



Celebrating
50 years of UKCISA

Changing lives for good

UK Council
for International
Student Affairs

UKCISA50 1968
2018

A brief history

The UK Council for International Student Affairs was established in 1968 and has grown into a membership organisation and a community of interest which links universities, colleges and students' unions with all those in Whitehall, Westminster, business and industry and local communities who recognise the value of international students to the UK and are committed to every individual having the very best possible experience.

- In the **1970s and 1980s**, it helped the UK to adjust to the imposition of full cost fees for those coming from outside the EU and, given major political changes, helped students with particular difficulties from Bangladesh, Rhodesia, Cyprus, Uganda, Libya and Iran.
- In the **1990s** it pioneered good practice guides to ensure that institutions took an ethical and responsible approach to their marketing overseas; introduced extensive training and professional development programmes; and assisted, amongst others, students affected by the South East Asian currency crisis.
- In the **late 1990s** it played a major role in the 'Prime Minister's Initiative' (to double the number of international students coming to the UK) by expanding its information and advice and proposing that, for the first time, international students should be entitled to take part-time jobs during their studies.
- In **2005** it proposed the first post-study work scheme – the 'Science and Engineering Graduates Scheme' - and supported the even wider 'Fresh Talent' scheme in Scotland - leading later to the International Graduates Scheme and in 2009, to the hugely popular Post-Study Work scheme.
- From **2006-2011**, in the second phase of the 'Prime Minister's Initiative', it proposed and managed an extensive range of projects to improve the quality of the international student experience working with institutions right across the UK and leading to an increase in satisfaction ratings on virtually all the key measures.
- Over **the last four years** it has encouraged, enabled and funded over 50 projects innovating and introducing new and improved approaches to orientation and transition, integration and cross cultural understanding, aspects of teaching and learning, employment advice, volunteering and links with local communities.

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Congratulations to UKCISA for 50 years of excellent work in supporting the international students in the UK. There is no other organisation in the world like yours and it is a beacon for the UK in demonstrating our support and commitment to our international students.

*- Pro Vice-Chancellor
(Global Engagement and Education Partnerships),
University of
Portsmouth*

About UKCISA

Today UKCISA's members include, amongst others, every university in the UK, the majority of internationally active further education colleges and over 100 students' unions.

Core services

In addition to all this, UKCISA is best known for its expert advice to both students and institutions on the detailed rules and guidance on coming to the UK to study, including fee status, student support and visa requirements; its free advice lines, for members and students, answering thousands of queries each year and its training and professional development programmes reaching over 1,000 professional staff each year.

Its website has the most comprehensive collection of advice for both international students and institutions, including an online manual for specialist staff relied on by colleagues in universities and colleges throughout the UK. Its online communications reach students, parents and staff both in the UK and around the world.

Championing the views of the sector

It has helped the sector adapt to the new Tier 4 visa rules and policies, introduced in 2009. UKCISA has been a powerful voice on ways these should be improved and contributed to recent debates about students and immigration policy, raising concerns that some aspects have undermined recent recruitment efforts and contributed to a perception overseas that the UK no longer welcomes such large numbers of international students.

Changing lives for good

The theme for its 50th anniversary year has been 'Changing lives for good' celebrating the 5 million international students who have come to the UK over that period, how their lives have been transformed; the ways in which hugely dedicated professional staff in the UKCISA membership have helped them to do so; and how in turn those students transform the lives of others on return home.



I have said it before but I will say it again: UKCISA really is an amazing organisation, it is rightfully so well respected in the university and university support sector. We cannot thank you enough for the sterling work you do both for us and the students.

*- College Registrar,
Goodenough
College*

The UK Council for International Student Affairs is the UK's national advisory body for international students and those who work with them. Its aims are to:

- **Increase support for international education and raise awareness of its values and benefits**
- **Promote opportunities for, and identify and work to reduce obstacles and barriers to, greater student mobility**
- **Encourage best practice, professional development and the highest quality of institutional support for international students throughout the education sector.**

The Chair of its Board is Prof Koen Lamberts (Vice-Chancellor, University of Sheffield) and its President is Lord Karan Bilimoria of Chelsea.

UKCISA

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UKCISA is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Company Number: 4507287) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Charity Number: 1095294). Its registered office is at 3-5 Islington High Street, London N1 0NX.

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