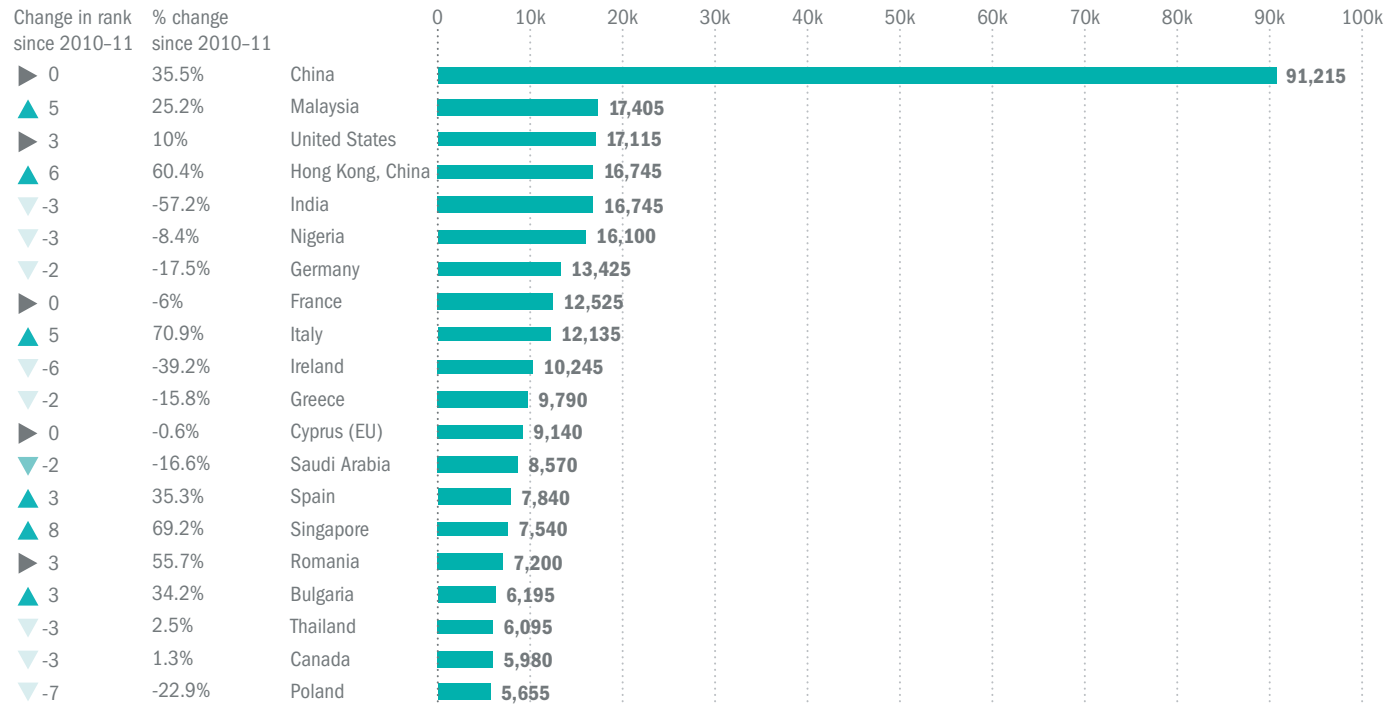
Source: HESA Student Record (2007-08 to 2015-16)

WHERE DO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE UK COME FROM?

51%

of international students come from just 10 countries.

Figure 5: Top 20 countries of student origin 2015-16



Source: HESA Student Record (2015-16 and 2010-11)

WHAT DO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE UK STUDY?

As much as
63%

of all students at
postgraduate level can
be international.

Figure 6: Number of international students by subject area, 2015–16

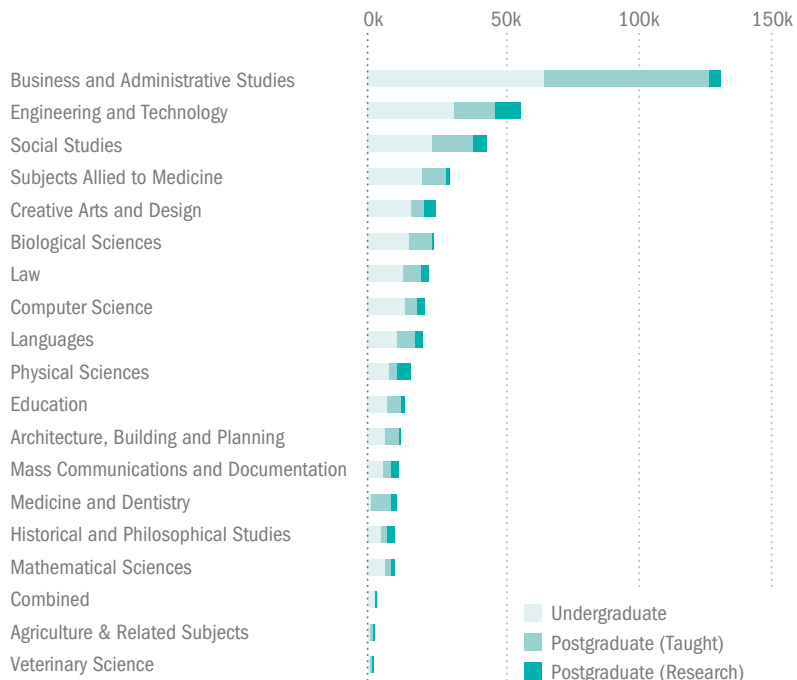


Figure 7: Proportion of non-UK students by subject area, 2015–16

Subject Area	Undergraduate	Postgraduate (Taught)	Postgraduate (Research)	Total
Business and Administrative Studies	26.8%	62.9%	59.0%	37.6%
Engineering and Technology	23.8%	60.0%	61.0%	32.5%
Social Studies	13.6%	36.5%	47.1%	19.3%
Subjects Allied to Medicine	5.6%	10.5%	35.4%	7.4%
Creative Arts and Design	12.7%	48.2%	30.8%	16.9%
Biological Sciences	8.2%	21.5%	31.7%	11.0%
Law	21.0%	44.4%	51.1%	26.4%
Computer Science	13.0%	50.4%	58.2%	19.9%
Languages	13.7%	45.0%	44.3%	17.9%
Physical Sciences	9.5%	41.4%	40.8%	16.0%
Education	1.8%	10.6%	31.1%	6.7%
Architecture, Building and Planning	20.4%	35.0%	54.7%	25.8%
Mass Communications and Documentation	15.5%	55.3%	41.0%	23.6%
Medicine and Dentistry	11.2%	24.1%	30.8%	16.1%
Historical and Philosophical Studies	6.6%	27.8%	36.0%	11.3%
Mathematical Sciences	15.9%	57.5%	54.0%	21.8%
Combined	6.5%	3.4%	40.0%	6.4%
Agriculture & Related Subjects	6.2%	33.7%	48.1%	11.8%
Veterinary Science	17.3%	10.7%	31.7%	16.8%
Total	13.6%	36.6%	43.2%	19.3%

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' SATISFACTION IN THE UK

#1

The UK is the most recommended destination by international students.

Figure 8: Likelihood of international students recommending their destination 2015-16

Undergraduate	Postgraduate (taught)	Postgraduate (research)	Rank
UK	UK	UK	1
Germany	Netherlands	Australia	2
Netherlands	USA	Germany	3
USA	Germany	USA	4
Australia	Canada	Canada	5

Figure 9: Top 5 reasons why international students choose the UK 2015-16

Undergraduate	Postgraduate (taught)	Postgraduate (research)
Good contacts	Quality lectures	Laboratories
Course content	Course organisation	Research
Course organisation	Good teachers	Employability
Quality lectures	Course content	Work experience
Good place to be	Employability	Formal welcome

Source: International Student Barometer, i-graduate (2015, 2016)

Note: International student satisfaction at PGR level is excluded for the Netherlands as the sample size is small.

THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

78%

of undergraduate students believe that studying alongside international peers prepares them for working in a global environment.

Figure 10: Home students views on studying alongside international students

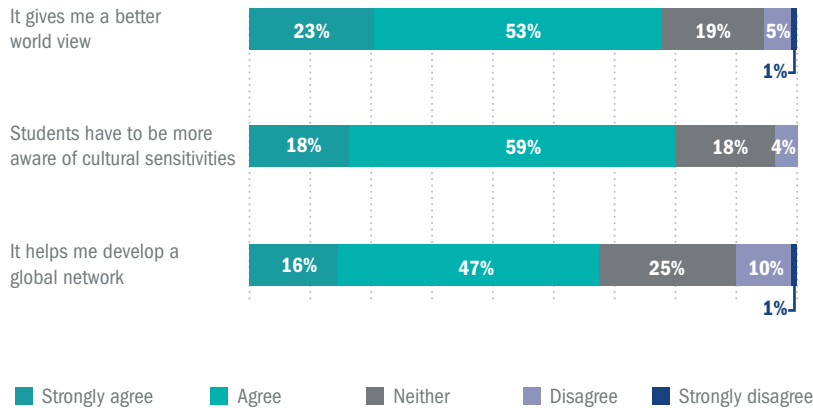
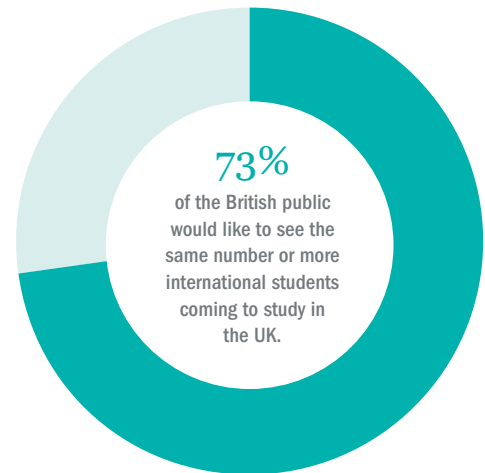


Figure 11: Poll of British public on international students



Source: Left: HEPI (2015) Right: Comres (2017)

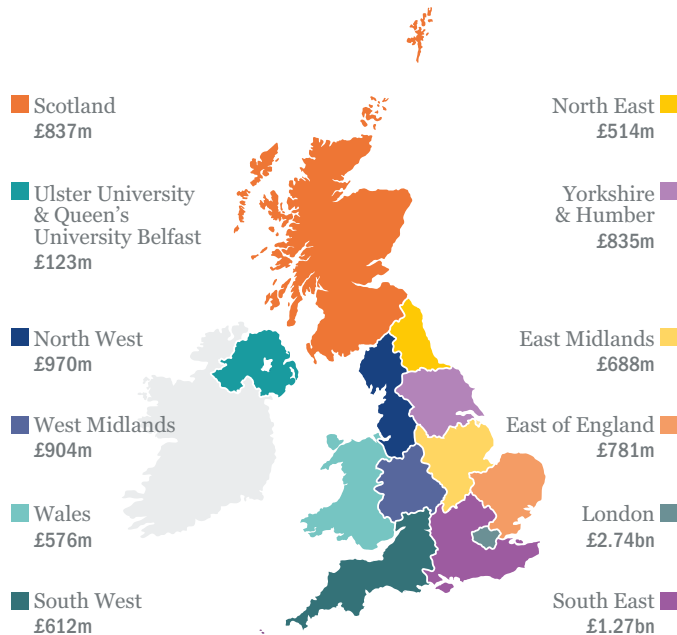
Note: Figure 10 is based on the responses of 1,009 students. Figure 11 is based on the responses of 4,043 British adults in March 2017.

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

£25.8bn

generated for the UK economy through on and off-campus spending by international students and their visitors.

Figure 12: Export earnings generated by international students by UK region, 2014-15



In 2014-15:

£13.6bn

gross value added generated by international students on and off-campus spending



£10.8bn

worth of export earnings from international students



Supporting 206,600

full-time jobs



Sources: Universities UK (2017) The Economic Impact of International students; Universities Scotland (2013) Grow, Export, attract support; Universities Wales (2015) The Economic Impact of higher education in Wales; Universities UK (2017) The Economic Impact of Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University on the Northern Ireland Economy
 Note: The figures for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland represent total export earnings and therefore include international income earned by HEIs from overseas businesses, charities, governments.

Internationalisation is not just about students coming to the UK. 29% of the UK's academic staff are from overseas, with the number of EU academics in the UK more than doubling in the last decade (page 15).

Meanwhile over 700,000 students now study for UK higher education qualifications outside of the UK (page 20). That is an increase of over 80% since 2008–09 (page 22). The UK higher education sector is one of the pioneers of this transnational education (TNE).

The higher education sector also encourages UK-domiciled students to study, work and volunteer abroad as part of their degree, for which the EU Erasmus+ programme is instrumental (page 19). Our research has found a correlation between this outward mobility and improved academic and employment outcomes*.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMICS IN THE UK

29%

of all academic staff in UK universities are from overseas.

Figure 13: Academic staff nationalities, 2005–06 and 2015–16

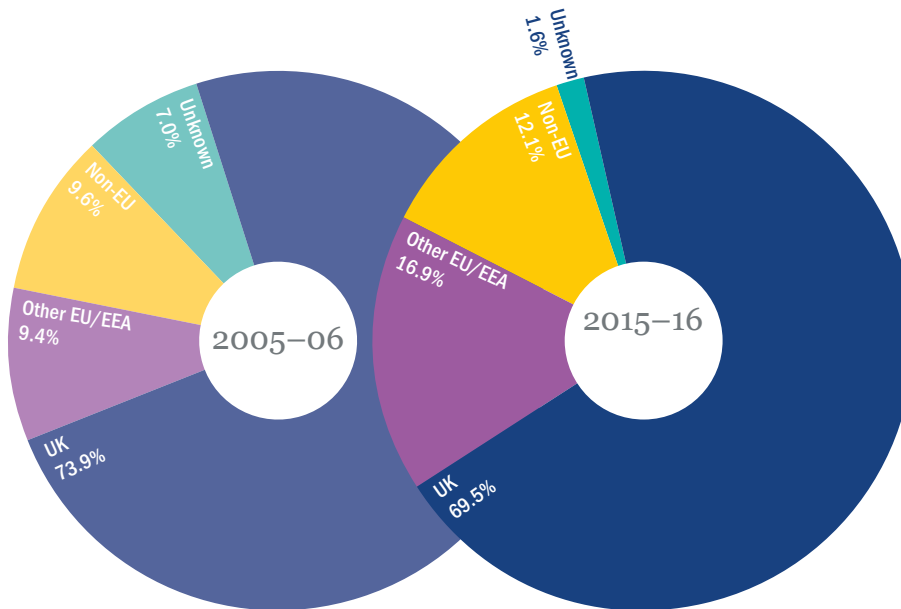


Figure 14: Proportion of staff who are international by academic function, 2015–16

Academic function	Number with non-UK nationality	% with non-UK nationality
Teaching & Research	24,925	25%
Research	22,150	47%
Teaching	11,040	22%
Total*	58,280	29%

Source: HESA staff record (2015–16)

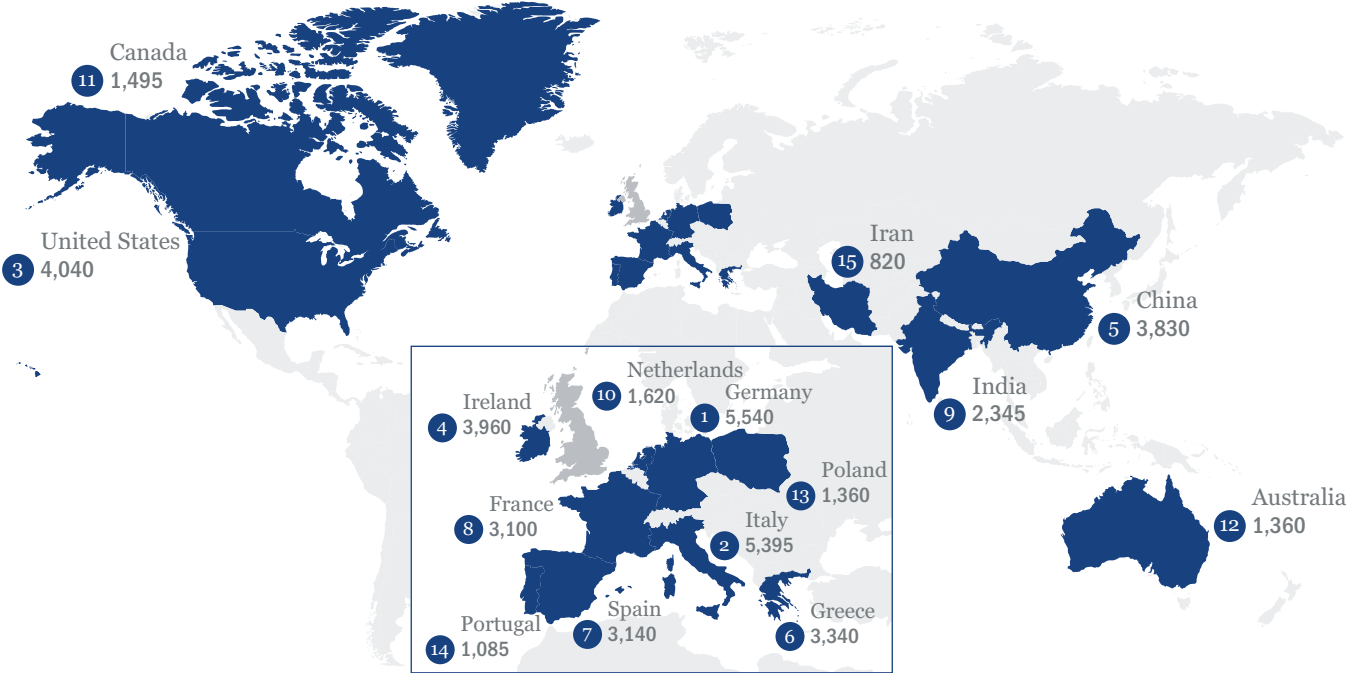
*The total includes 165 academics whose function is 'neither teaching nor research'.

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMICS IN THE UK

2X

The number of EU academics in the UK has more than doubled in the last decade.

Figure 15: Top 15 countries of academic staff excluding UK nationals, 2015-16



Source: HESA staff record (2015-16)

ACADEMIC MOBILITY

Between 2007–14











14,316

UK researchers and teachers received EU funding to spend time abroad for research, teaching or training.

Figure 16: UK engagement in researcher mobility through EU programmes, 2007–13

	UK Academics going overseas	Overseas Academics coming to the UK
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: Fellowships	1,297	6,132
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)	2,157	1,988
Erasmus+: Staff mobility (up to 2012)	10,862	13,464

Figure 17: Top 5 destinations under IRSES, 2007–14

Top 5 source countries for researchers coming to the UK	Top 5 destinations for UK researchers
 China	 China
 Brazil	 USA
 Russia	 Brazil
 India	 Russia
 South Africa	 India

Sources: European Commission, Erasmus+ UK National Agency

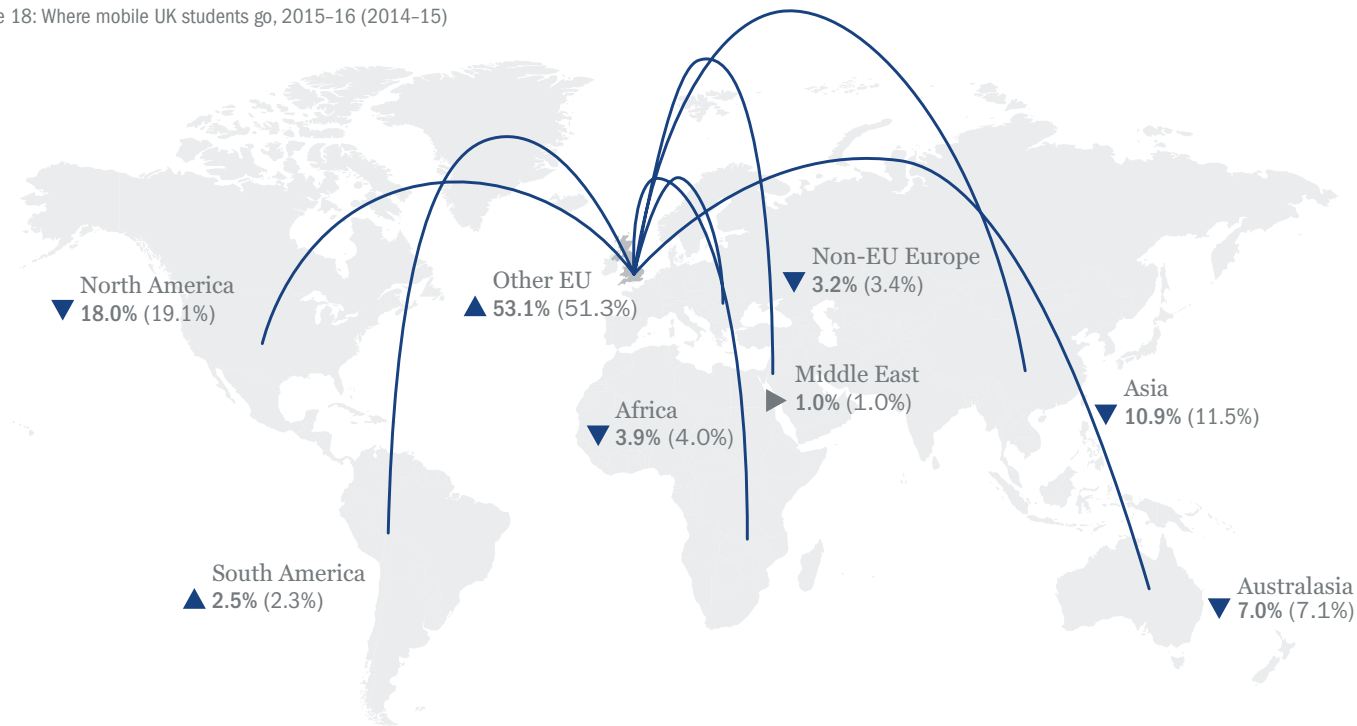
Note: International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES) was a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action within FP7 aimed at supporting staff exchange and networking with countries with which the EU has a science and technology agreement. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action fellowships supported researcher mobility within and outside the EU, and the Erasmus+ programme provides educators the opportunity to teach or train abroad.

STUDENT MOBILITY

27,400+

UK students went abroad in 2015–16 to study, work or volunteer as part of their degree.

Figure 18: Where mobile UK students go, 2015–16 (2014–15)



Source: HESA student record (2015–16)

Note: 80 instances of outward mobility recorded by HESA were to an unrecorded destination.

STUDENT MOBILITY AND OUTCOMES

Mobile students are

24%

less likely to be unemployed six months after graduation than their non-mobile peers.

Figure 19: Among undergraduate students graduating in 2014–15, students who were mobile experienced the following six months after graduation:

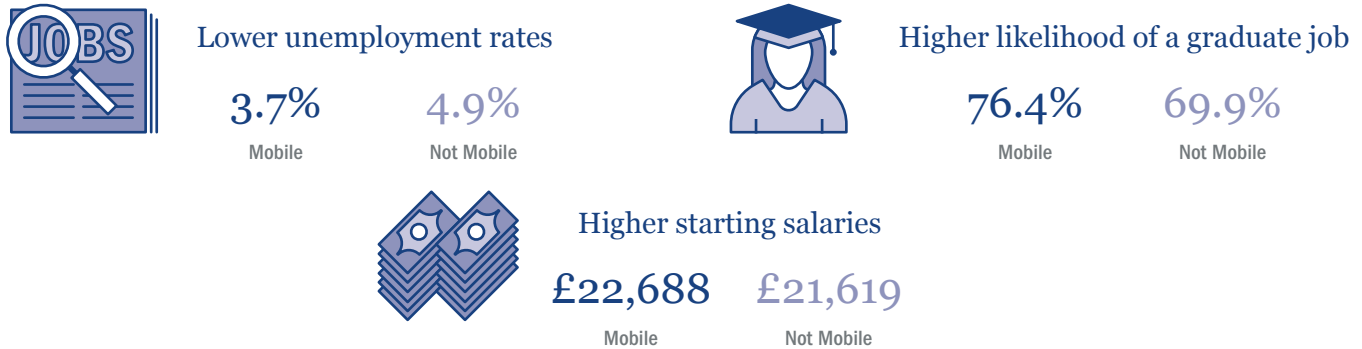
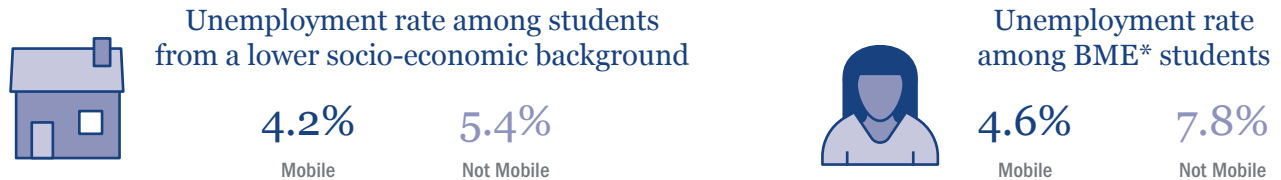


Figure 20: Differences in the unemployment rates of mobile and non-mobile students are greatest among those from under-represented groups:

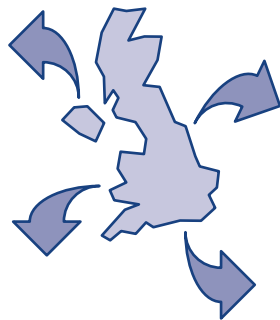
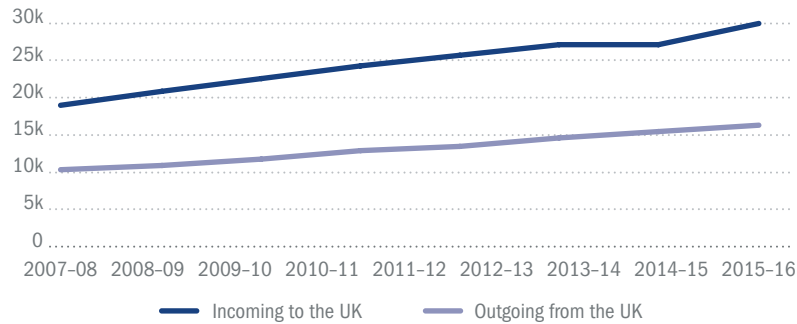


Source: UUKi *Gone International 2017*
*BME refers to black and minority ethnic

STUDENT MOBILITY AND EUROPE

40%
of mobile UK students went abroad through the EU's Erasmus+ programme.

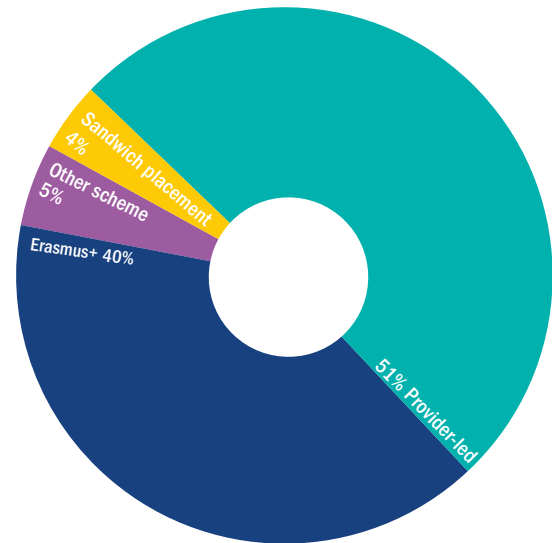
Figure 21: Student mobility to and from the UK with Erasmus, 2007-08 to 2014-15



307,700

UK higher education students went abroad through the Erasmus since the UK joined the programme in 1987, to 2017

Figure 22: Instances of outward mobility by scheme, 2015-16



Source: Erasmus+ Programme Annual Report 2015, HESA student record (2015-16)

Note: 'Provider' schemes are schemes designed and led by individual higher education providers to enable student mobility.

TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION

701,010

students study for UK higher education qualifications outside of the UK.

Figure 23: Top 20 countries by UK HETNE student numbers, 2015-16

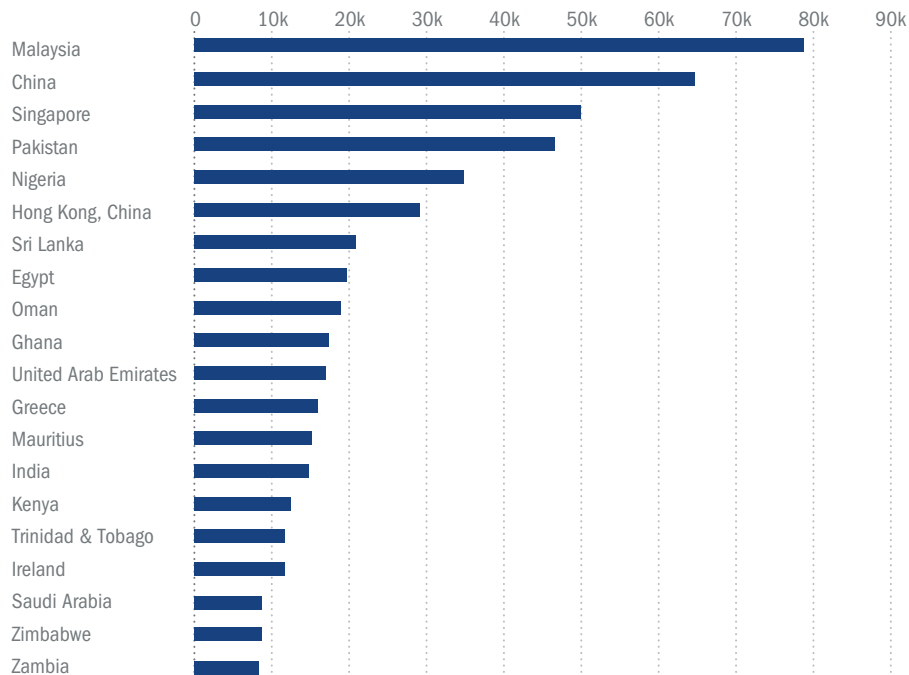
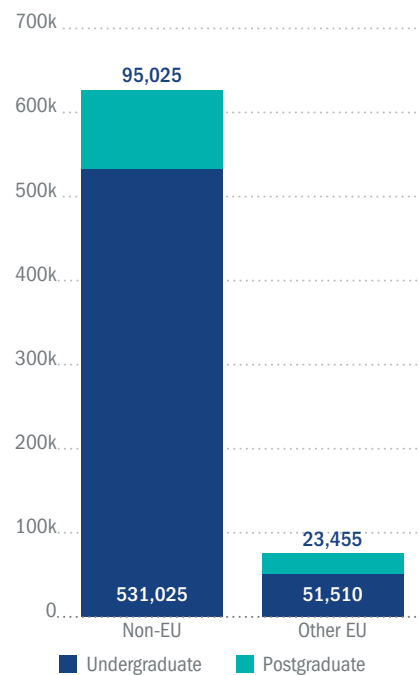


Figure 24: Location of UK HETNE students, 2015-16



Source: HESA Aggregate Offshore Record (2015-16)

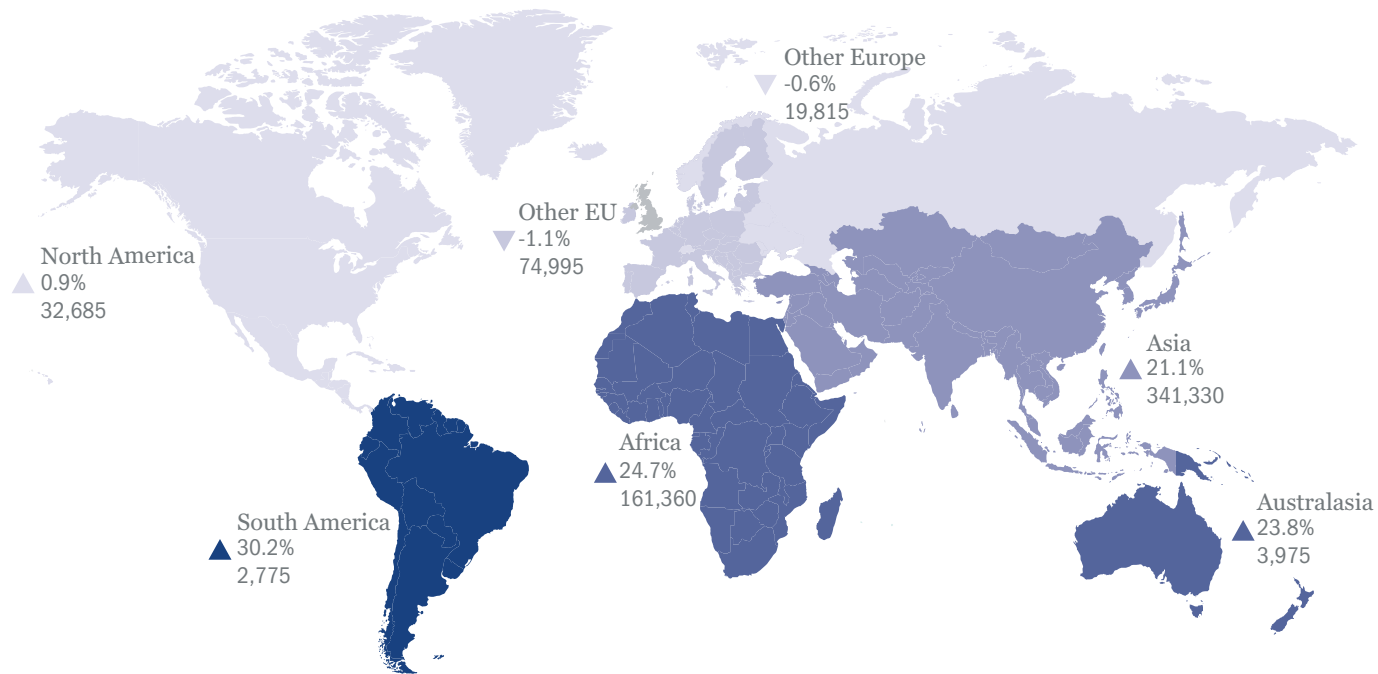
Note: In 2015-16 45% of all TNE students were registered through Oxford Brookes University with an overseas partner on Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) programmes.

TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION

49%

of UK HE TNE students are in Asia.

Figure 25: Location of UK HE TNE students, 2015–16 and percentage change since 2012–13



Source: HESA Aggregate Offshore Record (2015–16)

Note: In 2015–16 45% of all TNE students were registered through Oxford Brookes University with an overseas partner on Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) programmes.

TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION

81%

increase in the number of UK HE TNE students since 2008–09.

Figure 26: Trends in UK HE TNE student numbers, 2008–09 to 2015–16

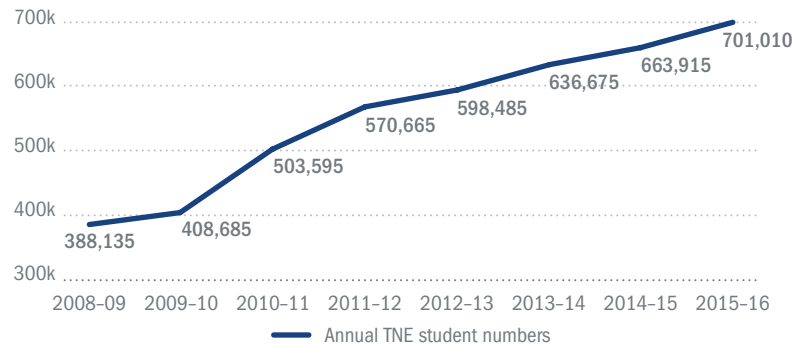
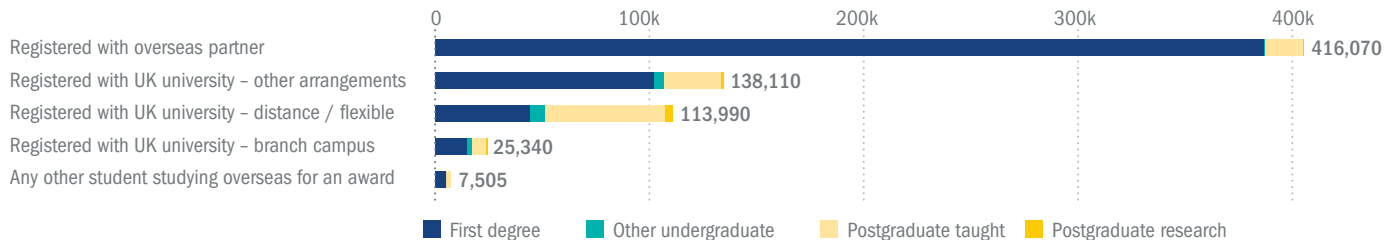


Figure 27: Changes in location of UK HE TNE students rankings

Rank	2010–11	2012–13	2015–16
Malaysia	1	1 ▶ 0	1 ▶ 0
China	3	3 ▶ 0	2 ▲ 1
Singapore	2	2 ▶ 0	3 ▼ -1
Pakistan	4	4 ▶ 0	4 ▶ 0
Nigeria	6	6 ▶ 0	5 ▲ 1
Hong Kong, China	5	5 ▶ 0	6 ▼ -1
Sri Lanka	21	13 ▲ 8	7 ▲ 6
Egypt	15	17 ▲ 2	8 ▲ 9
Oman	16	11 ▼ -5	9 ▲ 2
Ghana	7	7 ▶ 0	10 ▼ -3

Figure 28: Type of UK HE TNE provision, 2015–16



Source: HESA Aggregate Offshore Record (2015–16)

Note: In 2015–16 45% of all TNE students were registered through Oxford Brookes University with an overseas partner on Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) programmes.

UK research is world class and the ability of UK universities to attract leading researchers and investment from around the world is fundamental to the excellence of our research base.

Over half of the UK's publications are co-authored with partners overseas (page 26), and the UK receives an exceptionally large amount of funding for research from abroad. Overseas investment in research and development at UK universities has grown by 73% in the last seven years (page 25).

The EU is a vital part of the picture – 13 of our top 20 collaboration partners are EU member states (page 27). At the same time, one in six projects funded through the EU's Horizon 2020 (EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation) are coordinated by the UK, with most coordinated by universities (page 29).

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

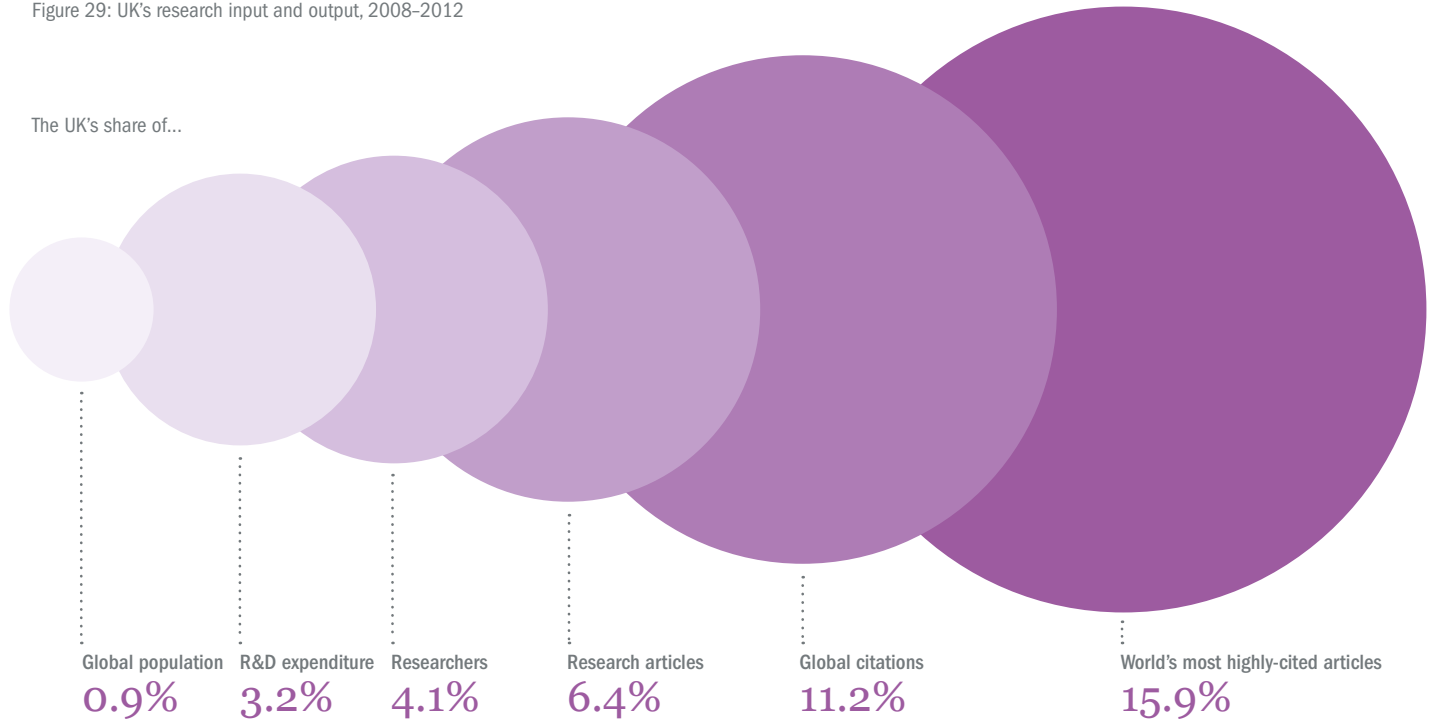
QUALITY & IMPACT OF UK RESEARCH INTERNATIONALLY

15.9%

of the world's most highly-cited articles were produced by the UK.

Figure 29: UK's research input and output, 2008-2012

The UK's share of...



RESEARCH INCOME FROM INTERNATIONAL SOURCES

73%

increase in overseas investment in UK research and development in the last seven years.

Figure 30: Research income from international sources, 2009–10 to 2015–16

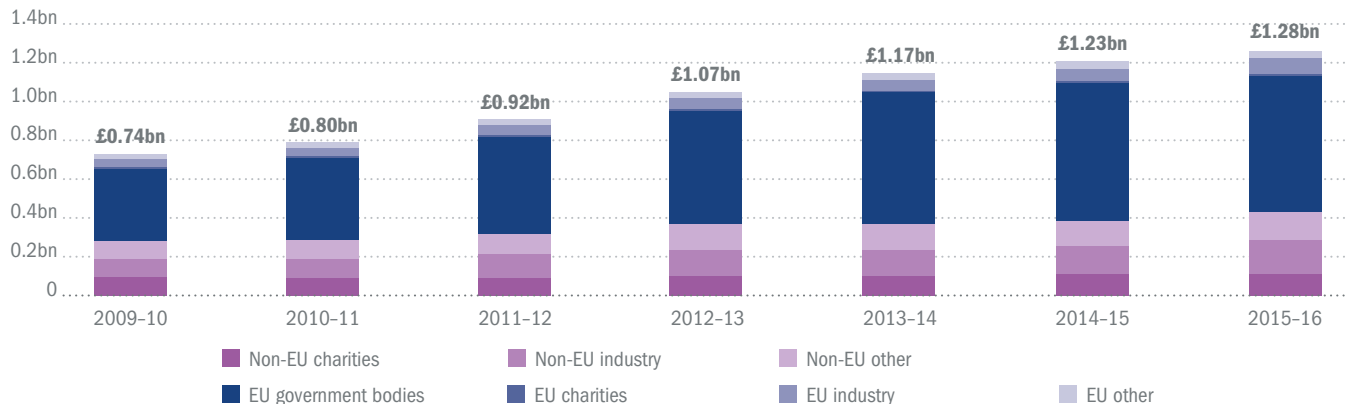
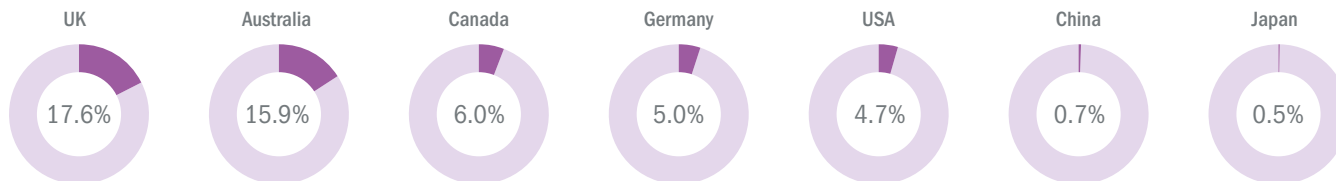


Figure 31: Percentage of GERD* funded from abroad, 2015 or latest data available



Source: Top: HESA Finance Record (2009–10 to 2015–16). Bottom: OECD (2016)

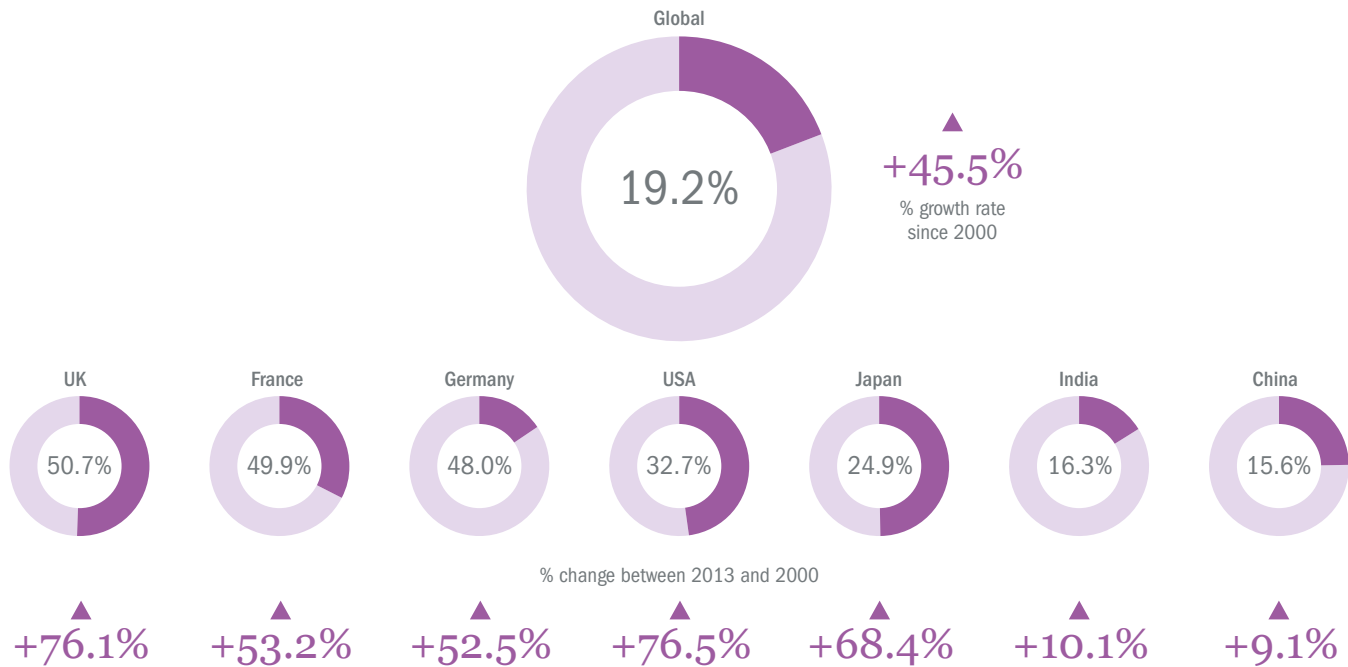
*Gross Domestic Expenditure on research and development (GERD) refers to the total intramural expenditure on R&D performed on the national territory by all sectors in a given period of time.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION

50.7%

of the UK's research publications involve international collaboration.

Figure 32: Percentage of research collaborations involving an international co-author, 2013

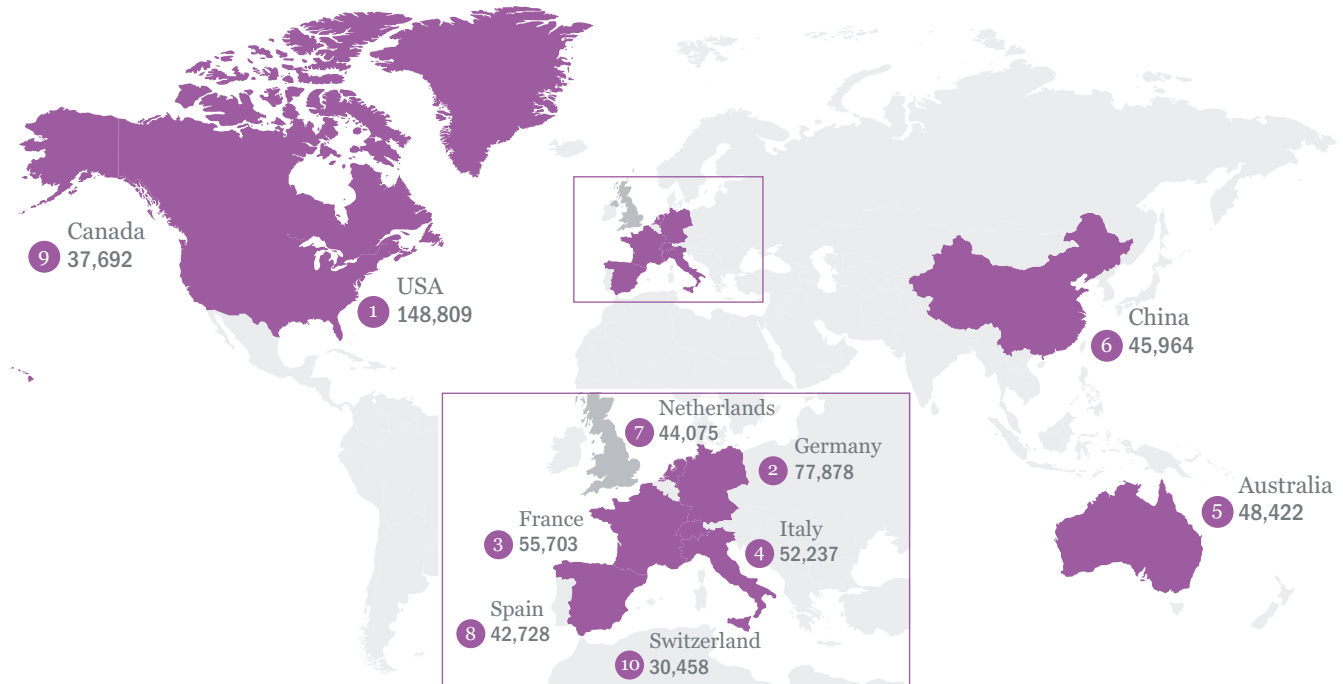


UK RESEARCH COLLABORATION

13

of the UK's top 20 collaboration partners are EU member states.

Figure 33: Top 10 research collaboration partners, 2011-16

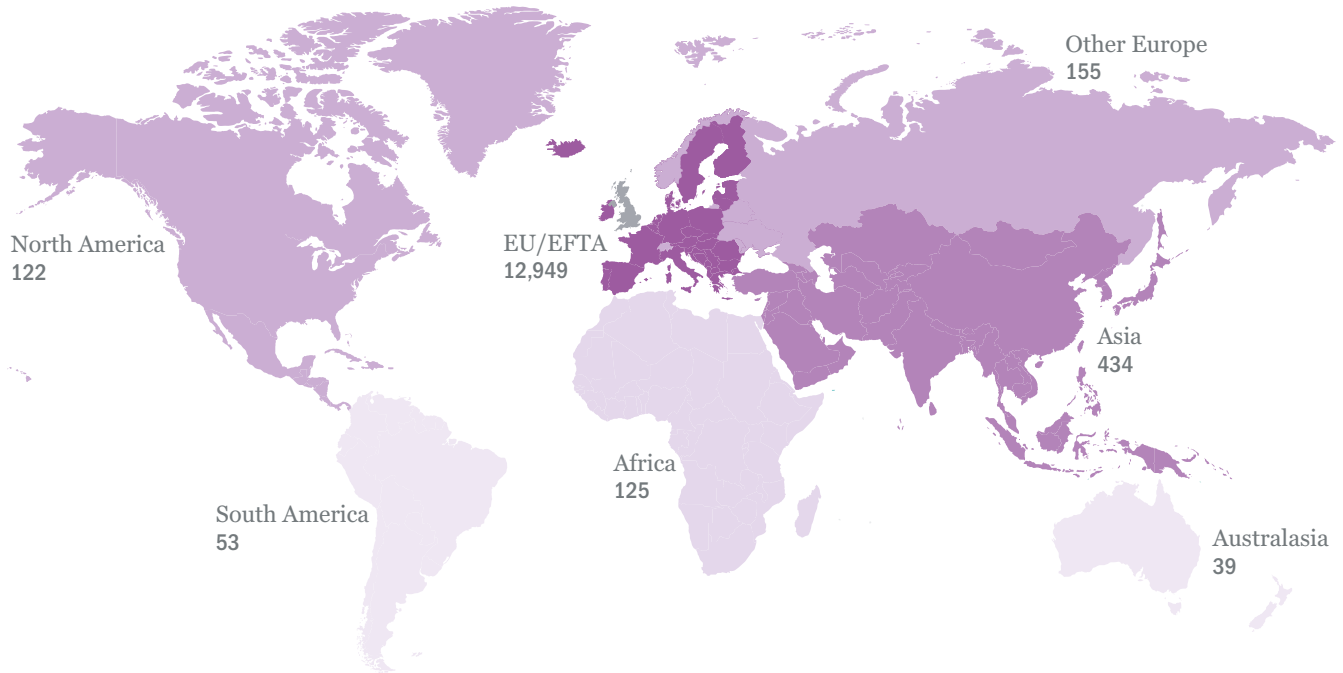


UK RESEARCH COLLABORATION THROUGH HORIZON 2020

806

UK Horizon 2020 projects involved at least one non-EU country.

Figure 34: Instances of Horizon 2020 projects involving the UK and an international partner, 2014-16



UK RESEARCH COLLABORATION THROUGH HORIZON 2020

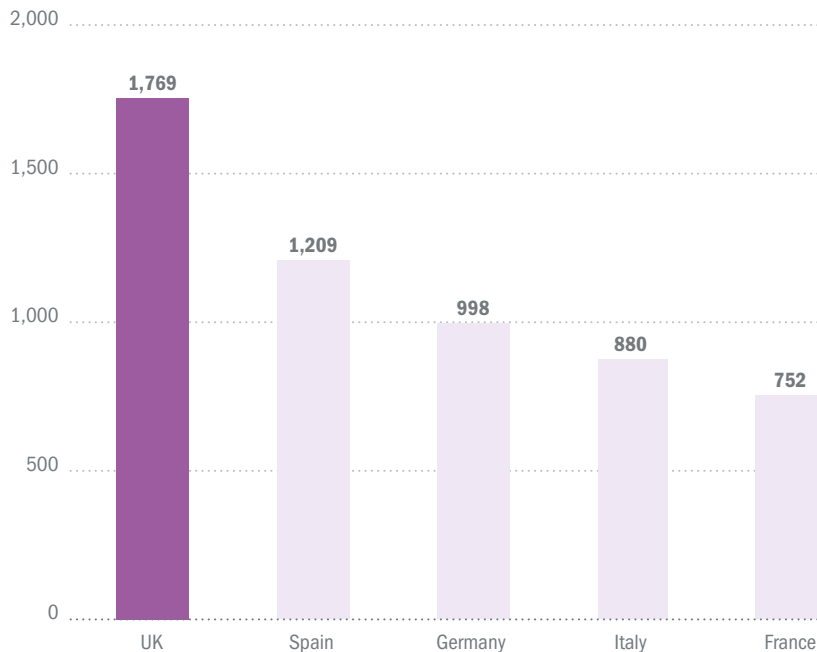
1 in 6

Horizon 2020 projects to date are coordinated by the UK – most of these are coordinated by universities.

Figure 35: The UK's top 10 Horizon 2020 partner countries, 2014–16

Figure 36: Top 5 countries in Horizon 2020 by number of coordinations, 2014–2016

Country	Number of projects
Germany	1,592
Italy	1,254
France	1,222
Spain	1,215
Netherlands	934
Belgium	810
Sweden	590
Greece	569
Austria	491
Switzerland	482



UK INNOVATION

3rd

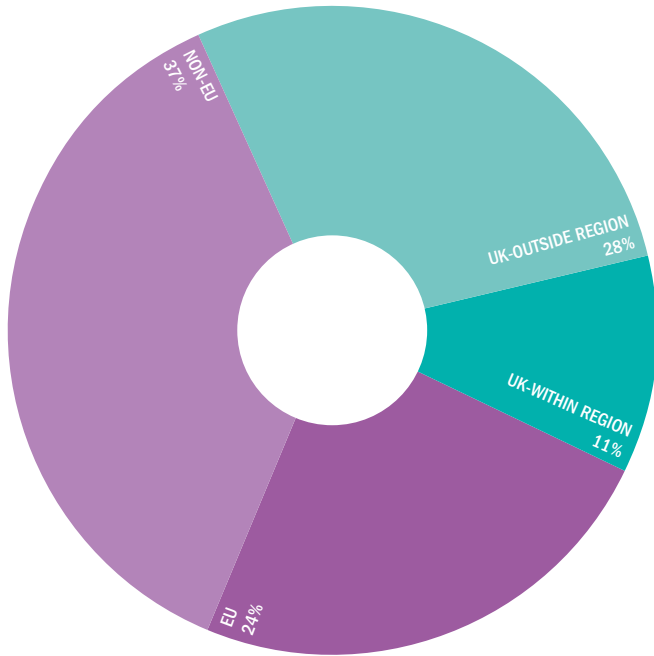
The UK ranks in the top 3 in the world for its innovation capabilities.

Figure 37: Global Innovation Index ranking, 2011-16

Ranking	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1	Switzerland	Switzerland	Switzerland	Switzerland	Switzerland	Switzerland
2	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	UK	UK	Sweden
3	Singapore	Singapore	UK	Sweden	Sweden	UK
4	Hong Kong	Finland	Netherlands	Finland	Netherlands	USA
5	Finland	UK	USA	Netherlands	USA	Finland
6	Denmark	Netherlands	Finland	USA	Finland	Singapore
7	USA	Denmark	Hong Kong	Singapore	Singapore	Ireland
8	Canada	Hong Kong	Singapore	Denmark	Ireland	Denmark
9	Netherlands	Ireland	Denmark	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Netherlands
10	UK	USA	Ireland	Hong Kong	Denmark	Germany

INTERNATIONAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Figure 38: Location of businesses co-authoring publications with UK universities



Source: Left: Tijssen et al. "UK universities interacting with industry: patterns of research collaboration and inter-sectoral mobility of academic researchers" (2017).
Right: HESA HE-BCI record 2015–16
Note: The data in Figure 37 is based on a sample of 47 universities.

61%

of UK university-industry co-authored publications involve international businesses.

Figure 39: UK universities' income through European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF), 2015–16

£53.0 million



European Regional Development Fund



European Social Fund



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