

# INTERNATIONAL FACTS AND FIGURES 2019



Universities UK  
International



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# WELCOME

**UK higher education is a global success story. Our universities are world-renowned for their quality, diversity and impact and internationalisation is central to this success.**

International staff and students make a vital contribution to the UK's academic community, while global partnerships in research and teaching enhance our influence and impact.

International Facts and Figures 2019 presents a snapshot of the international dimensions of UK higher education, including:

- The number of international students choosing to study in the UK, where they come from, at what level and which subjects they study;
- The international academic and non-academic staff living and working in the UK, where they come from, and what they do;
- The UK sector's provision for outward student mobility;
- The UK's transnational education offer (TNE) across the world;
- International research collaborations and funding;
- Levels of engagement and collaboration by region.

The UK Government has recognised the importance of internationalisation in the International Education Strategy and the International Research and Innovation Strategy, which is an encouraging sign, and necessary particularly in the context of challenges posed by Brexit. It is now more important than ever for the sector to do what it does best – be open to the world, and innovative in internationalisation.

It is now necessary, more than ever, for sector to do what it does best – be open to the world, and innovative in internationalisation.

## **VIVIENNE STERN**

Director

Universities UK International

July 2019

# HIGHLIGHTS

## International students make up...

**19.6%**

of the total student population.



**14%**

of all undergraduates.



**35.8%**

of all postgraduates.



## International research collaborations

**55.2%**

of all UK publications are the product of international research collaborations.



## Transnational education

**693,695**

students are studying for a UK degree overseas.



## Outward student mobility

**7.8%**

of undergraduate students study work or volunteer overseas as part of their degree.



## International staff

**20%**

of all staff at UK universities are international.



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The UK remains an extremely popular destination for international students (EU and non-EU) with only the US attracting larger numbers. In 2017–18, there were 458,490 international students studying at UK higher education institutions, accounting for 19.6% of the total student population in the UK. 14% of all undergraduates and 35.8% of all postgraduates were international.

UUKi research shows that 90% of international graduates were satisfied with the learning experience at their university, 80% were satisfied or very satisfied with support provided during their time in the UK and 82% think that their UK degree was worth the financial investment.

In 2017–18,

**458,490**

**international students  
accounted for**

**19.6%**

**of the total student  
population in the UK.**

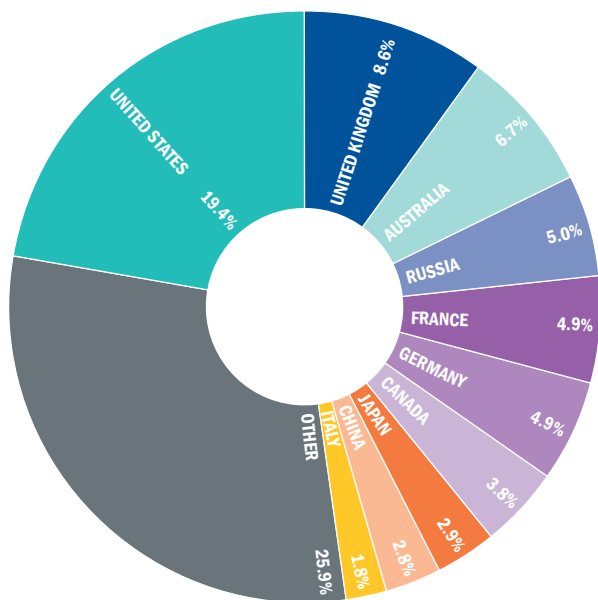
Data source: HESA student record [2017–18], UUKi (2019)

## WHERE DO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS STUDY?

OECD data shows that the UK was the second most popular destination in the world for international students in 2016. However, the UK's growth rate has been consistently low, dropping from 0.5% in 2015 to only 0.3% in 2016.

This contrasts starkly with the UK's competitors. For example, the numbers of international students choosing Australia, Canada, the US and Germany grew by 13.9%, 10.4%, 7.1% and 6.9% respectively from 2015 to 2016.

FIGURE 1: TOP 10 HOST COUNTRIES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 2016 AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE SINCE 2015



1	United States	971,417 (907,251)	▲ 7.1%	6	Germany	244,575 (228,756)	▲ 6.9%
2	United Kingdom	432,001 (430,833)	▲ 0.3%	7	Canada	189,478 (171,603)	▲ 10.4%
3	Australia	335,512 (294,438)	▲ 13.9%	8	Japan	143,457 (131,980)	▲ 8.7%
4	Russia	249,877 (226,431)	▲ 10.4%	9	China	137,527 (123,127)	▲ 11.7%
5	France	245,349 (239,409)	▲ 2.5%	10	Italy	92,655 (89,964)	▲ 3.0%

Data Source: OECD (2018)

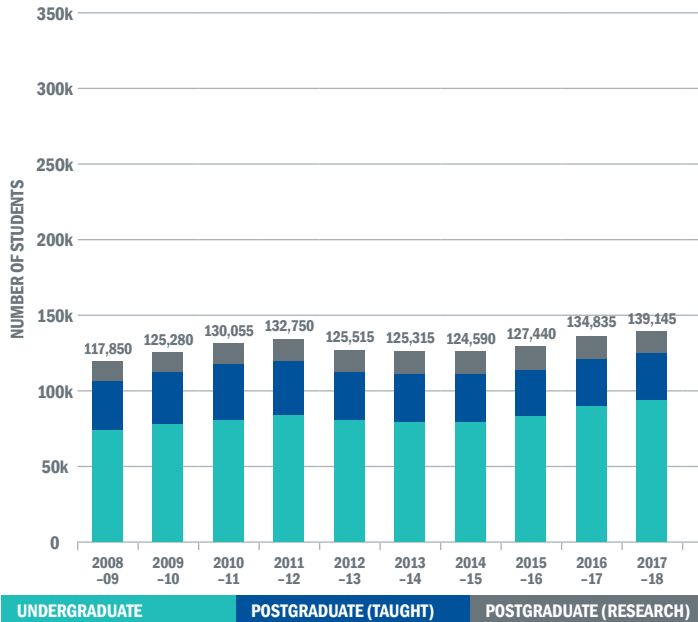
Note: The total number of UK students recorded by the OECD differs from the total recorded by HESA, and used elsewhere in this report.

## HOW MANY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CHOOSE THE UK?

In 2017–18, 139,145 EU students studied at UK higher education institutions. Of these, 67.6% were undergraduates, 21.9% were taught postgraduates and 10.5% were research postgraduates. Of the 319,340 non-EU international students, 50.6% studied towards an undergraduate degree, 39.4% were taught postgraduates and 9.9% were research postgraduates.



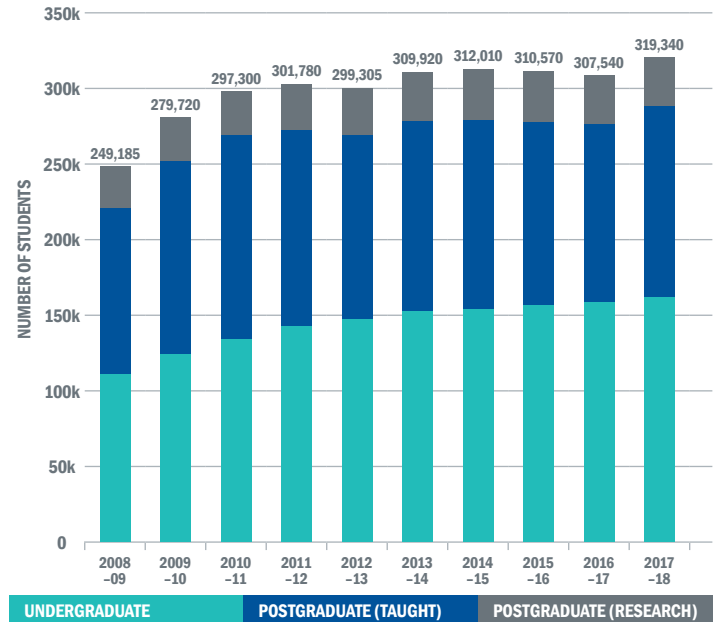
FIGURE 2: TOTAL NUMBER OF EU STUDENTS BY LEVEL OF STUDY, 2008–09 TO 2017–18



Data source: HESA student record [2008-09 to 2017-18]



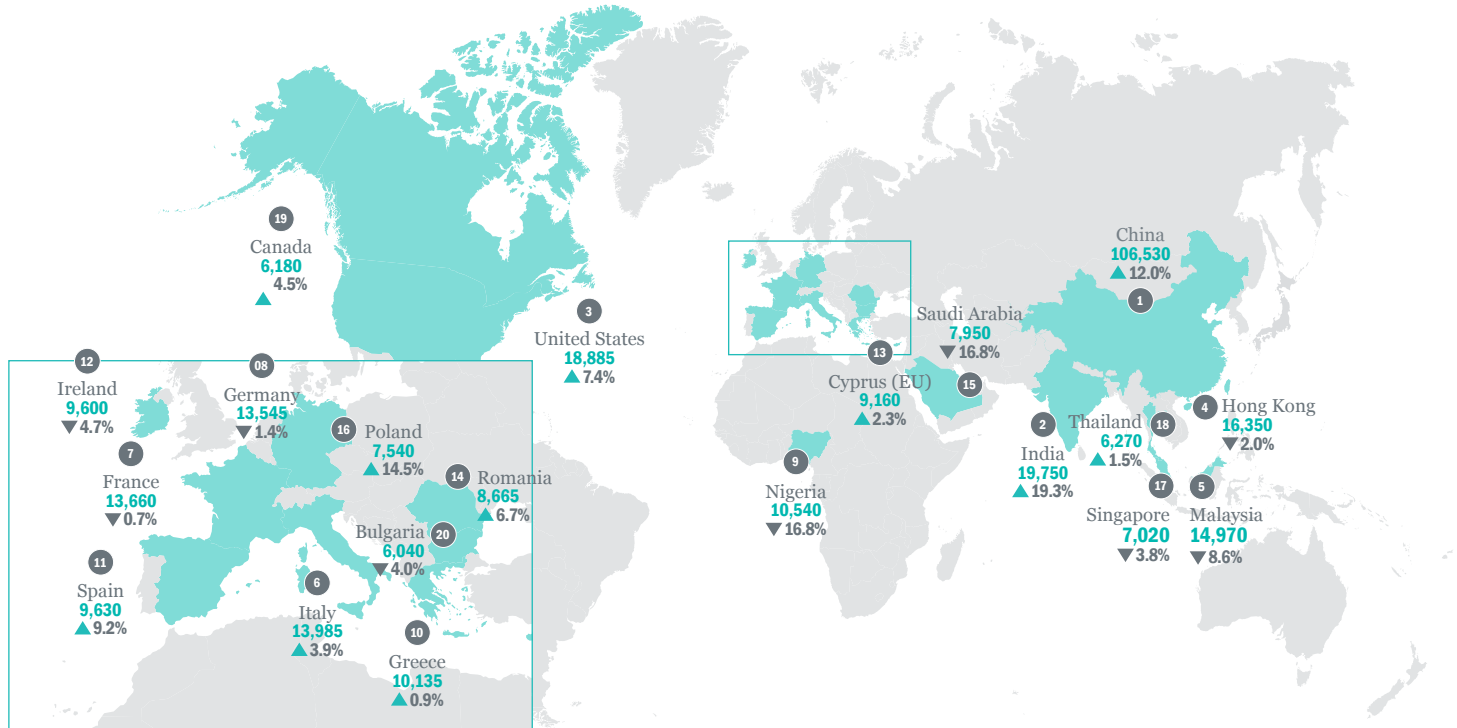
FIGURE 3: NUMBER OF NON-EU STUDENTS BY LEVEL OF STUDY, 2008–09 TO 2017–18



## WHERE DO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS COME FROM?

In 2017-18, the top five sending countries for international students were China, India, the US, Hong Kong and Malaysia. Chinese students at UK higher education institutions made up 23.2% of all international students. The top sending countries within the EU were Italy, France and Germany.

FIGURE 4: TOP 20 DOMICILES OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE UK 2017-18 AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE SINCE 2016-17



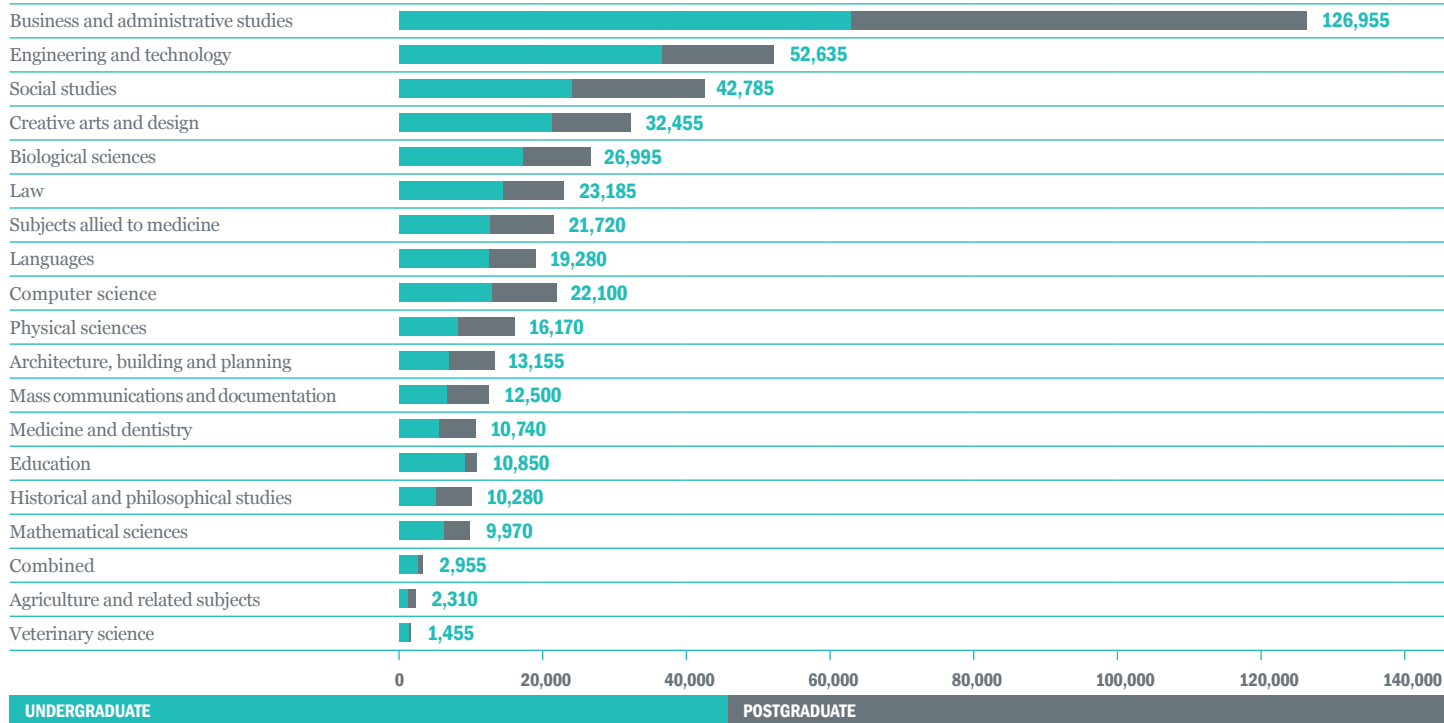
Data source: HESA student record [2016-17, 2017-18]



## WHAT DO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS STUDY?

In 2017–18, international student numbers were highest in business and administrative studies, engineering and technology and social studies. International students accounted for 37.1% of business and administrative studies students and 31.9% of engineering and technology students.

**FIGURE 5: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY SUBJECT AREA AND LEVEL OF STUDY, 2017–18**



Data source: HESA student record [2017–18]

## WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE UK?

Welcoming new international students every year has economic benefits across the UK. The net economic impact of the 2015-16 cohort of international students over the course of their studies is expected to be around £20.3bn.

FIGURE 6: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, 2015-16 COHORT

Scotland  
**£1.94bn**

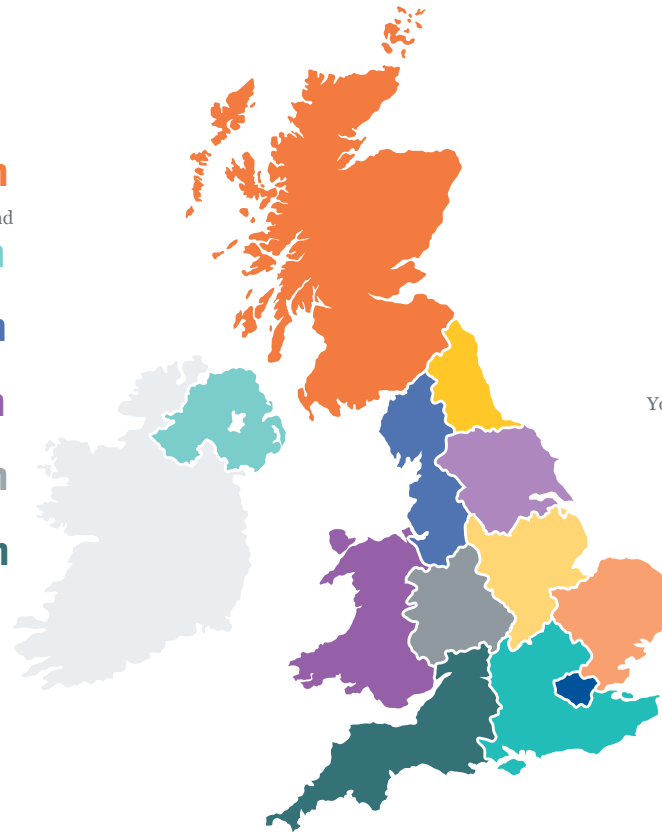
Northern Ireland  
**£0.17bn**

North West  
**£1.91bn**

Wales  
**£0.90bn**

West Midlands  
**£1.95bn**

South West  
**£1.21bn**



Data source: HEPI (2018)

# INTERNATIONAL STAFF

In 2017–18, 87,615 international staff worked at UK higher education institutions, ie, one in five staff were international. Almost 60% of international staff came from the EU.

The international nature of academic faculty is integral to the success of teaching and research in the UK. Around three quarters of the international staff were academics with 42% of these holding both research and teaching contracts.

In 2017–18,

**87,615**

international staff  
worked at UK HEIs

an increase of

**25.3%**

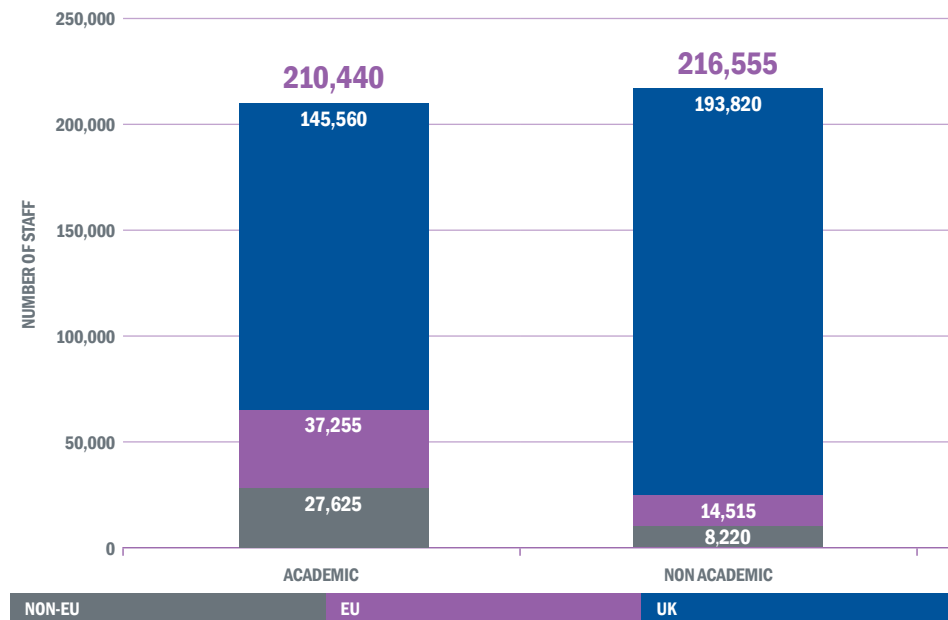
since 2013–14.

Data source: HESA staff record [2013-14, 2017-18]

## WHERE DO INTERNATIONAL STAFF COME FROM?

In 2017–18, the top five countries of nationality for international staff at UK higher education institutions were Italy, Germany, Ireland, the US and China. 59.1% of international staff were EU nationals. In the last five years, the number of Italian staff has increased by over 50% and surpassed Germany and Ireland.

FIGURE 7: EU AND NON-EU STAFF BY EMPLOYMENT MARKER, 2017–18



Data source: HESA staff record [2013–14, 2017–18]

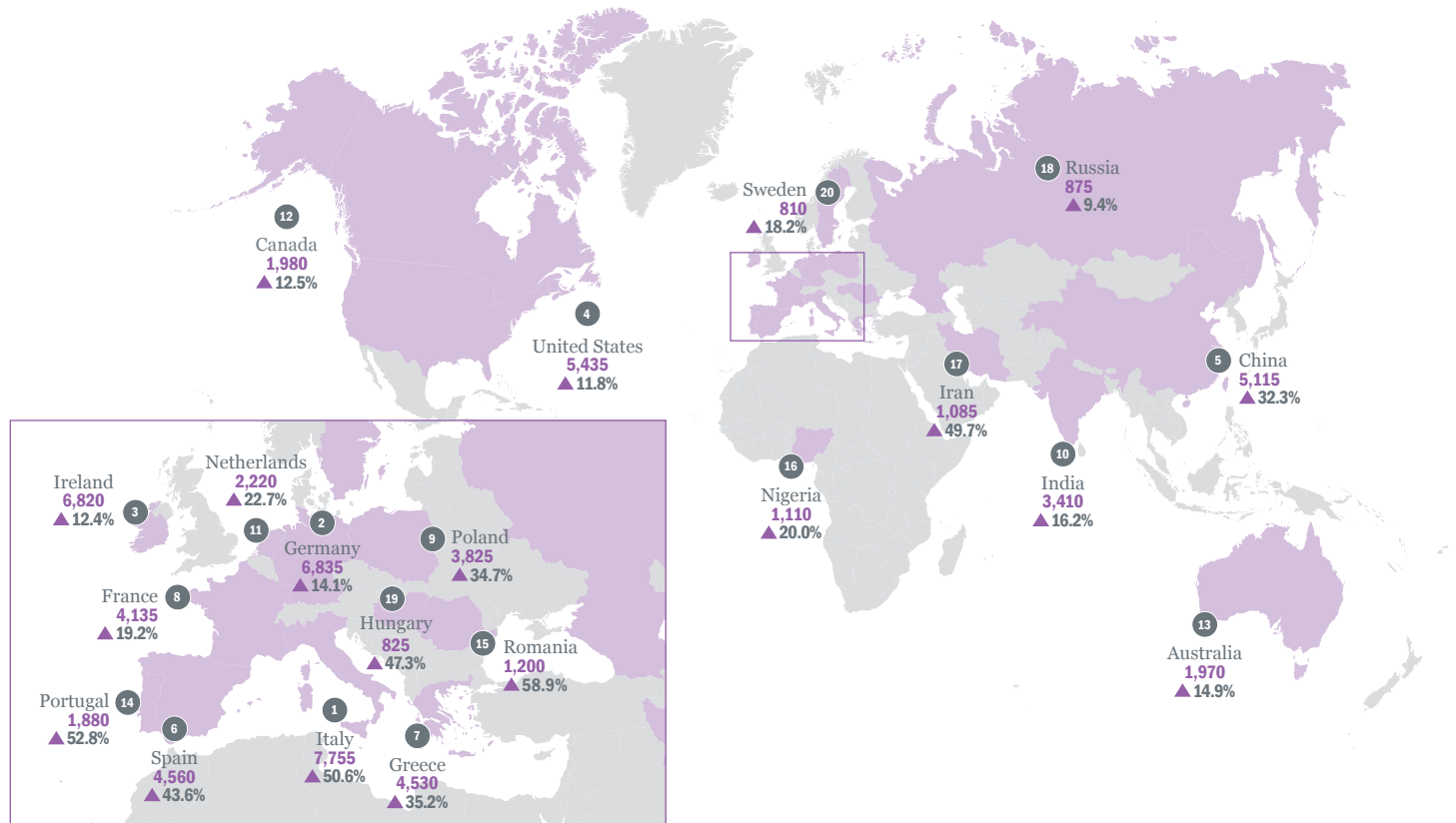


In 2017–18,

**59.1%**

of international staff were EU nationals.

**FIGURE 8: TOP 20 NATIONALITIES OF INTERNATIONAL STAFF 2017–18 AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE SINCE 2013–14**

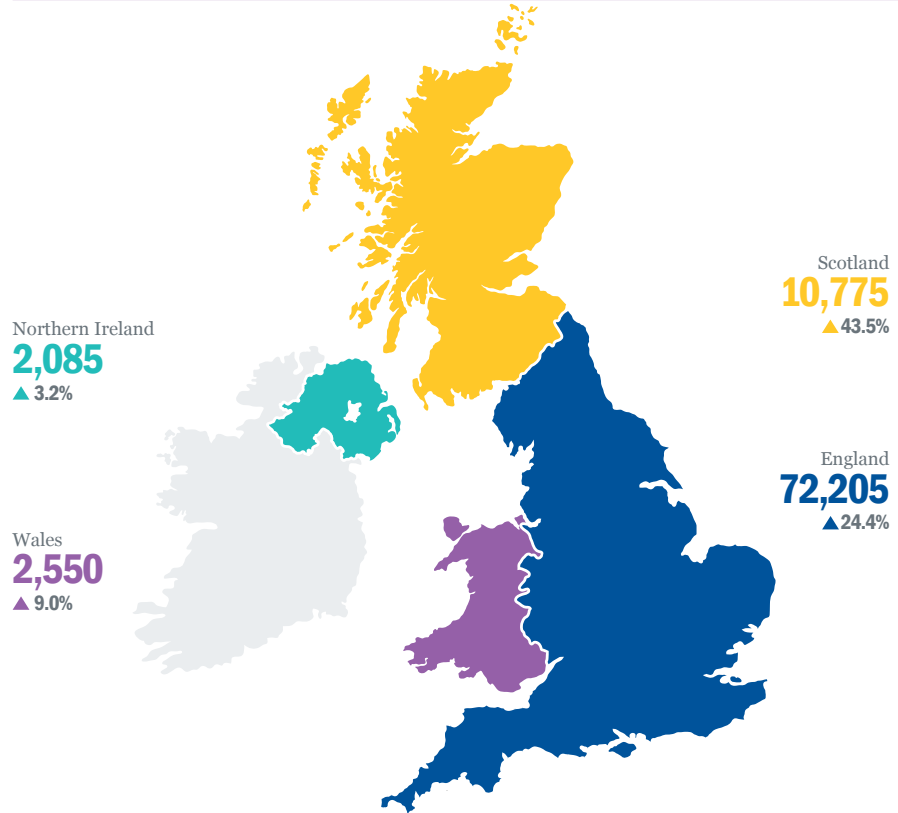


Data source: HESA staff record [2013-14, 2017-18]

## WHERE IN THE UK ARE INTERNATIONAL STAFF BASED?

In 2017–18, the number of international staff at Scottish higher education institutions had grown by 43.5% and by 24.4% in England since 2013–14.

FIGURE 9: INTERNATIONAL STAFF BY COUNTRY OF UK HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION 2017–18 AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE SINCE 2013–14

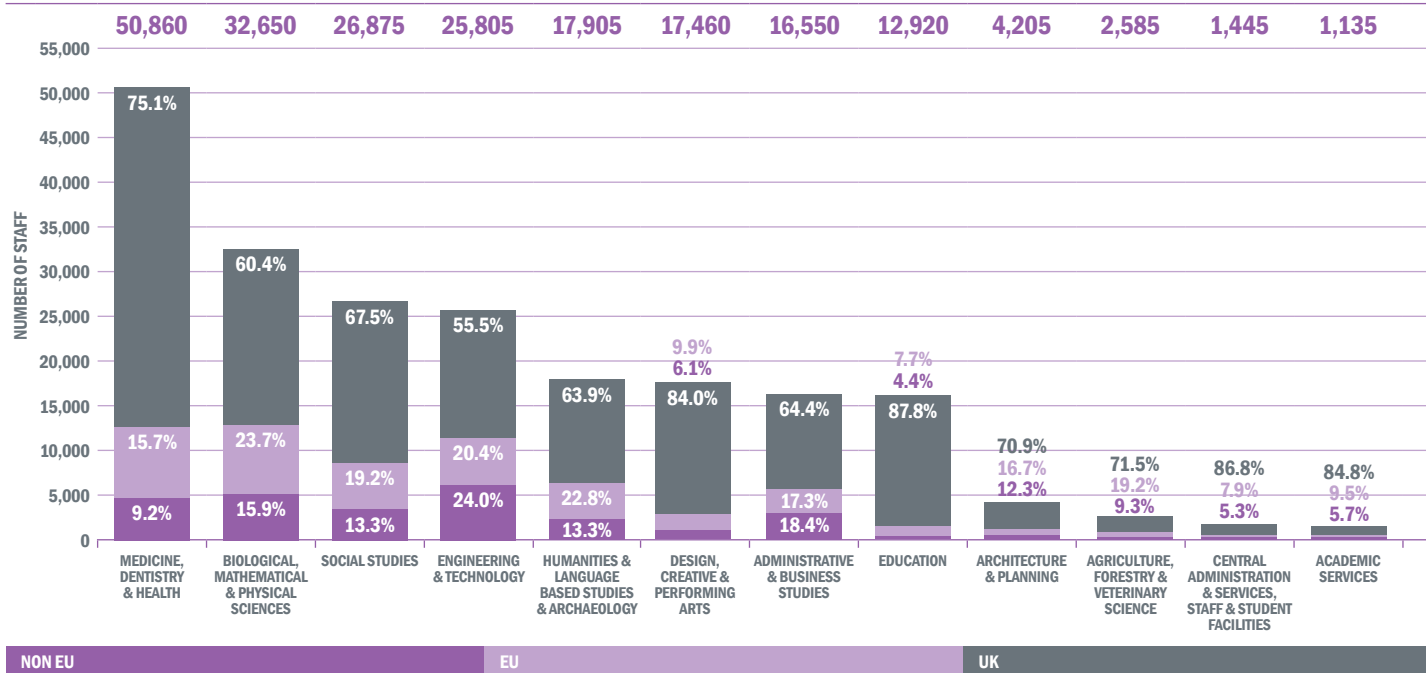


Data source: HESA staff record [2013-14, 2017-18]

## WHAT DO INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC STAFF DO?

In 2017–18, three quarters of all international staff were academic staff. Of these, 57.4% were EU nationals. Subject areas with the highest proportions of international academic staff were biological, mathematical and physical sciences (39.6%) and engineering and technology (44.4%).

FIGURE 10: INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC STAFF BY HESA COST CENTRE, 2017–18



Data source: HESA staff record [2017–18]

# OUTWARD MOBILITY

7.8% of UK undergraduate students work, study or volunteer overseas as part of their degree. One third of mobile students study languages, and 30.8% study medicine and dentistry. 9.5% of students from more advantaged backgrounds were mobile, as compared to only 5.6% from less advantaged backgrounds.

The UUKi Go International: Stand Out campaign aims to double the percentage of students who study, work or volunteer abroad to 13% by 2020. So far, over 90 partner institutions have pledged to take action towards delivering on this target.

## 7.8%

of UK undergraduate students study, work or volunteer overseas during their degree

Data source: HESA DLHE survey [2016–17], HESA student record [2017–18]

Note: All the data in this section relates to UK-domiciled, full-time, first degree undergraduate students who graduated in 2016-17 and responded to the DLHE survey, which had a response rate of 80% that year.

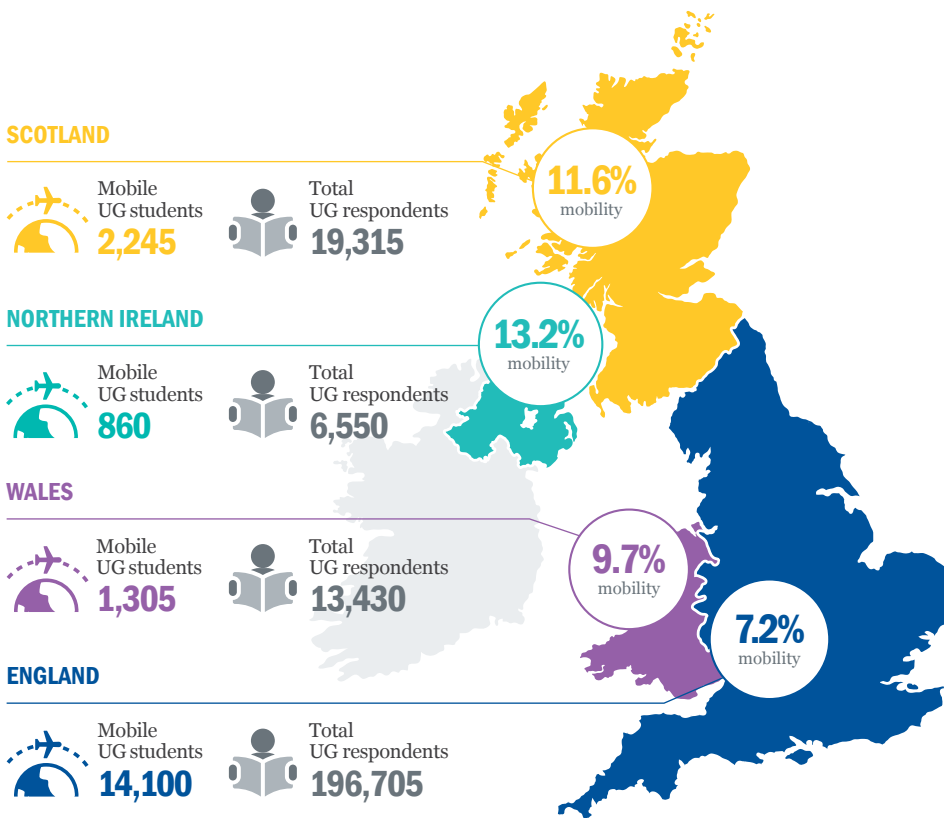


## HOW MANY UK STUDENTS GO ABROAD?

The largest proportion of mobile undergraduate students are enrolled at UK HEIs in Northern Ireland and Scotland: with 13.2% of students going abroad, Northern Ireland has already reached the Go International campaign target, and Scotland with 11.6% mobile students is very close. England has the smallest proportion of mobile students (7.2%).

This data is based on responses to the HESA Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey.

FIGURE 11: MOBILE UNDERGRADUATE (UG) STUDENTS BY COUNTRY, 2016–17 GRADUATES

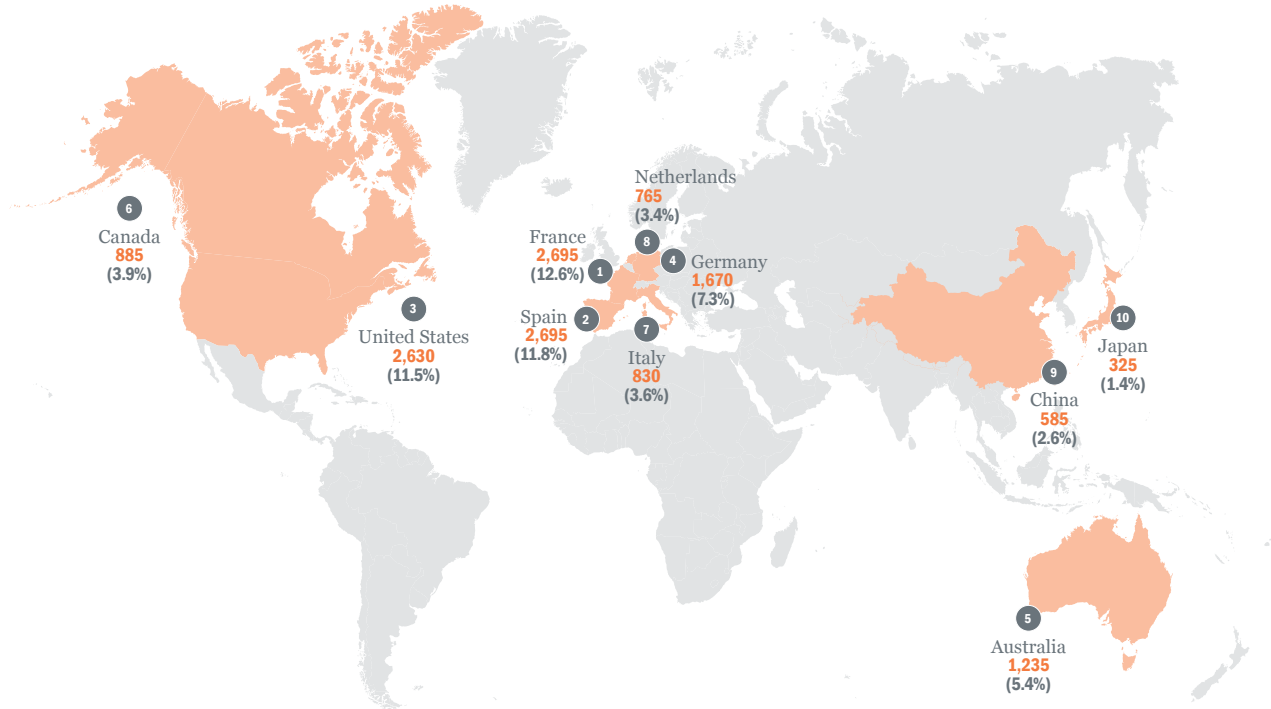


Data source: HESA DLHE survey [2016–17], HESA student record [2017–18]

## WHERE DO MOBILE STUDENTS GO?

The top three destinations for mobile students who graduated in 2016–17 were France, Spain, and the US – together these countries received 36% of all mobile students from the UK.

FIGURE 12: TOP 10 DESTINATIONS AND SHARE OF MOBILE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, 2016–17 GRADUATES



Data source: HESA DLHE survey [2016–17], HESA student record [2017–18]

Note: Mobility measured in instances rather than student numbers as some students have more than one mobility period

## WHAT KIND OF MOBILITY EXPERIENCE DO UK STUDENTS HAVE?

The majority of mobility (71.1%) takes place in the penultimate year of studies, in particular longer-term mobility and compulsory mobility. During students' second year (2015–16), Erasmus+ accounted for almost half (49.2%) of all mobilities. Overall, 75% of mobile students in the 2016–17 cohort studied abroad and 3.6% volunteered. Most mobility periods were long-term - more than 14 weeks duration (63.7%).

FIGURE 13: MOBILITY BY SCHEME (2015–16 ONLY)

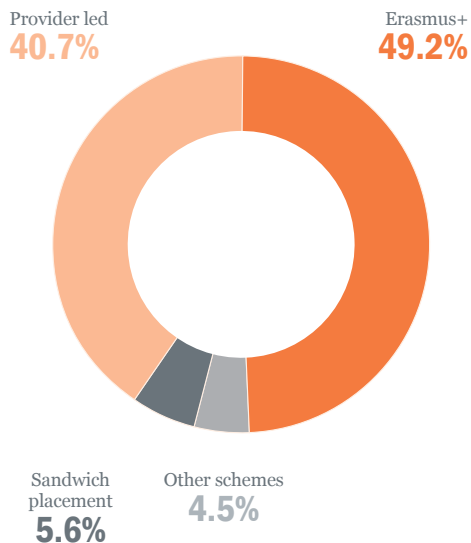


FIGURE 14: MOBILITY BY TYPE

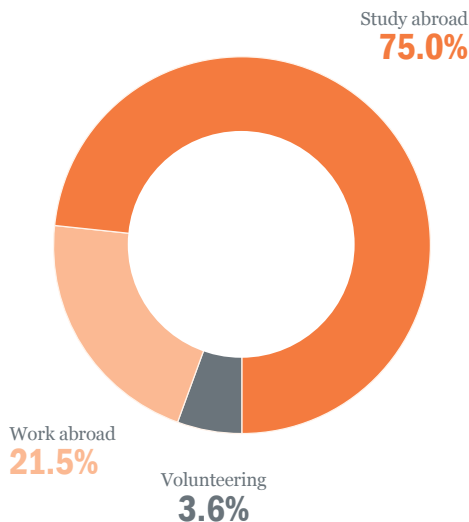
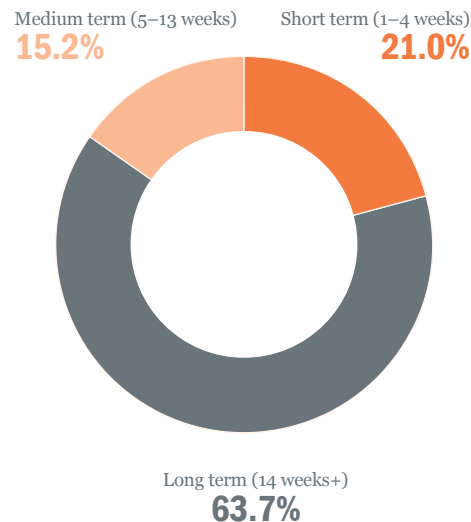


FIGURE 15: MOBILITY BY DURATION



Data source: HESA DLHE survey [2016–17], HESA student record [2017–18]

Note: Mobility measured in instances rather than student numbers as some students have more than one mobility period.

## HOW DO STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM A PERIOD ABROAD?

Research indicates that students benefit academically and professionally from a period abroad as part of their degree. Undergraduate students\* who went abroad during their studies were more likely to find a graduate job, and had higher starting salaries than their non-mobile counterparts.

FIGURE 16: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF GRADUATES

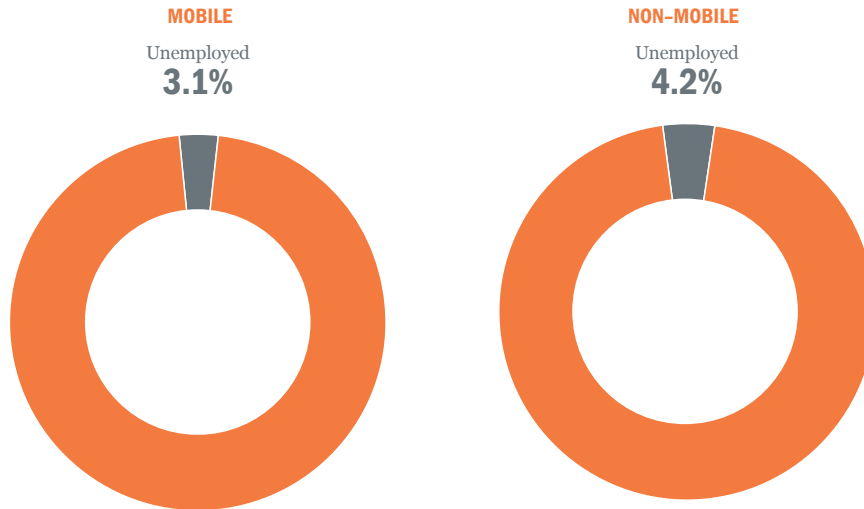
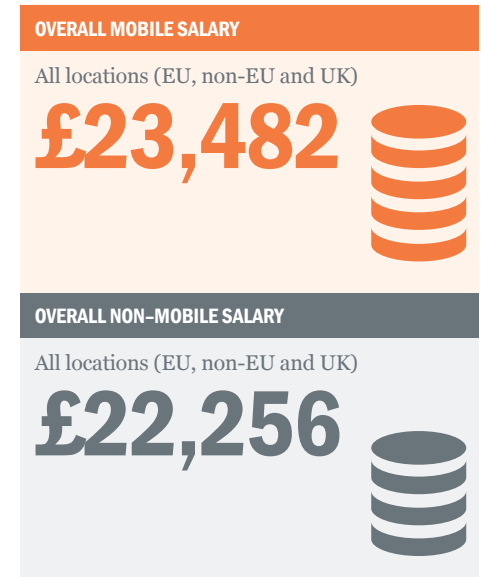


FIGURE 17: AVERAGE SALARIES OF GRADUATES IN FULL-TIME, PAID EMPLOYMENT



Data source: HESA DLHE survey [2016–17],  
HESA student record [2017–18]  
\*2016–17 graduates, within six months of graduation

# TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION

In 2017–18, 139 UK universities delivered some form of Transnational Education (TNE) to 693,695 students in 225 countries and territories worldwide. The UK is a world leader in this field and there are 1.5 times as many students studying for a UK degree overseas than there are international students studying in the UK.

Globally, the most frequent type of TNE was collaborative provision.

In 2017–18,

**139**

universities delivered  
some form of TNE to

**693,695**

students in

**225**

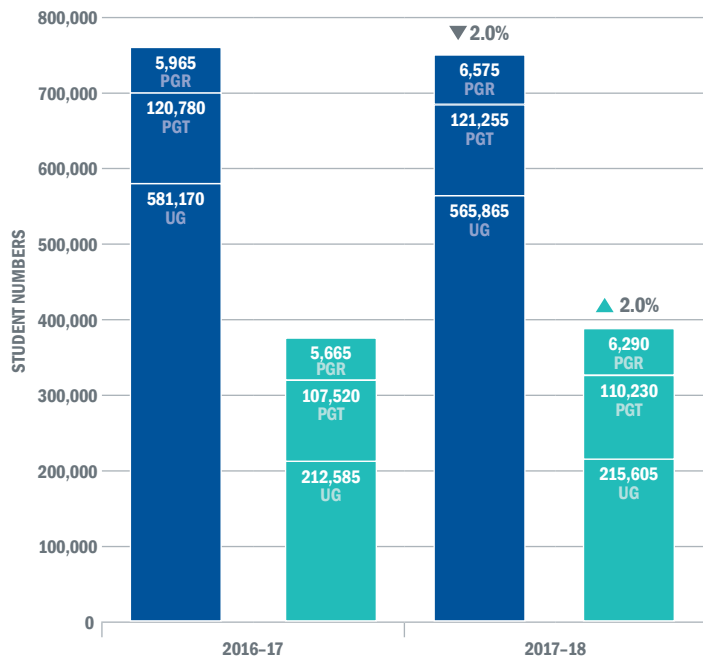
countries and territories  
around the world.

Data source: HESA aggregate offshore record [2016–17, 2017–18]\* Note: Together, the Open University, University of London, and Oxford Brookes University account for 52% of all UK TNE student numbers.

# OVERVIEW OF UK TNE PROVISION

In 2017–18, the total number of UK TNE students dropped by 2% compared to 2016–17. However, TNE student numbers excluding the three main providers increased by almost 2%, demonstrating a growing diversity in UK TNE provision.

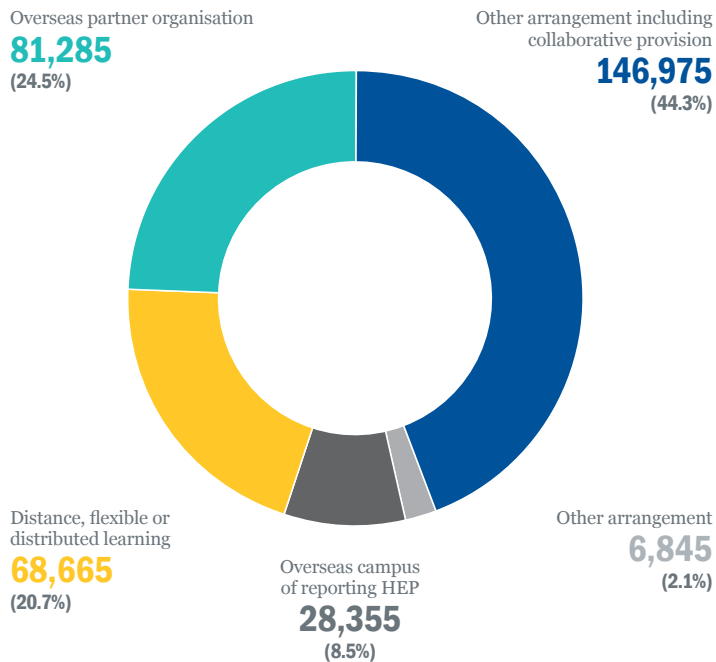
FIGURE 18: TOTAL UK TNE NUMBERS, 2017–18



STUDENT NUMBERS		STUDENT NUMBERS EXCLUDING THE THREE MAIN PROVIDERS	
UG UNDERGRADUATE	PGT POSTGRADUATE (TAUGHT)	PGR POSTGRADUATE (RESEARCH)	

Data source: HESA aggregate offshore record [2016–17, 2017–18]

FIGURE 19: UK TNE STUDENT NUMBERS BY TYPE OF PROVISION, 2017–18\*

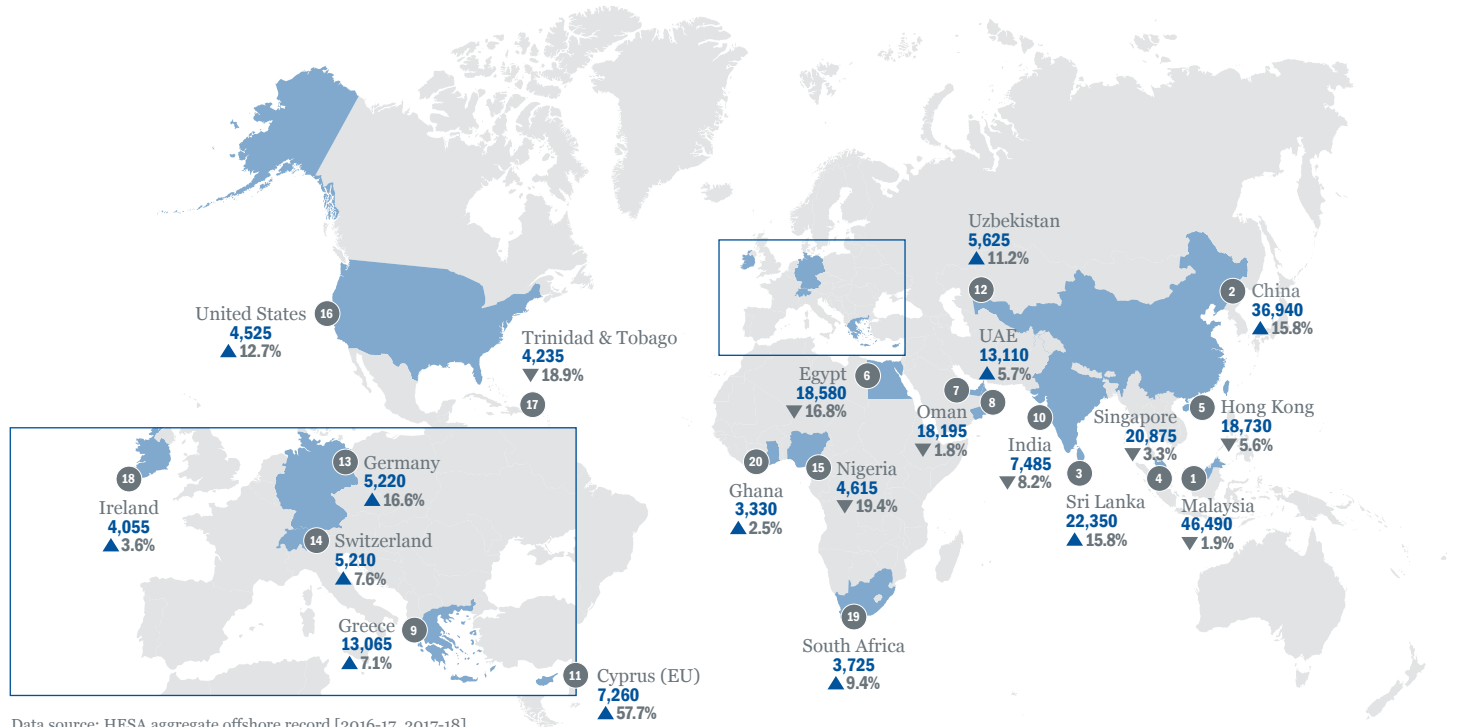


Data source: HESA aggregate offshore record [2016–17, 2017–18]  
\*excluding the three main providers

## WHERE ARE UK TNE STUDENTS BASED?

The top five host countries for UK TNE are Malaysia, China, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Hong Kong. The numbers of TNE students in China and Sri Lanka have increased by 15.8%, while there has been a small decrease in the other three countries. The top host country for TNE in Europe is Greece, ranking ninth globally.

FIGURE 20: TOP 20 UK TNE HOST COUNTRIES 2017-18 AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE SINCE 2016-17\*



Data source: HESA aggregate offshore record [2016-17, 2017-18]  
\*excluding the three main providers

# INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

The UK punches above its weight as a research nation: with only 0.9% of the world's population, it produced 15.2% of the world's most highly cited articles in 2015.

UK higher education institutions' global partnerships and collaborations make a vital contribution to the excellence and impact of its research base.

The share of internationally co-authored publications in the UK reached 55.2% in 2018, and the proportion of UK research funding from overseas sources has also increased. In 2017–18, 23% of total UK research funding came from international and/or EU sources.

In 2017–18, the UK was the

**3rd**

largest producer of research publications after the US and China.

**55.2%**

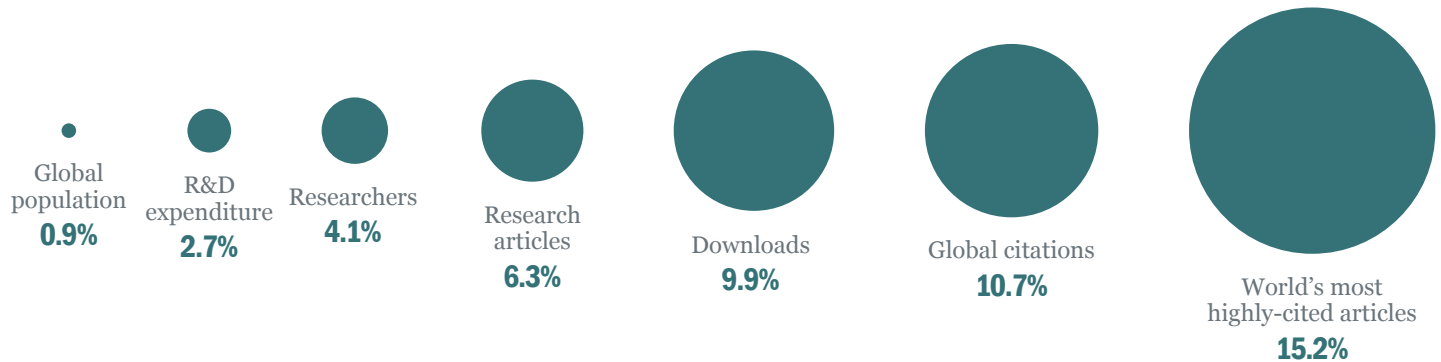
of all UK publications were the product of international research collaborations.



## WHAT IS THE QUALITY AND IMPACT OF UK RESEARCH?

The UK punches above its weight as a research nation: with only 0.9% of the world's global population, it produced 15.2% of the world's most highly cited articles in 2015.

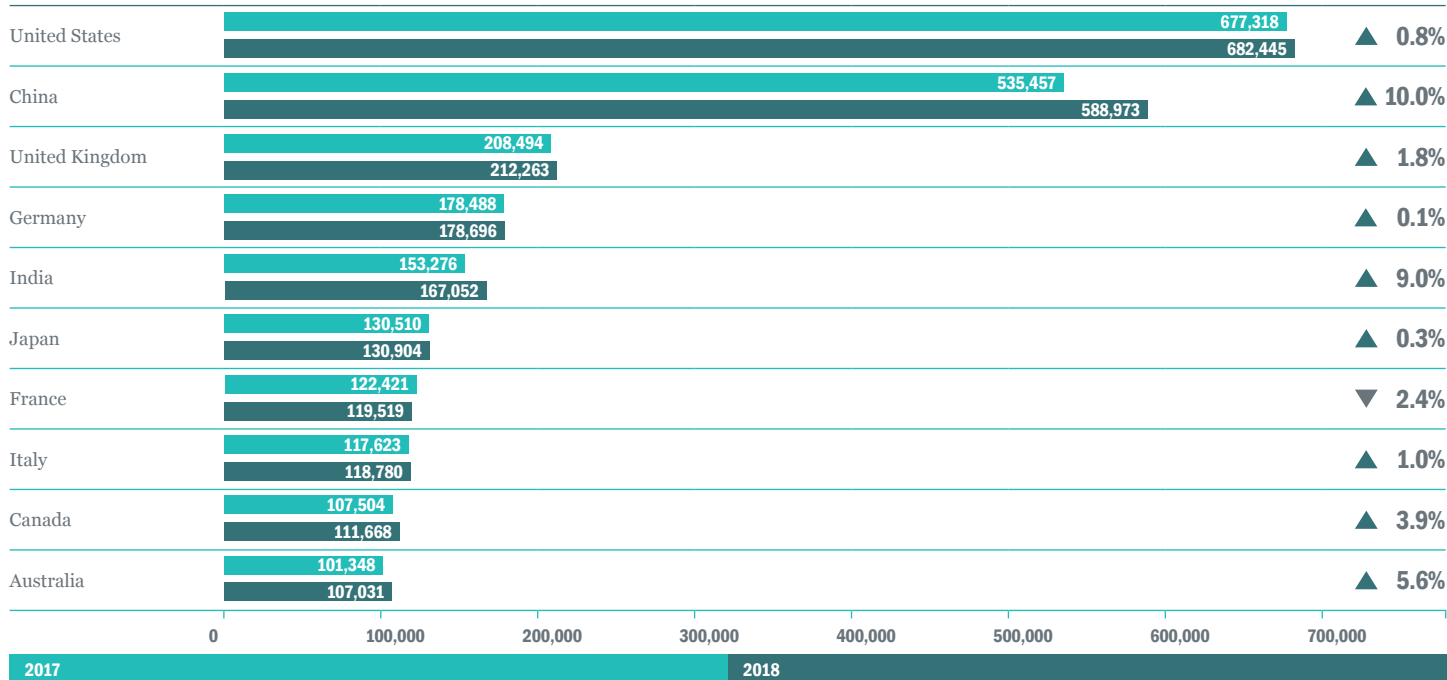
FIGURE 21: THE UK'S GLOBAL SHARE FOR KEY INDICATORS



## HOW DOES THE UK PUBLICATION RATE COMPARE INTERNATIONALLY?

In 2018, the top three countries by research output were the US, China and the UK. Since 2017, China's research output has grown by almost 10%. France is the only country in the top 10 whose publication output has decreased (-2.37%) since 2017.

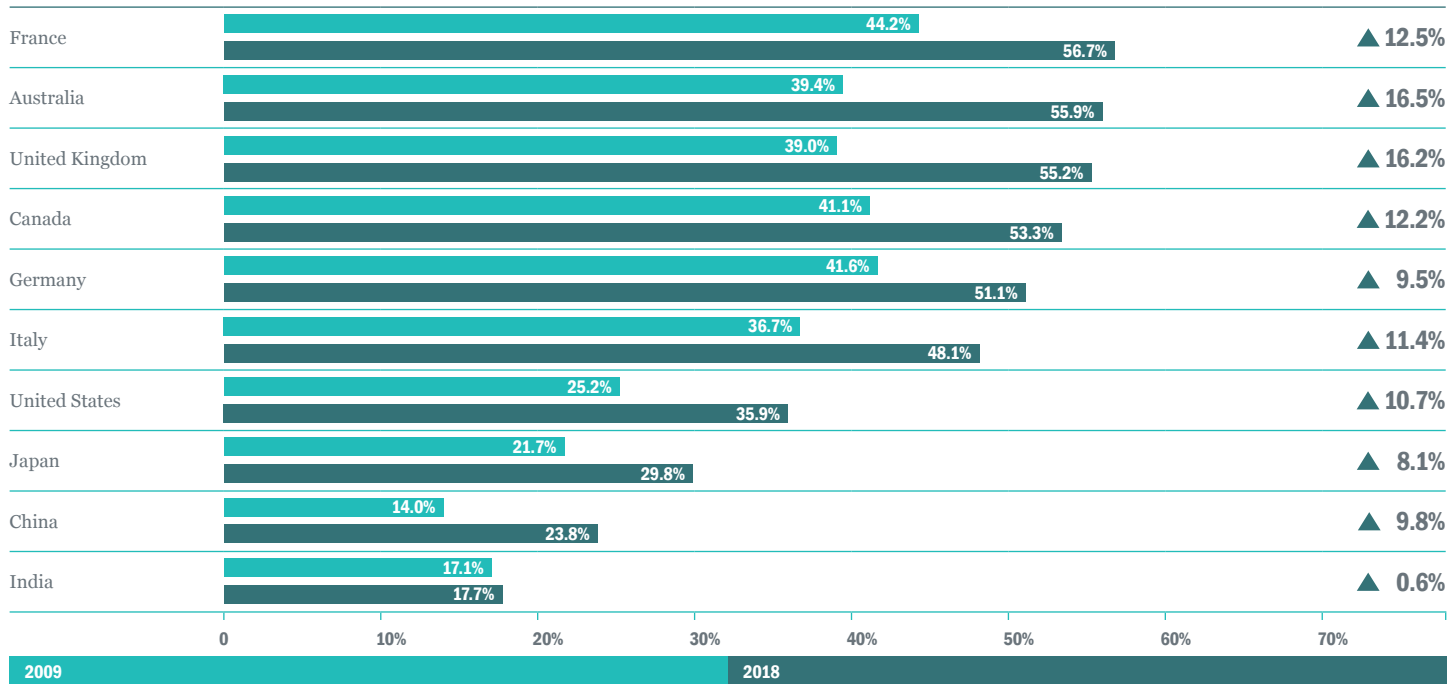
FIGURE 22: TOP 10 COUNTRIES BY PUBLICATION OUTPUT, 2017 TO 2018



Data source: SciVal, accessed April 2019

In the last ten years, the proportion of internationally co-authored publications has significantly increased in the UK: compared to 39% in 2009, in 2018 55.2% of UK research outputs were internationally co-authored.

**FIGURE 23: PROPORTION OF INTERNATIONALLY CO-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS, 2009 TO 2018**

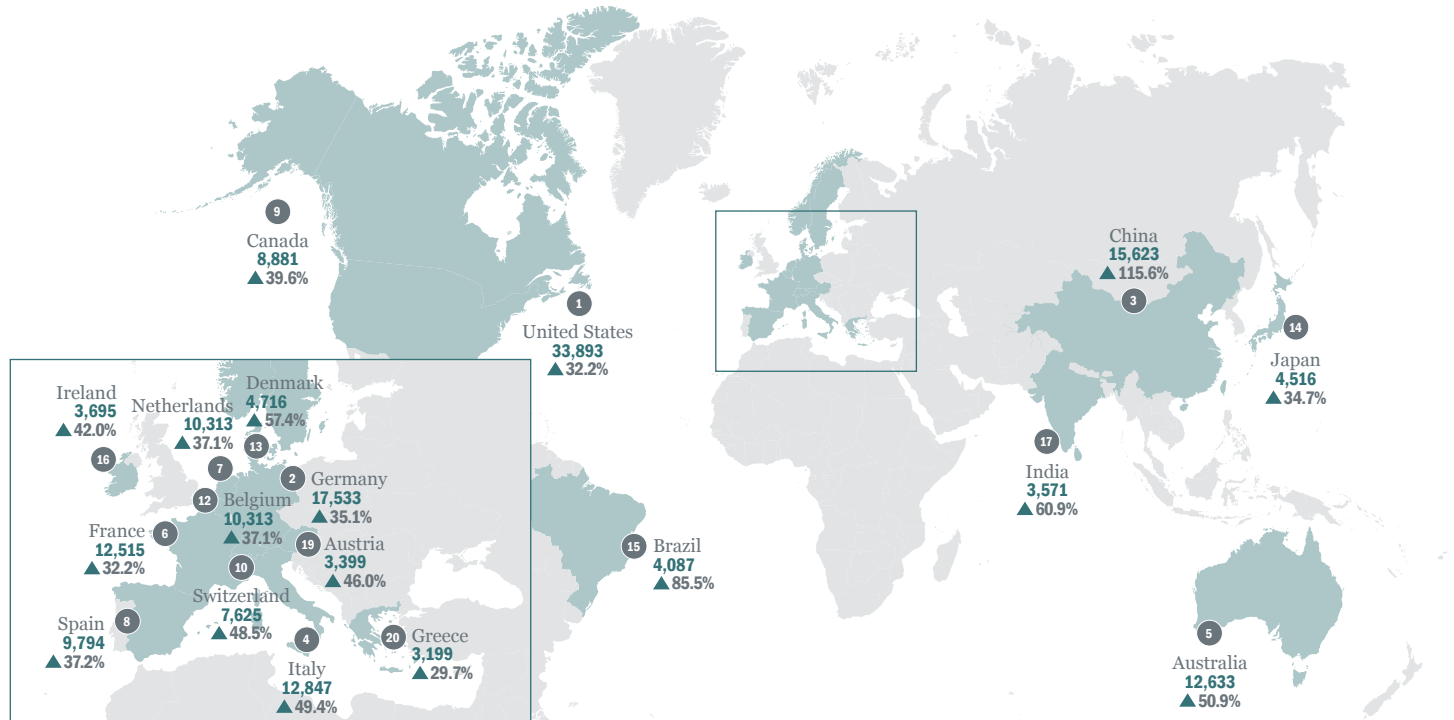


Data source: SciVal, accessed April 2019

# WHICH COUNTRIES ARE THE UK'S TOP COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS?

The UK's most frequent collaborative research partners are the US, Germany and China. Research collaborations with China have increased by 115.6% since 2013. The UK is also a popular partner. It ranks second for the majority of its partners, first for Greece and Ireland, third for Canada, Switzerland and Austria and fourth for Japan.

FIGURE 24: TOP 20 UK RESEARCH PARTNERS 2018 AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE SINCE 2013

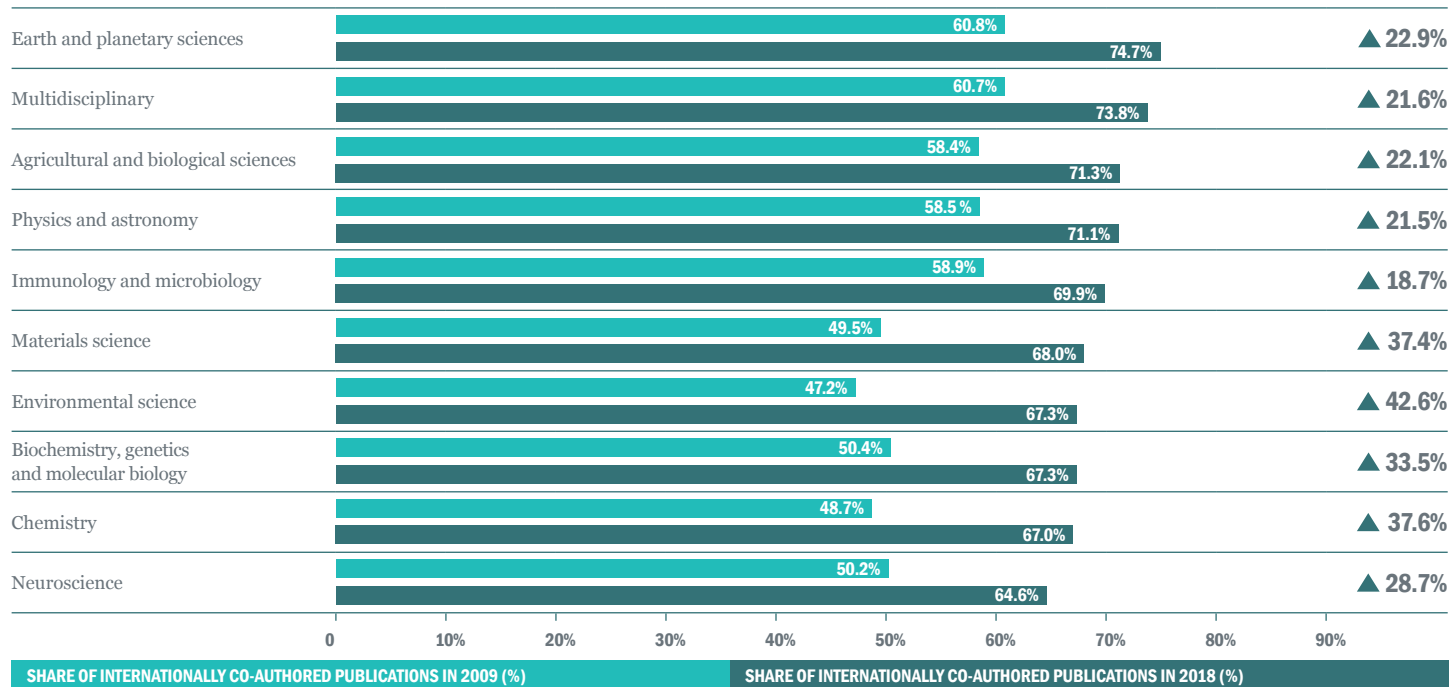


Data source: SciVal, accessed May 2019

## WHICH ARE THE TOP SUBJECT AREAS FOR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION?

In 2018, earth and planetary sciences produced the largest share of internationally co-authored publications (74.7%), while the subject area with the smallest share of internationally co-authored publications was arts and humanities (22.2%). In the last ten years, international research collaborations in nursing, the health professions, the social sciences and medicine has increased by between 60% to 100%.

FIGURE 25: TOP 10 SUBJECT AREAS BY SHARE 2009 AND 2018 AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE SINCE 2009

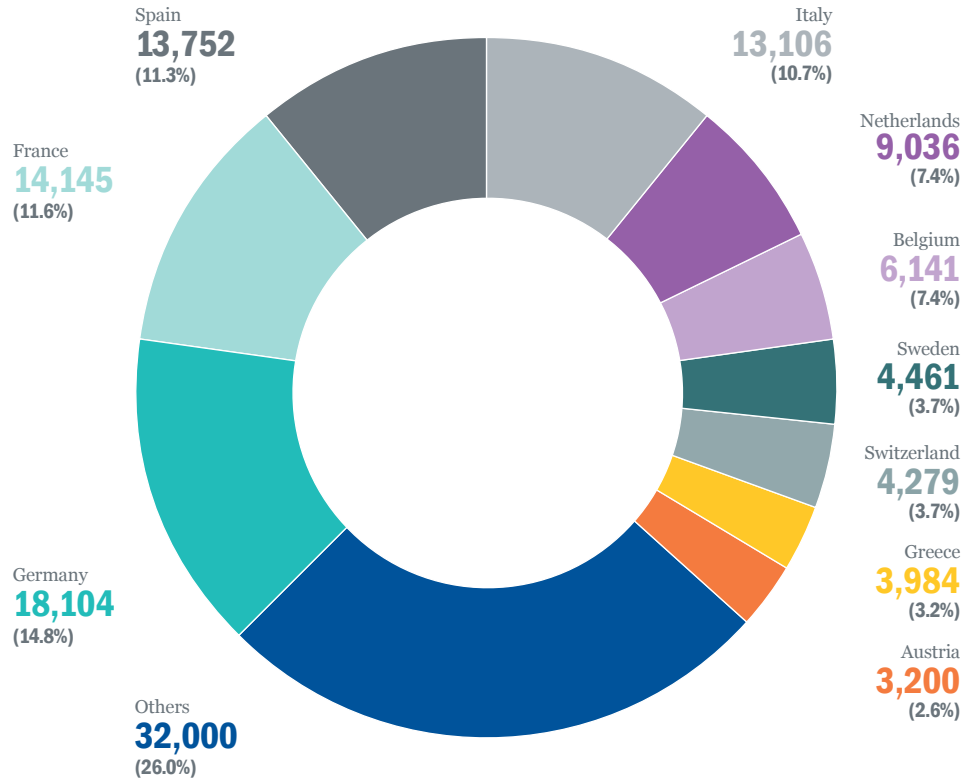


Data source: SciVal, accessed April 2019

## WHICH COUNTRIES ARE THE UK'S TOP PARTNERS UNDER HORIZON 2020?

Horizon 2020, the EU's flagship €80 billion research and innovation programme, has helped cement the UK's strong ties with European research partners. The UK's most frequent partners under Horizon 2020 are Germany, France and Spain – accounting for 14.8%, 11.6% and 11.3% of collaborative links respectively.

FIGURE 26: UK COLLABORATIVE LINKS UNDER HORIZON 2020

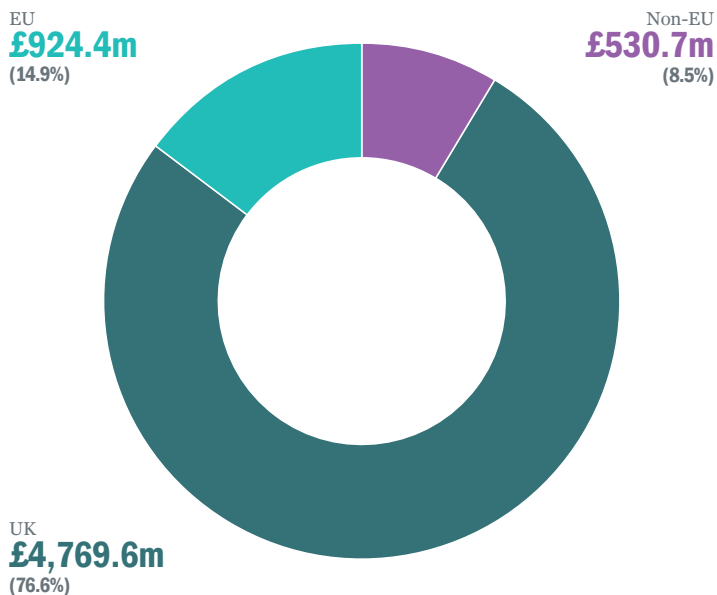


Data source: Vinnova, accessed April 2019

## WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF UK RESEARCH FUNDING?

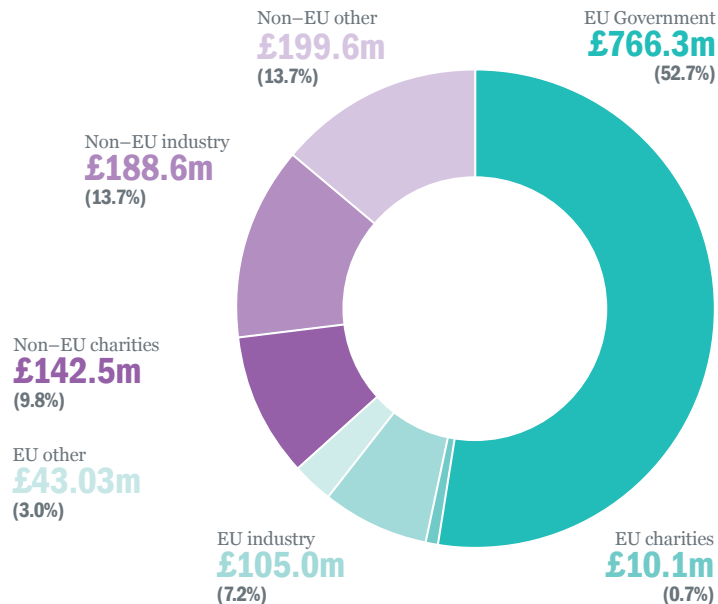
In 2017–18, 23.4% of UK research funding came from international sources. EU funding, which makes up more than half of the UK's international funding, has increased by 5.4% since 2016–17.

FIGURE 27: TOTAL RESEARCH FUNDING BY SOURCE, 2017–18



Data source: HESA finance record [2017-18]

FIGURE 28: INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FUNDING BY SOURCE (EU AND NON-EU), 2017–18



Data source: HESA finance record [2017-18]

# REGIONAL PROFILES

UK higher education institutions have partnerships with countries across the globe. While some parts of the world have well-established relationships with the UK, others have developed and grown more recently. This section provides a snapshot of current levels of engagement by world region, including data on international students, international staff, TNE, outward mobility and research collaborations.

Data sources: HESA student record [2016-17, 2017-18], HESA staff record [2016-17, 2017-18], HESA aggregate offshore record [2016-17, 2017-18], SciVal, accessed April 2019.

Note: In this section, student mobility data is in-year data, which includes all students across all years enrolled in UK universities in the academic year 2017-18.

Note: Analysis relating to Europe includes countries which fall under the following HESA categories: Other European Union; Other EEA countries; Other Europe.



# AFRICA

The growing significance of African research partners is reflected in a substantial increase in the number of co-authored publications from the region. Total UK publications with a Nigerian co-author more than doubled over the period 2015-2018 and there were notable increases in publications with co-authors from Uganda and Egypt, too. Although Nigeria continues to represent the most significant sender of students to the UK, numbers have continued to decline, reflecting the reduced number of government scholarships available and a fall in the value of the Naira. UK TNE student numbers in Africa have seen decreases but smaller markets continue to grow, including South Africa, Ghana and Mauritius.

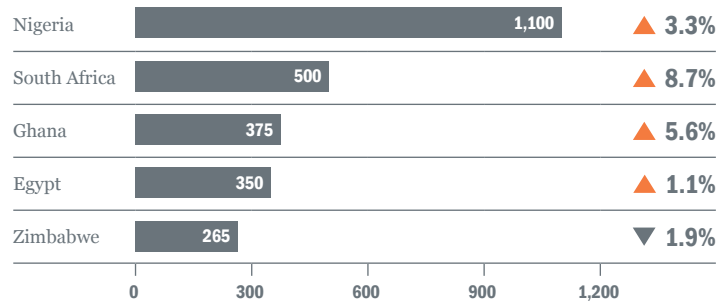
## INTERNATIONAL STAFF

Total number of international staff from Africa in the UK in 2017-18:

**3,975**

▲ 4.7% since 2016-17

FIGURE 30: TOP FIVE AFRICAN STAFF NATIONALITIES IN THE UK, 2017-18



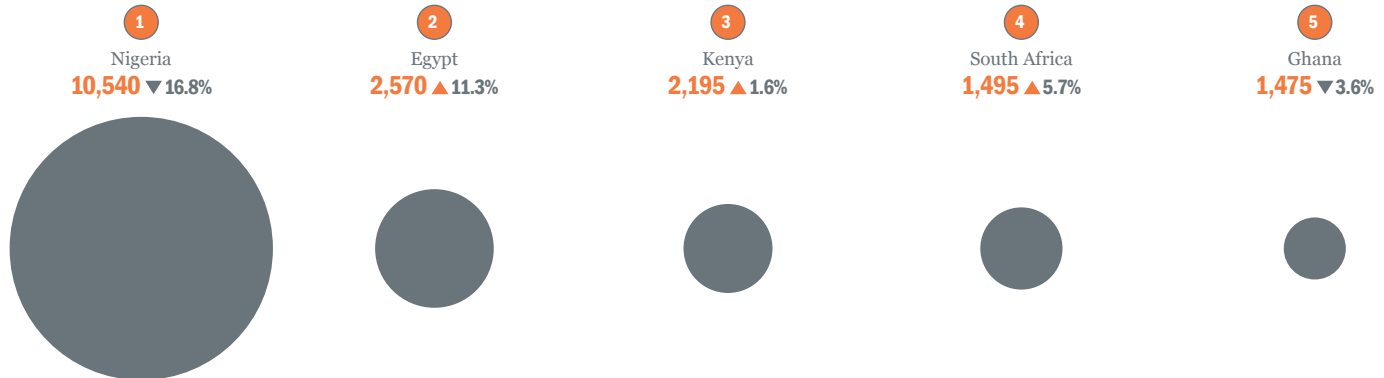
## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Total number of international students from Africa in the UK in 2017-18:

**27,815**

▼ 7.3% since 2016-17

FIGURE 29: TOP FIVE AFRICAN STUDENT DOMICILES IN THE UK, 2017-18



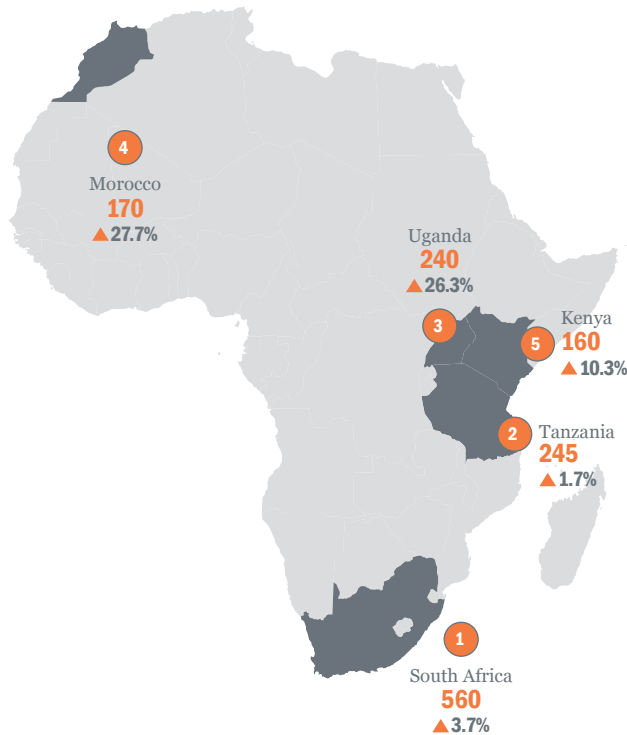
## OUTWARD MOBILITY

Total instances of mobility to Africa,  
2017–18:

**2,395**

▲ 15.7% since 2016–17

**FIGURE 31: TOP FIVE AFRICAN DESTINATIONS FOR MOBILE UK STUDENTS, BY MOBILITY INSTANCES, 2017–18**



## TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION\*

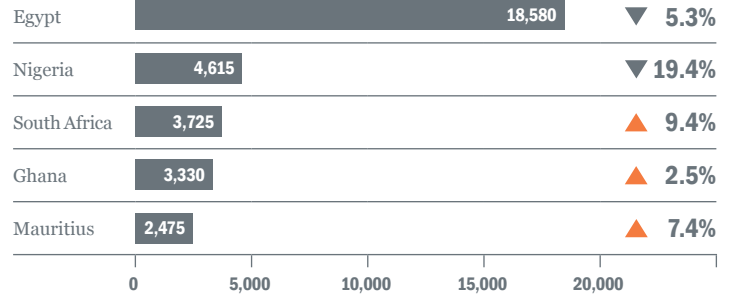
Total number of students on UK HE TNE  
in Africa, 2017–18:

**43,365**

▼ 5.5% since 2016–17

**FIGURE 32: TOP FIVE UK HE TNE HOST COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, 2017–18**

Main type of TNE provision: Other arrangements including collaborative provisions



\*excluding the three main providers

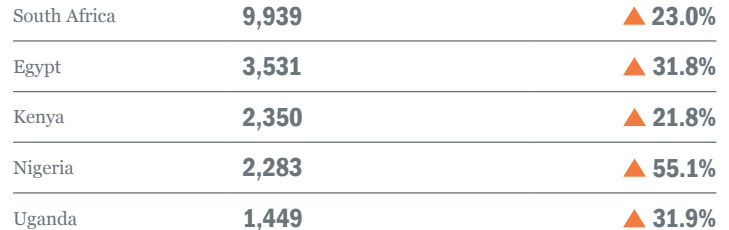
## CO-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

Total UK publications with an African  
co-author, between 2015–2018:

**25,661**

**FIGURE 33: TOP FIVE TOTAL PUBLICATIONS WITH AN AFRICAN CO-AUTHOR BY COUNTRY**

% CHANGE  
2015–2018



# ASIA

Asia is a particularly important region for student recruitment. For the past two years, one-third of all non-EU students have come from China. After years of decline, the number of Indian students increased by 19% between 2016-17 and 2017-18, reaching the same level as in 2013-14.

Asia is the third most popular destination for mobile UK students, and Asia is the largest market for UK TNE. Research collaboration in the region continues to grow, with the number of co-authored publications with China growing by over 35% in the period 2015 to 2017.

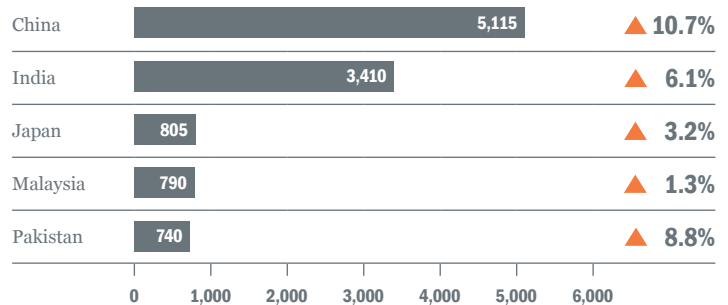
## INTERNATIONAL STAFF

Total number of international staff from Asia in the UK in 2017-18:

**13,665**

▲ 5.8% since 2016-17

FIGURE 35: TOP FIVE ASIAN STAFF IN THE UK 2017-18



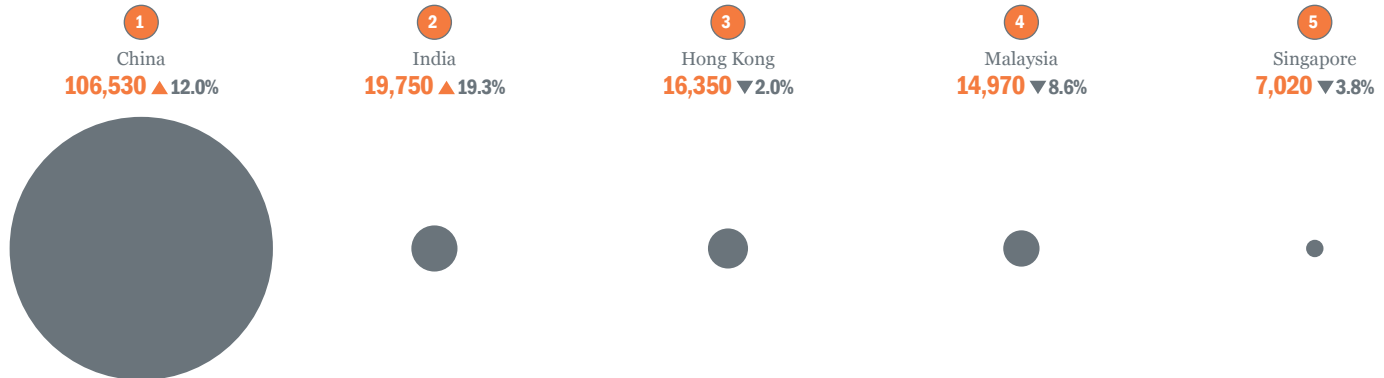
## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Total number of international students from Asia in the UK in 2017-18:

**204,400**

▲ 6.2% since 2016-17

FIGURE 34: TOP FIVE ASIAN STUDENT DOMICILES IN THE UK, 2017-18



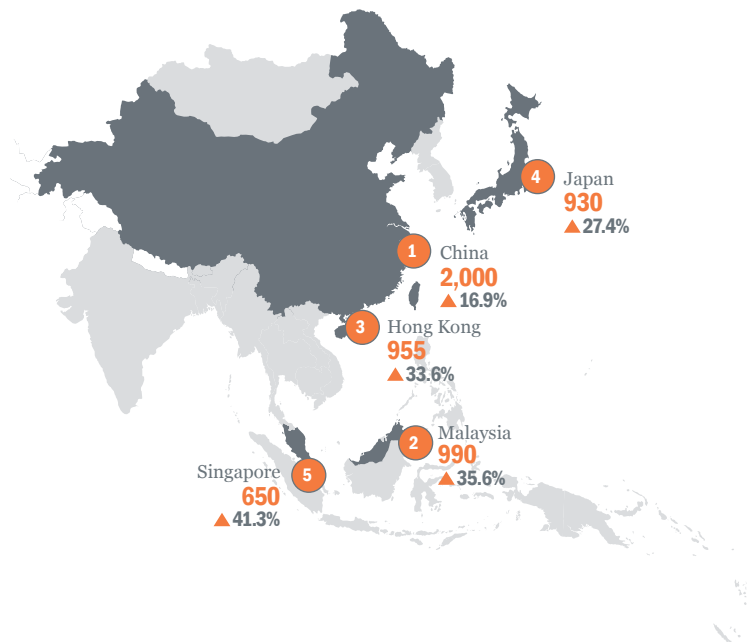
## OUTWARD MOBILITY

Total instances of mobility to Asia, 2017–18:

**8,680**

▲ 24.2% since 2016–17

**FIGURE 36: TOP FIVE ASIAN DESTINATIONS FOR MOBILE UK STUDENTS, BY MOBILITY INSTANCES, 2017–18**



## TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION\*

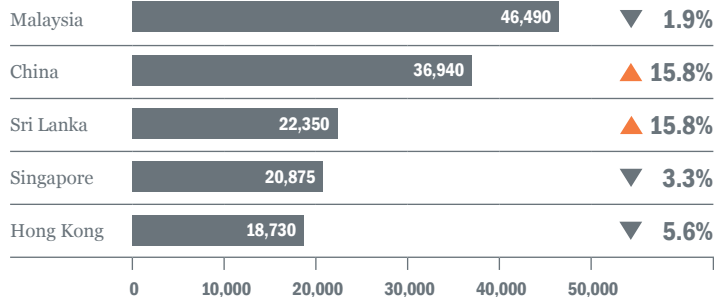
Total number of students on UK HE TNE in Asia, 2017–18:

**173,580**

▼ 2.8% since 2016–17

**FIGURE 37: TOP FIVE UK HE TNE HOST COUNTRIES IN ASIA, 2017–18**

Main type of TNE provision: Other arrangements including collaborative provisions



\*excluding the three main providers

## CO-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

Total UK publications with an Asian co-author, between 2015–2018:

**88,184**

**FIGURE 38: TOP FIVE TOTAL PUBLICATIONS WITH AN ASIAN CO-AUTHOR BY COUNTRY**

% CHANGE 2015–2018

Country	Total Publications	% Change (2015–2018)
China	48,222	▲ 35.8%
Japan	16,411	▲ 11.1%
India	12,068	▲ 23.4%
South Korea	7,308	▲ 26.5%
Singapore	7,092	▲ 27.9%

# AUSTRALASIA

The number of students from Australia and New Zealand coming to the UK, as well as the number of students studying for a UK TNE qualification have marginally decreased. However, research collaborations have increased by around 12% and 16% over the period 2015 to 2017. UK outward student mobility to Australasia increased by 6.2% overall.

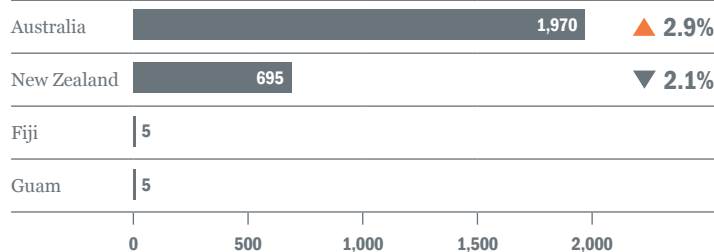
## INTERNATIONAL STAFF

Total number of international staff from Australasia in the UK in 2017–18:

**2,675**

▲ 1.5% since 2016–17

FIGURE 40: TOP FIVE AUSTRALASIAN STAFF NATIONALITIES IN THE UK, 2017–18



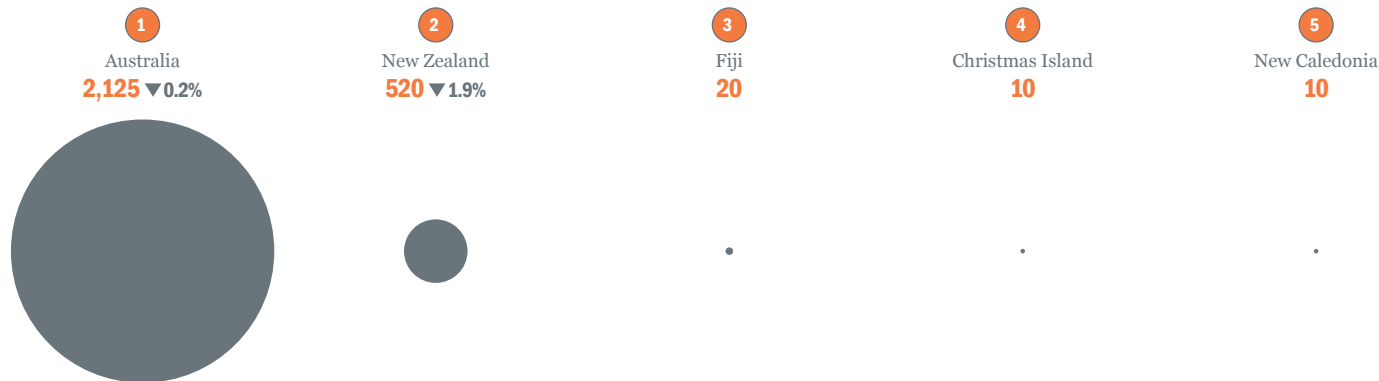
## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Total number of international students from Australasia in the UK in 2017–18:

**2,725**

▼ 0.7% since 2016–17

FIGURE 39: TOP FIVE AUSTRALASIAN STUDENT DOMICILES IN THE UK, 2017–18



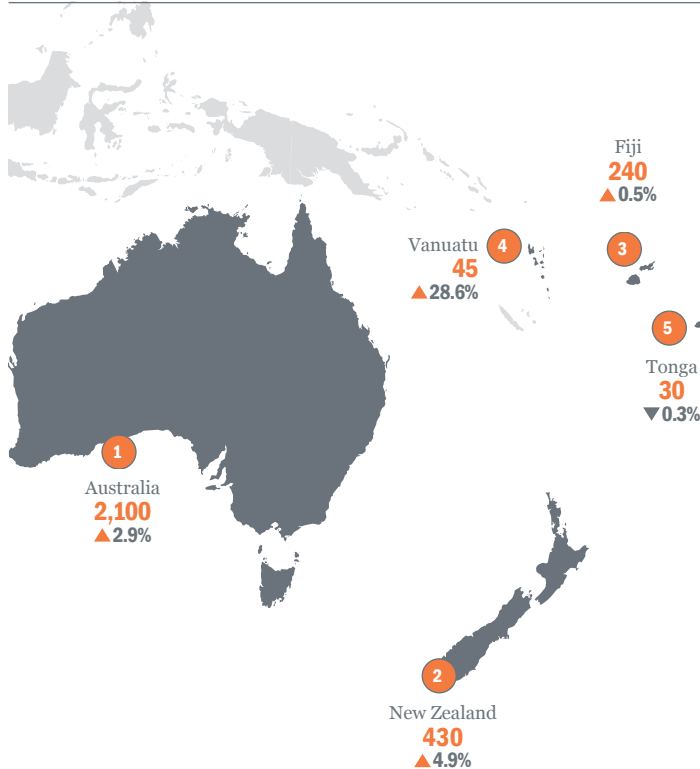
## OUTWARD MOBILITY

Total instances of mobility to Australasia, 2017–18:

**2,910**

▲ 6.2% since 2016–17

**FIGURE 41: TOP FIVE AUSTRALASIAN DESTINATIONS FOR MOBILE UK STUDENTS, BY MOBILITY INSTANCES, 2017–18**



## TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION\*

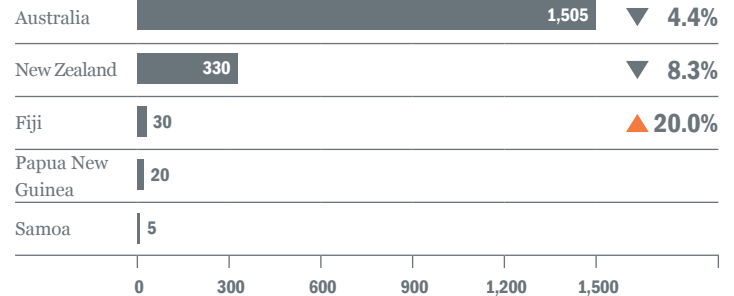
Total number of students on UK HE TNE in Australasia, 2017–18:

**1,915**

▼ 5.4% since 2016–17

**FIGURE 42: TOP FIVE UK HE TNE HOST COUNTRIES IN AUSTRALASIA, 2017–18**

Main type of TNE provision: Other arrangements including collaborative provisions



\*excluding the three main providers

## CO-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

Total UK publications with an Asian co-author, between 2015–2018:

**51,332**

**FIGURE 43: TOP FIVE TOTAL PUBLICATIONS WITH AN AUSTRALASIAN CO-AUTHOR BY COUNTRY**

Country	Total Publications	% Change 2015–2018
Australia	43,046	▲ 16.1%
New Zealand	8,117	▲ 11.7%
Fiji	169	▲ 14.7%

# EUROPE

Despite the UK's impending departure from the EU, there has been a slight increase in the number of European students choosing to study in the UK (+2.5%), yet at the same time a small decrease in the number of European staff (-1.5%). Europe remains a popular destination for outward student mobility with a significant number of UK domiciled students choosing a European destination, despite the uncertainty about the UK's future participation in the Erasmus+ programme. Europe is now the second largest TNE market behind Asia, with 15% of all UK TNE students worldwide located in European countries.

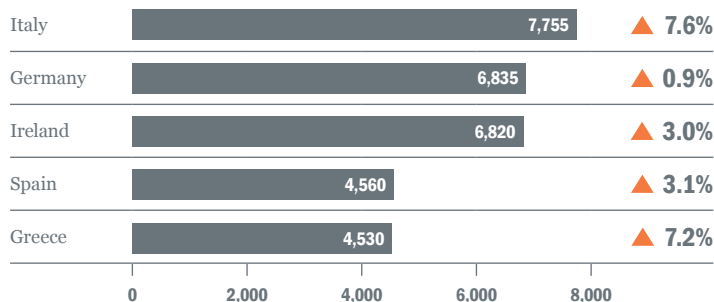
## INTERNATIONAL STAFF

Total number of international staff from Europe in the UK in 2017–18:

**51,765**

▼ 1.5% since 2016–17

FIGURE 45: TOP FIVE EUROPEAN STAFF NATIONALITIES IN THE UK, 2017–18



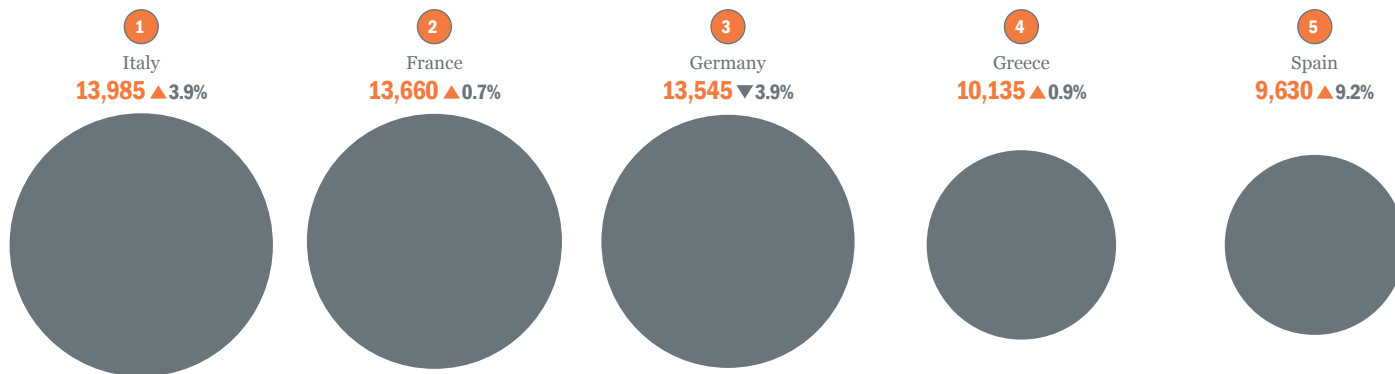
## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Total number of international students from Europe in the UK in 2017–18:

**157,935**

▲ 2.7% since 2016–17

FIGURE 44: TOP FIVE EUROPEAN STUDENT DOMICILES IN THE UK, 2017–18



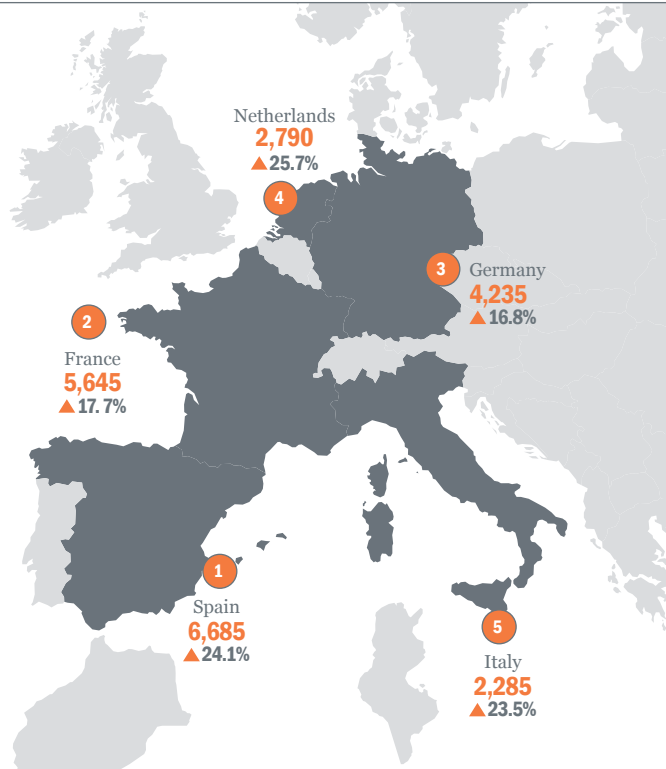
## OUTWARD MOBILITY

Total instances of mobility to Europe, 2017–18:

**30,080**

▲ 18.1% since 2016–17

**FIGURE 46: TOP FIVE EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS FOR MOBILE UK STUDENTS, BY MOBILITY INSTANCES, 2017–18**



## TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION\*

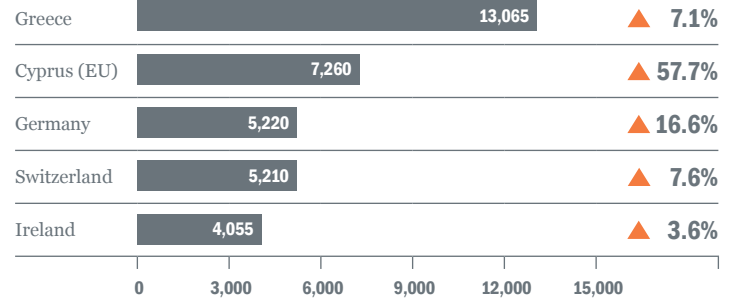
Total number of students on UK HE TNE in Europe, 2017–18:

**57,500**

▲ 9.3% since 2016–17

**FIGURE 47: TOP FIVE UK HE TNE HOST COUNTRIES IN EUROPE, 2017–18**

Main type of TNE provision: Other arrangements including collaborative provisions



## CO-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

Total UK publications with a European co-author, between 2015–2018:

**236,842**

**FIGURE 48: TOP FIVE TOTAL PUBLICATIONS WITH A EUROPEAN CO-AUTHOR BY COUNTRY**

% CHANGE 2015–2018

Country	Total Publications	% Change
Germany	63,935	▲ 11.2%
Italy	45,759	▲ 14.8%
France	45,432	▲ 12.6%
Netherlands	36,603	▲ 13.6%
Spain	35,442	▲ 14.0%



# MIDDLE EAST

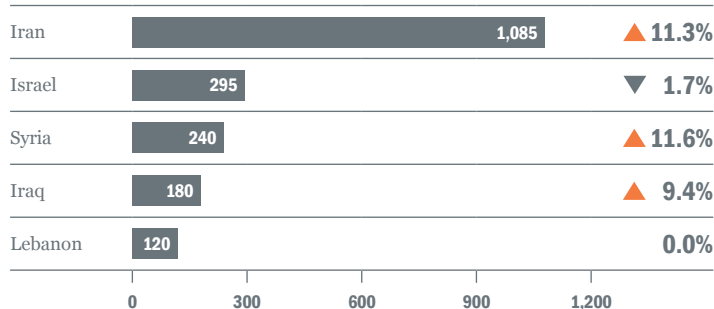
In the Middle East, Saudi Arabia has traditionally been a major partner for student recruitment, while Oman and the UAE are the primary host countries for UK TNE. The number of international staff from the region has increased by almost 9% since 2016–17, with the greatest number coming from Iran and the Levant. The primary research partner in the region is Israel, closely followed by Saudi Arabia, but collaborations with Iran and the UAE increased significantly - by almost 40% - between 2015 and 2017.

## INTERNATIONAL STAFF

Total number of international staff from the Middle East in the UK in 2017–18:

**2,195**  
▲ 8.9% since 2016–17

FIGURE 50: TOP FIVE MIDDLE EASTERN STAFF NATIONALITIES IN THE UK, 2017–18

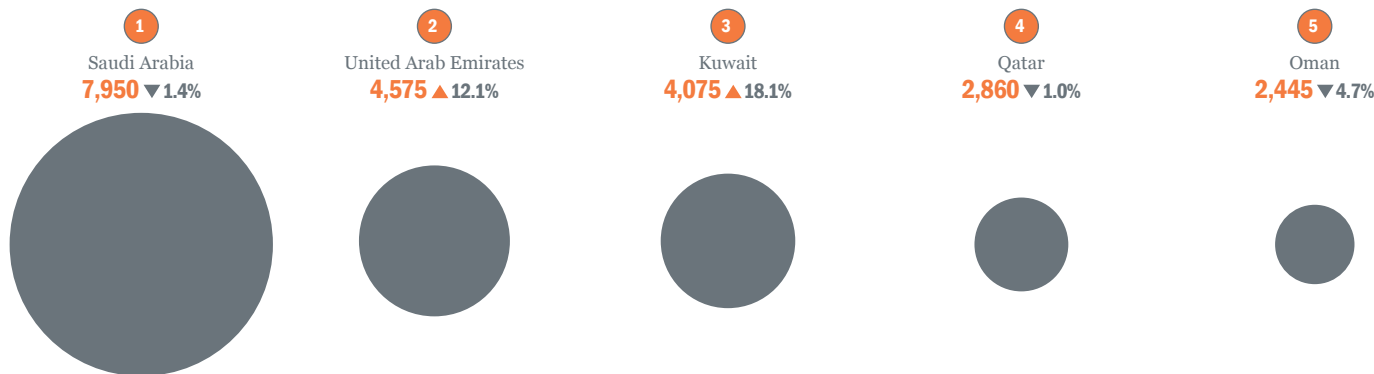


## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Total number of international students from the Middle East in the UK in 2017–18:

**29,670**  
▲ 1.9% since 2016–17

FIGURE 49: TOP FIVE MIDDLE EASTERN STUDENT DOMICILES IN THE UK, 2017–18

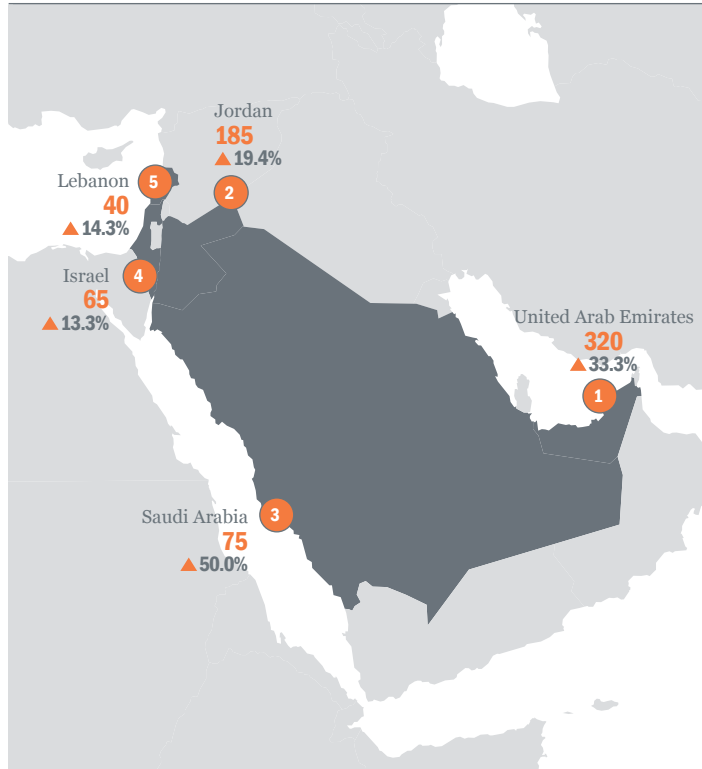


## OUTWARD MOBILITY

Total instances of mobility to the Middle East, 2017–18:

**825**  
▲ 15.4% since 2016–17

FIGURE 51: TOP FIVE MENA DESTINATIONS FOR MOBILE UK STUDENTS, BY MOBILITY INSTANCES, 2017–18



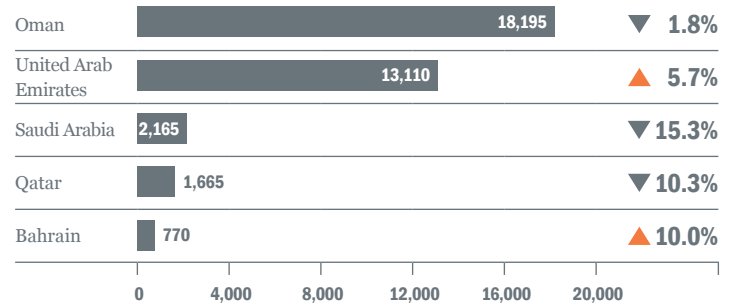
## TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION\*

Total number of students on UK HE TNE in the Middle East, 2017–18:

**37,875**  
▲ 0.2% since 2016–17

FIGURE 52: TOP FIVE UK HE TNE HOST COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, 2017–18

Main type of TNE provision: Other arrangements including collaborative provisions



\*excluding the three main providers

## CO-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

Total UK publications with a Middle Eastern co-author, between 2015–2018:

**27,939**

FIGURE 53: TOP FIVE TOTAL PUBLICATIONS WITH A MIDDLE EASTERN CO-AUTHOR BY COUNTRY

% CHANGE 2015–2018

Country	Total Publications	% Change 2015–2018
Israel	6,327	▲ 15.0%
Saudi Arabia	5,536	▲ 8.9%
Iran	4,334	▲ 37.6%
Qatar	2,280	▲ 22.0%
UAE	2,106	▲ 39.4%

# NORTH AMERICA

The UK has long-standing research relationships in North America, and levels of research collaboration are growing across the US, Canada and Mexico. The number of international students coming to the UK from North America has also increased by over 6% between 2016–17 and 2017–18, with the vast majority coming from the US. North America is a popular destination for outward student mobility. The scale of TNE in North America is small (4.7% of the global total) compared to other regions in the world. Although North America experienced an overall growth in TNE students in the last five years, the number of UK TNE students has decreased in Trinidad and Tobago, Canada and Jamaica.

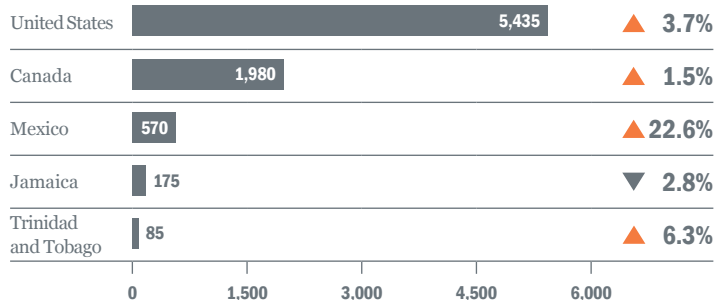
## INTERNATIONAL STAFF

Total number of international staff from North America in the UK in 2017–18:

**8,450**

▲ 4.1% since 2016–17

FIGURE 55: TOP FIVE NORTH AMERICAN STAFF NATIONALITIES IN THE UK, 2017–18



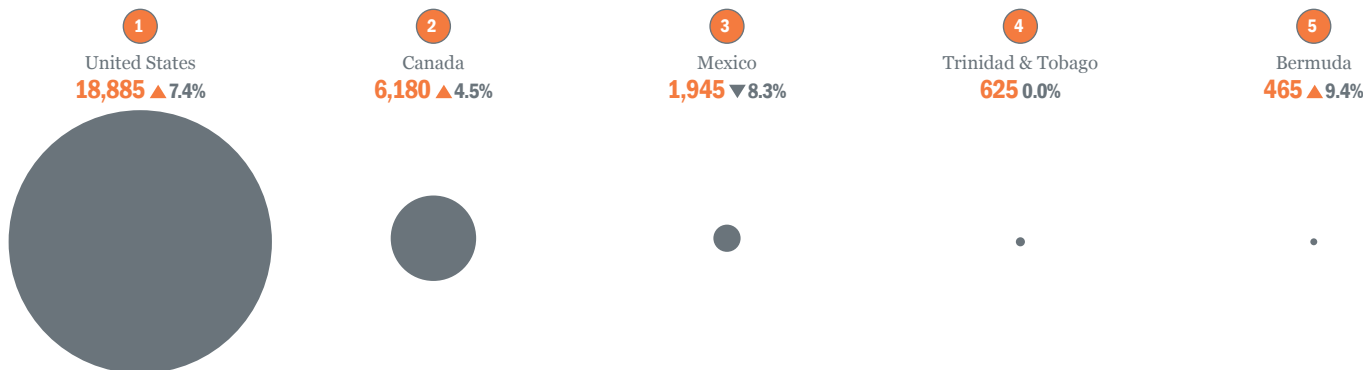
## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Total number of international students from North America in the UK in 2017–18:

**30,550**

▲ 6.3% since 2016–17

FIGURE 54: TOP FIVE NORTH AMERICAN STUDENT DOMICILES IN THE UK, 2017–18

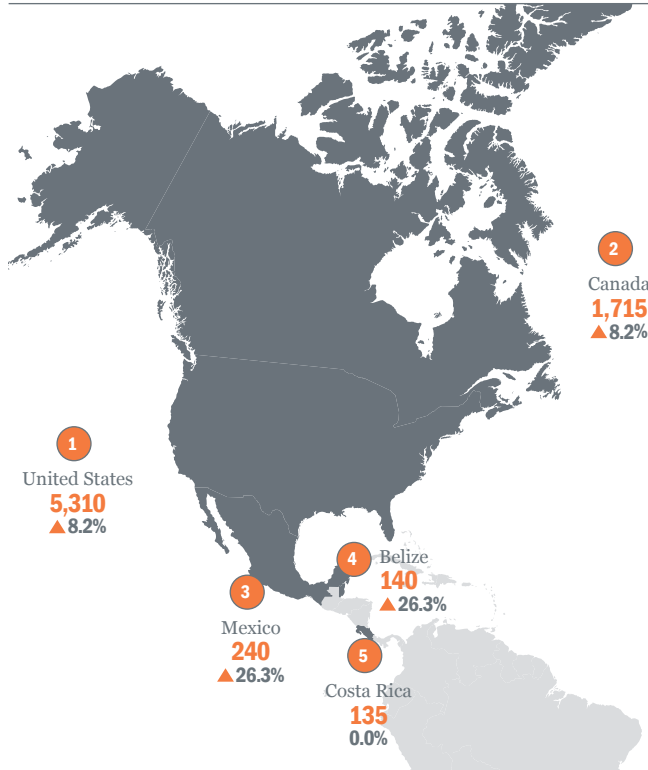


## OUTWARD MOBILITY

Total instances of mobility to North America, 2017–18:

**8,065**  
▲ 8.3% since 2016–17

**FIGURE 56: TOP FIVE NORTH AMERICAN DESTINATIONS FOR MOBILE UK STUDENTS, BY MOBILITY INSTANCES, 2017–18**

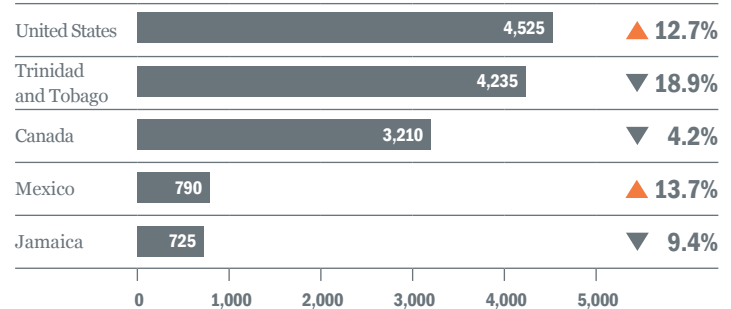


## TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION\*

Total number of students on UK HE TNE in North America, 2017–18:

**15,675**  
▼ 3.3% since 2016–17

**FIGURE 57: TOP FIVE UK HE TNE HOST COUNTRIES IN NORTH AMERICA, 2017–18**  
Main type of TNE provision: Other arrangements including collaborative provisions



\*excluding the three main providers

## CO-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

Total UK publications with a North American co-author, between 2015–2018:

**141,700**

**FIGURE 58: TOP FIVE TOTAL PUBLICATIONS WITH A NORTH AMERICAN CO-AUTHOR BY COUNTRY** % CHANGE 2015–2018

Country	Total Publications	% Change 2015–2018
United States	122,261	▲ 11.8%
Canada	31,375	▲ 15.5%
Mexico	4,411	▲ 27.1%
Cuba	374	▲ 4.7%
Costa Rica	357	▲ 64.5%

# SOUTH AMERICA

The number of international students from South America is small compared to other regions, and only increased by 0.65% between 2016–17 and 2017–18. However, research collaborations have grown significantly, particularly in Peru where the number of co-authored publications increased by almost 40% between 2015-2017. The number of staff from South America working at UK higher education institutions has also increased, and while TNE in the region is still relatively under-developed, South America has the fastest growth rate of any region in terms of numbers of students globally.

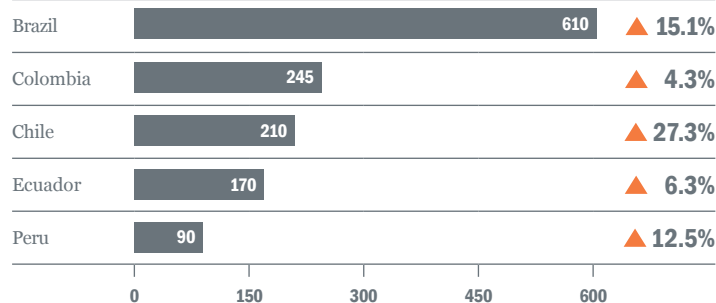
## INTERNATIONAL STAFF

Total number of international staff from South America in the UK in 2017–18:

**1,470**

▲ 12.2% since 2016–17

FIGURE 60: TOP FIVE SOUTH AMERICAN STAFF NATIONALITIES IN THE UK, 2017–18



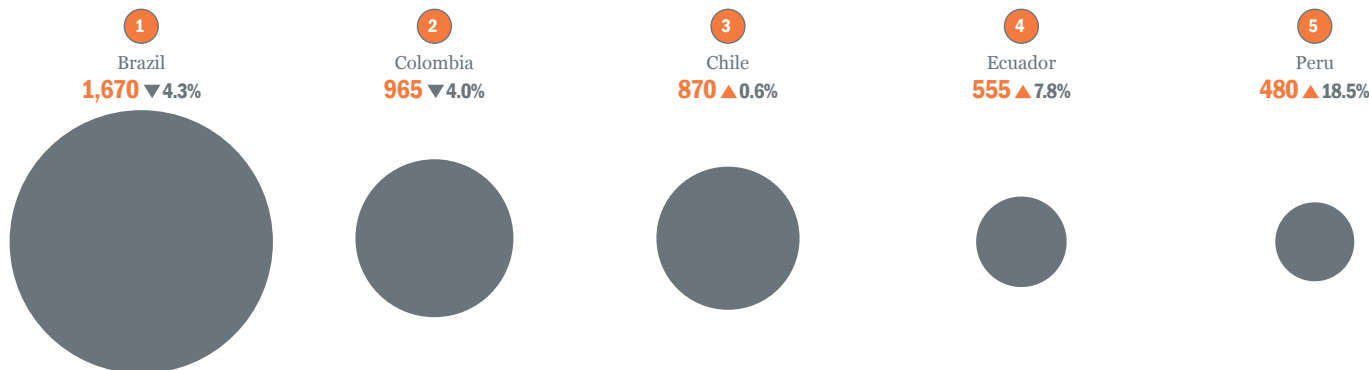
## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Total number of international students from South America in the UK in 2017–18:

**5,385**

▲ 0.7% since 2016–17

FIGURE 59: TOP FIVE SOUTH AMERICAN STUDENT DOMICILES IN THE UK, 2017–18



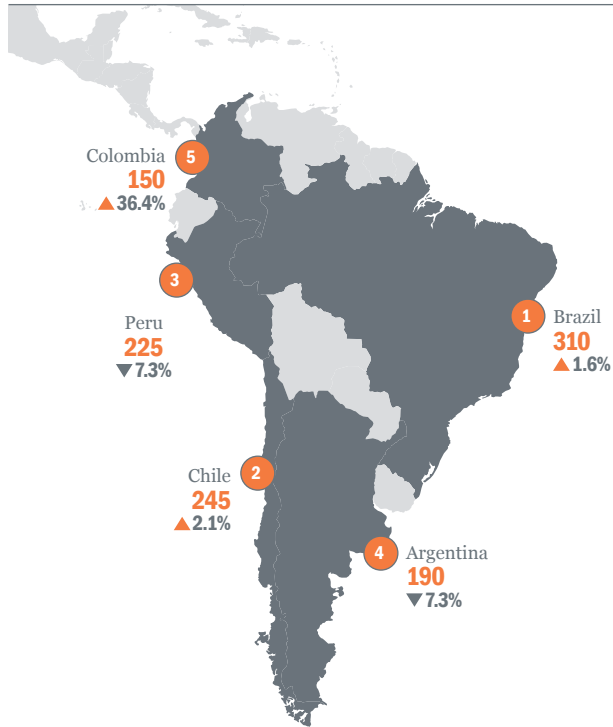
## OUTWARD MOBILITY

Total instances of mobility to South America, 2017–18:

**1,260**

▲ 0.4% since 2016–17

**FIGURE 61: TOP FIVE SOUTH AMERICAN DESTINATIONS FOR MOBILE UK STUDENTS, BY MOBILITY INSTANCES, 2017–18**



## TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION\*

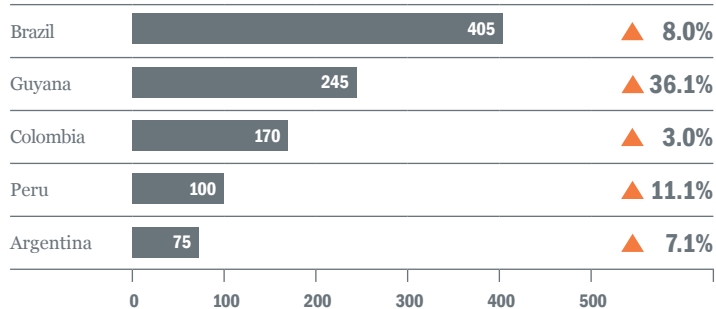
Total number of students on UK HE TNE in the South America, 2017–18:

**1,215**

▲ 9.9% since 2016–17

**FIGURE 62: TOP FIVE UK HE TNE HOST COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AMERICA, 2017–18**

Main type of TNE provision: Other arrangements including collaborative provisions



\*excluding the three main providers

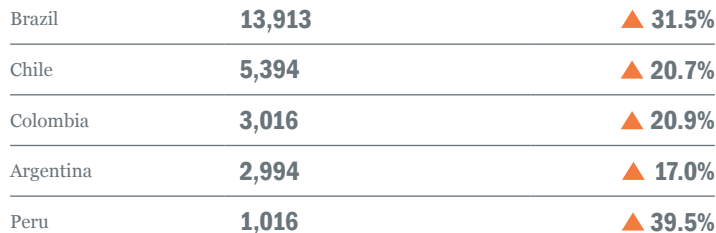
## CO-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

Total UK publications with a South American co-author, between 2015–2018:

**22,597**

**FIGURE 63: TOP FIVE TOTAL PUBLICATIONS WITH A SOUTH AMERICAN CO-AUTHOR BY COUNTRY**

% CHANGE 2015–2018



## NOTES ON 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.

## GLOSSARY

### 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.

### DLHE

The Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey asks leavers from higher education what they are doing six months after graduation. About three-quarters of leavers complete the survey.

### DOMICILE

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

### ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME

Erasmus+, or Erasmus Plus, is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. Running from 2014-2020 and with a budget of €14.7 billion it provides opportunities for Europeans to study, train, and gain experience abroad.

## **EUROPE**

Analysis relating to Europe includes countries which fall under the following HESA categories: Other European Union; Other EEA countries; Other Europe. For a full list of countries, please see: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/support/definitions/students>.

## **HESA**

Higher Education Statistics Agency.

## **HORIZON 2020**

The Horizon 2020 programme was established by the European Union (EU) as a collaborative financial instrument that would help secure Europe's global competitiveness in research and innovation. The programme – running from 2014 to 2020 – offers an open, simple structure for accessing funding in order to remove barriers to collaborative innovation, get new projects off the ground quickly and achieve results faster. Funding calls are based on three areas: Excellent science, industrial leadership, societal challenges.

## **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.

## **NET IMPACT**

The net impact (benefits minus costs) is an estimate relating to the on- and off-campus spending of the 2015-16 cohort and their visitors over the entire course of their studies.

## **OECD**

The Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) is an intergovernmental economic organisation with 36 member countries, founded in 1961 to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world.

## **OTHER ARRANGEMENT**

Any other student studying overseas for an award of the reporting provider. For example, multiple UK or international partners delivering a programme or a combination of other types of provision.

## **OVERSEAS PARTNER ORGANISATION**

Registered at overseas partner organisation - studying overseas for an award of the reporting provider. The majority of teaching is delivered in-country, eg, validation and franchise arrangements.

## **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.

## **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.



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Available at: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c17031>

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## UNIVERSITIES UK INTERNATIONAL

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### CONTACT US

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July 2019

**ISBN** 978-1-84036-428-6

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