

# UKCISA Fest Programme 16-20 November



A week-long online event for international students in the UK.

Kindly sponsored by

**UCAS**



**#WeAre International**

**UKCISA** UK Council for International Student Affairs

During the week, we will focus on a different selection of themes and topics for each day. Discussions will be led by the #WeAreInternational Student Ambassadors, and co-facilitated with partner organisations exploring international students' experiences at every stage of their journey, along with other students, UKCISA members, sector partners and policy makers. Join our conversations on social media using hashtags #UKCISAFest and #WeAreInternational! Check out the speaker profiles on the [UKCISA website](#).

## Programme

### Monday 16 November

#### SESSION 1

10.00 – 11.00

##### INTRODUCING UKCISA FEST AND GLOBAL CAFÉ

The week's events open with an overview of what to expect and how to make the most of the sessions over the week. We offer tips and advice on how to prepare for your time ahead in the UK and how to look after yourself.

Then join our online **Global Café** where you can meet other students and chat informally. Bring your own favourite drink!

##### Speakers:

**Adetoun Adebayo**, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador  
**Yinbo Yu**, Strategic Partnerships Lead, UKCISA  
**Julie Allen**, Director of Policy and Services, UKCISA

Join this session via Zoom here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82940632160> Meeting ID: 829 4063 2160

#### SESSION 2

13.00 – 14.00

##### WHAT TO DO WHEN THINGS GO WRONG?

##### A session with the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (OIA)

The OIA is an independent organisation which support students who have experienced a problem at their institution that has not been resolved. During this session, you will find out about the process of submitting a complaint and hear case studies of international students who have been through the process. You may never need to use their services, but it's important for all students to know that this service is available for you if you need it.

##### Presenters:

**Barry McHale**, Student Liaison Officer, OIA  
**Gemma Slade**, Provider Liaison Officer, OIA

Join this session via Zoom here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81938140611> Meeting ID: 819 3814 0611

#### SESSION 3

15.00 – 16.00

##### STUDENT SPACE: NAVIGATING STUDENT LIFE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND MENTAL WELLBEING SUPPORT

Hear from [Student Minds](#), the UK's student mental health charity who will tell you about the free support available to help you look after your mental health while studying in the UK.

Find out about [Student Space](#) the new online platform set up to help you cope with the challenges of studying during Covid-19. You will also find out about the International Student Mental Health Project led by Nottingham University.

##### Presenters:

**Dominic Smithies**, Student Voice and Equality Lead, Student Minds  
**Parvathy Ramesh**, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

Join this session via Zoom here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576257564> Meeting ID: 895 7625 7564

# Programme

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## Tuesday 17 November

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### SESSION 4

11.00 – 12.00

#### UK INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STRATEGY

##### A conversation with Sir Steve Smith, UK International Education Champion

This is a fantastic opportunity to hear from Sir Steve Smith, who was recently appointed to the post of UK International Education Champion. Sir Steve was Vice Chancellor of the University of Exeter before starting this role and has always been greatly interested in the international student experience. Hear about Sir Steve's personal journey from school to national leader - and his ideas and plans to champion international students in the UK.

#### Speakers:

**Sir Steve Smith**, UK Government International Education Champion

**Anne Marie Graham**, Chief Executive, UKCISA

**Nebu George**, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

Join this session via Zoom here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81838662500> Meeting ID: 818 3866 2500

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### SESSION 5

13.00 – 14.00

#### CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DAY

##### Afternoon Tea with Members of Parliament

We are excited to invite you to our joint celebration with the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on international students! Bring your own cup of tea for the virtual 'afternoon tea' session and join the conversation with parliamentarians and other international students.

The APPG is a group of MPs and interested parties who formed several years ago to discuss and highlight international student issues in parliament. As we are unable to invite you into the Houses of Parliament this year, why not join the celebration online? You will hear Lord Bilimoria, Paul Blomfield and other parliamentarians have interesting policy discussions about international student experience in the UK, alongside the #WeAreInternational Student Ambassadors.

**Lord Karan Bilimoria**, President, UKCISA and co-chair of the APPG

**Paul Blomfield**, MP for Sheffield Central and co-chair of the APPG

**Ben Lake**, MP for Ceredigion

**Nebu George**, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

**Daniel Haid**, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

**Adetoun Adebayo**, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

**Anant Rangan**, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

Join this session via Zoom here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81797443837> Meeting ID: 817 9744 3837

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### SESSION 6

16.00 – 17.00

#### #WEAREINTERNATIONAL STUDENT CHARTER

An international student charter is central to UKCISA's aim of bringing the student voice into the heart of policymaking. But what exactly is a charter? What is it for? What will it do? #WeAreInternational student ambassador, Katie Crabtree will explain our vision for what we want to achieve and answer your questions. And importantly, you can find out what you can do to contribute.

#### Presenters:

**Katie Crabtree**, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

**Parvathy Ramesh**, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

**Yunyan Li**, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

Join this session via Zoom here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86816684958> Meeting ID: 868 1668 4958

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## Wednesday 18 November

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### SESSION 7

10.00 – 11.00

#### A SESSION WITH THE OFFICE FOR STUDENTS

##### Explore how they support international students

The role of the Office for Students (OfS) is to ensure that 'students have a fulfilling experience of higher education that enriches their lives and careers'. So, how do they do that? In this session, you will hear directly from our colleagues at OfS who will explain in practical terms, what they do. Students will also have the chance to put their questions to the team.

##### Speakers:

**Chair:** Khoa Nguyen, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

**Josh Callander**, Senior Officer (Equality and Diversity), Office for Students

**Catherine Read**, Officer (Equality and Diversity), Office for Students

Join this session via Zoom here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87621989269> Meeting ID: 876 2198 9269

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### SESSION 8

13.00 – 14.30

#### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY

##### Expert panel session

##### Introduced by

**Lord Karan Bilimoria**, UKCISA President, Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, Founder and Chairman of Cobra Beer, and Chairman of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

Hear **Lord Bilimoria's** inspiring personal story of coming to the UK as an international student, setting up his own company and then entering the House of Lords.

Following the introduction, **our panel of experts** will share their insights into this key topic for international students and offer practical tips and advice on what you need to do to prepare for your future career. This interactive session is a chance for you to tell us about your experience and put your questions to the panel.

##### Panel speakers:

**Chair:** Anant Rangan, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

**Gabi Binnie**, Policy and Research Manager, Association of Graduate Careers Advisers

**Sarah Cooper**, Careers Adviser, University of Bristol

**Stephanie Harris**, Head of International Engagement (Non-EU), Universities UK International

Join this session via Zoom here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83196035817> Meeting ID: 831 9603 5817

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### SESSION 9

15.00 – 16.30

#### GRADUATES:

#### THE NEW GRADUATE IMMIGRATION ROUTE AND OTHER WORK VISA OPTIONS

Next summer, the UK government plans to launch the new Graduate Immigration Route, a new visa designed to allow many 2021 graduates to stay and work in the UK, initially for two years (three years for PhD students).

This session breaks down what the government has announced so far about the Graduate route, what is still unknown, and what new work opportunities the Graduate route would open up for you. We will also summarise the separate options for 2021 graduates who want to switch straight to a visa for sponsored skilled work or endorsed entrepreneurial activities.

##### Presenter:

**Andrew Humphrey**, UKCISA Adviser

Join this session via Zoom here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81254271820> Meeting ID: 812 5427 1820

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## SESSION 10

16.30 – 17.00

### GLOBAL CAFÉ – LET'S TALK ABOUT 'WORK IN THE UK'!

Global café is an online space where you can meet and chat with other students. Continuing the theme of Wednesday, join a breakout group to discuss working during your study or work after study.

#### Speakers:

Julie Allen, Director of Policy and Services, UKCISA

Yinbo Yu, Strategic Partnerships Lead, UKCISA

Adetoun Adebayo, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

Join this session via Zoom here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85007840795> Meeting ID: 850 0784 0795

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## Thursday 19 November

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## SESSION 11

11.00 – 12.00

### HOW CAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TAKE OWNERSHIP OF THEIR EDUCATION THROUGH THEIR STUDENTS' UNIONS?

#### A session with the National Union of Students (NUS)

Students' unions are run by student officers and representatives elected by students, and they are responsible for representing you – so you can go to them for all kinds of support. In this session, your National President will outline opportunities for you to participate in all aspects of students' unions activities.

We will look at how international students can be empowered to take ownership of their education and campaign for an education system that is designed around their needs and wants. We will also focus on the role that students' unions can play in supporting this campaigning activity and providing spaces for students to organise.

#### Speaker:

Larissa Kennedy, President, National Union of Students UK

Join this session via Zoom here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83616147860> Meeting ID: 836 1614 7860

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## SESSION 12

13.00 – 15.00

### IMMIGRATION POLICY: WHAT'S NEXT?

This session will be delivered by our specialist Advice and Training Officers who will guide you through the UK student immigration system. This will be particularly useful for any students from the European Economic Area who are new to the student visa rules and need to understand what they will need to do after the UK leaves the EU.

Please note this session will not cover the EU Settlement Scheme for EU students who are already resident in the UK – this is explained in detail on [our website](#).

After the session there will be a short break. Attendees will then have the chance to have a one-to-one advice consultation, via Zoom, with one of our team. You will be able to ask about anything that's been covered in the session and/or seek further advice on the immigration requirements of the Student Route as they relate to your own circumstances.

It may be necessary to ask you to seek further advice from your prospective institution or on the UKCISA telephone advice line.

14.00 – 16.00

These limited slots will be for 10 minutes per person, and will be available between 14:00 and 16:00. You are able to book a slot between 13:00 – 14:00 during the session.

#### Presenters:

Daniel Haid, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

Tema Nwulu, Advice and Training Officer, UKCISA

Christopher Benjamin, Advice and Training Officer, UKCISA

Join this session via Zoom here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85318252458> Meeting ID: 853 1825 2458

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## Friday 20 November

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### SESSION 13

11.00 – 12.00

#### LOOKING AFTER MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

##### A session with the #WeAreInternational Student Ambassadors

Drawing upon their own personal experiences and areas of academic expertise, the student ambassadors will discuss their experiences during the global pandemic and how they cope with university life. From ideas for looking after your mental health to top tips for supporting your physical wellbeing.

##### Speakers:

Yunyan Li, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

Parvathy Ramesh, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

Anant Rangan, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

Join this session via Zoom here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83680105173> Meeting ID: 836 8010 5173

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### SESSION 14

14.00 – 15.00

#### SO, WHAT'S NEXT?

##### A round-up session to recap UKCISA Fest and next steps for #WeAreInternational

In the final session of UKCISA Fest, our #WeAreInternational Student Ambassadors will take a look back at the key themes and discussion points from the week. Along with our Chief Executive, Anne Marie Graham, and Strategic Partnerships Lead, Yinbo Yu, they will reflect on this and identify key actions or ideas to take forward in their roles as ambassadors.

Attendees will be presented with ideas for how they can support these ideas and actions at their own institutions, as well as inspiration for how they can get involved with the [#WeAreInternational](#) campaign.

##### Speakers:

Katie Crabtree, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

Nebu George, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

Anne Marie Graham, Chief Executive, UKCISA

Yinbo Yu, Strategic Partnerships Lead, UKCISA

Join this session via Zoom here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89971893628> Meeting ID: 899 7189 3628



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UK Council  
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Student Affairs

**UKCISA**

UKCISA has been supporting international students and those who work with them since 1968. We provide advice to students and support our members (universities, schools and colleges) through training, information and advice. We work closely with government departments to lobby for improvements and change to the international student experience.

UKCISA Fest is part of a series of events to develop our International Student Network to ensure we accurately represent the student voice.

[ukcisa.org.uk](http://ukcisa.org.uk)

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**#WeAre  
International**

The #WeAreInternational campaign celebrates international students – and the value of international education – in the UK.

The campaign aims to

- Showcase the stories of international students
- Demonstrate how international partnerships benefit communities across the UK
- Connect students across the world to forge lifelong connections – through friendship, research, work and volunteering

We will do this by:

- Providing a platform for students to share their stories
- Sharing case studies from UK universities and colleges
- Hosting and supporting events.

[weareinternational.org.uk](http://weareinternational.org.uk)

#WeAreInternational

UKCISA gratefully acknowledges the financial support it receives from the Department for Education and from the Scottish Government.



Department  
for Education



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