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The future prosperity of the UK depends not just on what we produce domestically, but on the global human capital we attract, nurture and retain.

# **FOREWORD**

In an interconnected and competitive world, the United Kingdom's success depends on big themes - security, rule of law, and open markets. To that trinity I would add access to global talent & skills. International business school students are central to this effort — not only as contributors to tuition and local economies, but as future leaders who strengthen the UK's global networks, innovation capacity, and cultural vibrancy.

International business students bring new ideas, entrepreneurial energy, and cross-border perspectives that enrich classrooms, workplaces, and communities. Many go on to build companies, join major firms, or serve as ambassadors for British education and values around the world. Their presence enhances the UK's reputation as an open, dynamic, and forward-looking nation. Their networks give us reach far beyond our shores, creating bridges of trust and influence across continents. To lose ground in this competition is to weaken the UK's soft power and our capacity to shape global agendas.

Yet the UK's competitive edge is being tested. Higher tuition costs, rising living costs, reductions in post-study work options, more restrictive visa policies, worsening perceptions of students' welcome, and even potential taxation. If we are to sustain economic growth and global influence, the UK must renew its commitment to welcoming international students — ensuring that immigration, education, and economic policies work together to support their success. Business schools need to support the government's growth mission while building their brands; enhance student educational experiences and economic outcomes; and help the government deal with public acceptance of overseas student numbers.

Hosting the top international business schools is not merely a matter of UK prestige: they are vital to sustaining long-term growth, innovation and competitiveness. The future prosperity of the UK depends not just on what we produce domestically, but on the global human capital we attract, nurture and retain.

This report serves as both a wake-up call and a roadmap. Global competitors are not standing still. This report identifies where we need to catch up, as well as where we do well. May this report inform better decisions, stimulate debate, and prompt action — so that the UK continues to be a hub of excellence and opportunity in a competitive world.

#### **Professor Michael Mainelli**

Chairman, CABS International Students Taskforce Chairman, Z/Yen Group President, London Chamber of Commerce & Industry Lord Mayor of London 2023-2024



# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report presents the results of an analysis comparing the competitive position of the UK in the market for international students with key country competitors. It uses open data sources to compare each country's offer for international students based on several criteria, including cost, academic reputation, country safety/attractiveness, and aspects related to government policy, such as student number caps.

The analysis finds that each country's offer has different strengths and weaknesses. Countries such as the UK and the USA boast universities with very high academic prestige but are very expensive to study and live in. In contrast, studying in China and Japan entails much lower costs than in Western countries but there are fewer highly ranked institutions in China and Japan.

The UK has very limited scholarship opportunities for international students compared to most other countries in the analysis.

Amongst the traditional markets for international students, a tightening of government policy towards international students is observed which may be to the advantage of newer competitor countries such as China. The UK has banned visas for dependents (except for PGR students), while Australia and Canada have introduced caps on international student numbers.

Also noted is the significant variation in certain aspects of the offer from universities in each country. The UK, the Netherlands and Ireland typically offer one year PGT programmes whereas in the rest of the countries two year programmes are standard. Opportunities for scholarships for international students range from limited in the UK and the USA to extensive in the EU countries and China and Japan. There is also significant variation between countries in opportunities to study for short periods in a third country.

In relation to the UK itself, it retains many of the selling points that have led it to become one of the top study destinations in the world. Its institutions are highly ranked, it has a positive perception by young people internationally, and is considered to be a safe place. However, this analysis finds that the UK is an expensive study destination, not only compared to competitor countries in Asia, but also compared to some EU countries such as France, Germany and Italy. The UK also has very limited scholarship opportunities for international students compared to most other countries in the analysis.

The policy changes introduced in the UK since 2023, most notably the ban on dependents' visas, reduce the attractiveness of the UK to prospective international students and offer the opportunity to competitor countries, both traditional and new, to increase their market share at the UK's expense. One of the remaining advantages held by the UK that is perhaps underplayed is the opportunity to obtain qualifications that are accompanied by accreditations awarded by UK professional bodies. The data obtained from Studyportals shows that the UK is the leading country in terms of availability of such programmes, although this is partly a reflection of the fact that such accreditations are only available through programmes delivered in English. Such accreditations may be another mechanism by which the UK can convey soft power internationally.



# SUMMARY OF COMPETITOR COUNTRIES - EUROPE

	UK	Germany	France	Italy	The Netherlands	Ireland
Post-study options	18 months (from January 2027)	Up to 18 months with possibility to extend to PR	Up to 12 months with possibility to extend to PR	Up to 12 months with possibility to extend to PR	Up to 12 months with possibility to extend to PR	1 year for UG, 2 years for PG
Costs	3rd (High)	10th (Low)	8th (Medium)	7th (Medium)	5th (High)	6th (High)
Academic reputation	13/12/18	0/4/7	5/1/27	3/1/4	3/5/6	0/1/3
Scholarship opportunities	Limited	Extensive	Extensive	Moderate	Extensive	Moderate
Attractiveness	2nd	8th	5th	1st	N/A	N/A
Safety and Security	5th	6th	9th	8th	3rd	2nd
Student number caps	No cap	No cap	No cap	No cap	No cap	No cap
Student dependents permitted	No (PGR only)	Yes (subject to requirements)	Yes (subject to requirements)	Yes (subject to requirements)	Yes (subject to requirements)	No (PGR only)
Typical PGT course duration	1 year	2 years	2 years	2 years	1 year	1 year
Opportunities to study in third country	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive
Associative qualifications (e.g. professional accreditations)	Extensive (1,360)	Very Limited (7)	Limited (34)	Very Limited (6)	Very Limited (6)	Limited (51)

# Key for traffic light system:

Green	Indicates that for this metric the UK has a strong competitive advantage.
Amber	Indicates that for this metric the UK has no clear advantage or disadvantage.
Red	Indicates that for this metric the UK has a strong competitive disadvantage.



# SUMMARY OF COMPETITOR COUNTRIES - REST OF THE WORLD

	UK	Australia	Canada	USA	China	Japan
Post-study options	18 months (from January 2027)	2 years for Business & Management	3 years, with possibility to extend to PR	Up to 12 months	Dependent on employment	Up to 12 months
Costs	3rd (High)	2nd (Very High)	4th (High)	1st (Very High)	11th (Low)	9th (Medium)
Academic reputation	13/12/18	6/6	4/5	28/37	6/6	1/2
Scholarship opportunities	Limited	Extensive	Extensive	Limited	Extensive	Extensive
Attractiveness	2nd	7th	3rd	6th	9th	4th
Safety and Security	5th	4th	7th	11th	10th	1st
Student number caps	No cap	Сар	Сар	No сар	No cap	No cap
Student dependents permitted	No (PGR only)	Yes (subject to requirements)	Yes (spouses only)	Yes (subject to requirements)	Yes (for limited stays)	Yes
Typical PGT course duration	1 year	1-2 years	1-2 years	2 years	2 years	2 years
Opportunities to study in third country	Extensive	Moderate	Moderate	Extensive	Limited	Moderate
Associative qualifications (e.g. professional accreditations)	Extensive (1,360)	Moderate (100)	Moderate (117)	Extensive (1,204)	Very Limited (15)	N/A

# Key for traffic light system:

GreenIndicates that for this metric the UK has a strong competitive advantage.AmberIndicates that for this metric the UK has no clear advantage or disadvantage.RedIndicates that for this metric the UK has a strong competitive disadvantage.



# **Notes and sources**

Data	Sources	Notes
Post-study options	Government websites	
Costs	HSBC 'What does it cost to study abroad?'  QS 'How much does it cost to study in Europe?'  Study in Japan Academic Fees	Costs are based on average annual tuition fees for non-EU students and living costs per annum. Data for non-European countries from HSBC. Data for European countries from QS. Data for Japan from Study in Japan.
Academic reputation	QS World University Rankings, Times Higher Education Rankings, and FT Business School rankings (available for European schools only)	The first two numbers in the table indicate the count of universities ranked in the top 100 for Business & Management according to QS and Times Higher Education, respectively. The third figure indicates the count of schools in the FT European Business School rankings as of December 2024.
Scholarship opportunities	QS <u>Scholarships to study</u> <u>abroad</u>	
Attractiveness	British Council <u>'Global</u> <u>Perceptions'</u> report 2023	Based on responses to the question "How attractive overall do you find each of the following countries?" (p.15)
Safety and security	Global Peace Index 2024	Based on scores in the Societal Safety and Security domain.
Student number caps	Government websites	
Student dependents permitted	Government websites	
Typical PGT course duration	<u>Propects.ac.uk</u>	
Opportunities to study in third country	Review of scholarship programmes and degree offering in each country	Scholarship programmes identified through QS were reviewed for opportunities to fund international students to study in a third country. Availability of dual degrees in each country was also determined.
Associative qualifications (e.g. professional accreditations)	Studyportals	Data taken from the Studyportals database which covers programmes delivered in English language only.  The breakdown of professional qualifications available across the 53 countries featured in the Studyportals database is as follows:  Association of Chartered Certified Accountants = 408  Chartered Financial Analyst = 400  Chartered Institute of Marketing = 409  Chartered Institute of Management Accountants = 139  Certified Management Accountant = 57  Chartered Management Institute = 225  Certified Public Accountant = 1,029  HR Certification = 170  Project Management Professional = 342  PRINCE2 = 23



## COMPETITOR COUNTRIES – EUROPE

#### **FRANCE**

France has very low study-related costs and flexible post-study opportunities. Additionally, Business and Management is the most popular subject area among international students in France. However, it is worth noting that international students in France tend to come from a very different set of countries compared to the UK and other English-speaking countries in this study. France's top countries of origin for international students are mostly French-speaking African countries, meaning they might not be in such direct competition with the UK.

France's top countries of origin for international students are mostly French-speaking African countries, meaning they might not be in such direct competition with the UK.

# **Post-study options**

Non-EU students can apply for a temporary residence permit for 12 months. They can live and work in France indefinitely upon entering employment that pays 1.5x national minimum wage. Students from certain countries (mostly in French-speaking Africa but also including, notably, India) have special arrangements.

#### Costs

Negligible student fees.

#### **Academic reputation**

**QS rankings:** 5 universities in the top 100 for Business and Management, 2 in the top 20, of which 1 is ranked 2nd worldwide.

**THE rankings:** 1 university in the top 100 for Business and Management, 0 in the top 20.

FT European Business School rankings: 27 business schools in the top 100.

# Scholarship opportunities

France has a wide variety of scholarships available to international students at all levels, offered by the Foreign Ministry, and Ministry of Education, public institutes, and private organisations. Mobility scholarships from and to France are available via Erasmus+.

## **Attractiveness**

Ranked 5th in the British Council's 2023 'Global Perceptions' report.

## **Safety and Security**

France ranked 74th overall in the 2025 Global Peace Index, scoring an average 1.934 in the Societal Safety and Security domain.

#### Student numbers caps

No caps

#### Student dependents policy

Visas for dependents can be issued subject to requirements related to accommodation and financial means.

## **Typical PGT course duration**

The average Master's course duration is two years. The second year may include an internship.



# Opportunities to study in third country

Students from non-EU countries may have the opportunity to participate in the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees programme or student or youth exchange programmes. Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Turkey are associated to the Erasmus+ programme so students from these countries can participate in most of the normal components of Erasmus.

Multiple universities in France offer dual degrees which enable a student to receive a second degree from a partner university abroad in addition to an exchange study year in that country.

Several universities, such as Sciences Po and HEC Paris, have bilateral agreements with partner universities so that students can undertake extended periods of study abroad.

## **Associative qualifications**

The Studyportals data shows that there are 34 business school programmes that offer an accredited qualification. This is one of the highest totals for the non-English speaking countries included in the dataset, with only Malaysia and U.A.E offering a larger number of such programmes The PMP accreditation is most commonly offered by business schools in France, followed by the CFA.



#### **GERMANY**

Like France, university fees are virtually non-existent (while there are no tuition fees, students must pay small administrative fees) and there are a host of scholarships to help students cope with study-related costs, making Germany a very cheap destination. However, Business and Management is not a particularly popular subject area amongst international students in Germany, who prefer to study STEM subjects. Business and Management is grouped with Economics, Law, and Social Sciences, which together account for 25% of international students' chosen area of study in Germany.

There are a host of scholarships to help students cope with study-related costs, making Germany a very cheap destination.

#### **Post-study options**

Non-EU students can apply for a temporary residence permit of up to 18 months; upon finding employment that meets salary requirements, they can apply for the EU Blue Card, which can be converted to permanent residence after 33 months.

#### Costs

Negligible student fees.

## **Academic reputation**

QS rankings: 0 universities in the top 100 for Business and Management.

**THE rankings:** 4 Universities in the top 100 for Business and Management, 0 in the top 20.

FT European Business School rankings: 7 business schools in the top 100.

#### Scholarship opportunities

Germany has a wide variety of scholarships available to international students at all levels, offered by the federal government, private organisations, universities, and state governments. The DAAD programme is one of the largest scholarship schemes available to international students. Scholarships also available via Erasmus+.

#### **Attractiveness**

Ranked 8th in the British Council's 2023 'Global Perceptions' report.

# Safety and Security

Germany ranked 20th overall in the 2025 Global Peace Index, scoring an average of 1.621 in the Societal Safety and Security domain.

# Student numbers caps

No caps

# Student dependents policy

Visas for dependents can be issued subject to requirements related to accommodation and financial means.

# **Typical PGT course duration**

The average Master's course duration is two years. The length can vary depending on whether the student decides to do an internship or an exchange semester abroad.

# Opportunities to study in third country



Students from non-EU countries may have the opportunity to participate in the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees programme or student or youth exchange programmes. Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Turkey are associated to the Erasmus+ programme so students from these countries can participate in most of the normal components of Erasmus.

Multiple universities in Germany offer dual degrees which enable a student to receive a second degree from a partner university abroad in addition to an exchange study year in that country.

# **Associative qualifications**

Only five business schools in Germany offer programmes with associative accreditations, two with the CFA, and one each for the CIM, CPA and HR Certification.



#### **IRELAND**

Ireland has several strengths as a study destination, with reasonable post-study options, a high ranking for safety and security, membership of the Erasmus scheme, and a large number of programmes which offer associative professional qualifications. In terms of drawbacks, tuition fees and cost of living are high, and there are no Irish universities in the top 100 of the QS and THE rankings.

Ireland ranked 2nd overall in the 2025 Global Peace Index, scoring an average of 1.427 in the Societal Safety and Security domain.

#### **Post-study options**

Under Ireland's Third Level Graduate Scheme, international students can remain in Ireland for a post-graduation period if they have graduated with a Bachelor's, Master's or doctoral degree. Bachelor's degree graduates can remain for 12 months and Master's or doctoral degree graduates for 24 months. This scheme permits graduates to work for up to 40 hours per week, however, to work above 40 hours per week, the non-EEA student must obtain a relevant work permit.

#### Costs

Tuition fees are relatively high in Ireland and are generally at least \$11,500 annually. Living costs are also quite high, ranging between \$11,500 to \$17,500 per year.

#### **Academic reputation**

**QS rankings:** No universities in the top 100 for Business and Management. **THE rankings:** One university in the top 100 for Business and Management. **FT European Business School rankings:** 3 business schools in the top 100.

#### Scholarship opportunities

Scholarships are available through the Government of Ireland Education Scholarship and the Irish Research Council Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme but these are limited to high-calibre students. The Irish Aid Fellowship scheme offers the opportunity to spend one year studying in Ireland for postgraduate students in areas linked to the UN SDGs. Some universities also have their own scholarship schemes. Scholarships also available via Erasmus+.

#### Attractiveness

No data for attractiveness is available for Ireland as they are not included in the British Council 'Global Perceptions' report as they are not a G20 country.

## **Safety and Security**

Ireland ranked 2nd overall in the 2025 Global Peace Index, scoring an average of 1.427 in the Societal Safety and Security domain.

#### Student numbers caps

No caps

## Student dependents policy

Visas for dependents are not available

# **Typical PGT course duration**

Usually one year for a full-time PGT course



# Opportunities to study in third country

Students from non-EU countries may have the opportunity to participate in the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees programme or student or youth exchange programmes. Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Turkey are associated to the Erasmus+ programme so students from these countries can participate in most of the normal components of Erasmus.

At least four universities in Ireland offer dual degrees which enable a student to receive a second degree from a partner university abroad in addition to an exchange study year in that country.

Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin have bilateral agreements with partner universities so that students can undertake extended periods of study abroad.

## **Associative qualifications**

Of the countries in the Studyportals dataset Ireland has the fifth highest number of business school programmes with associative professional qualifications. This amounts to 51 programmes, half of which are the ACCA, followed by the HR Certification offered by 17 programmes.



#### **ITALY**

Italy is considered the most attractive study destination according to the British Council's 2023 Global Perceptions report, narrowly surpassing the UK with a difference of just 1%. Most universities offer nearly free tuition, good opportunities to stay in Italy and work towards getting a permanent residency which likely all contribute towards Italy's attraction. However, in the same report that ranked it first for attractiveness, it came far behind the UK in terms of trust in Government and trust in institutions.

Italy is considered the most attractive study destination according to the British Council's 2023 Global Perceptions report.

# **Post-study options**

Non-EU students can apply for a post-study work visa that allows individuals to stay in Italy for 9-12 months to find work.

#### Costs

Tuition fees vary according to institution and level of study with bachelors being significantly cheaper on average, with costs ranging from \$500 to \$9,800 at the undergraduate level.

# **Academic reputation**

**QS rankings:** 3 Universities in the top 100 for Business and Management, 1 of which is in the top 20.

**THE rankings:** One university in the top 100 for Business and Management. **FT European Business School rankings:** 4 business schools in the top 100.

# **Scholarship opportunities**

Most funding options are offered by the Italian government or universities. Scholarships also available via Erasmus+.

# Attractiveness

Ranked 1st in the British Council's 2023 'Global Perceptions' report.

## **Safety and Security**

Italy ranked 33rd overall in the 2025 Global Peace Index, scoring an average 1.787 in the Societal Safety and Security Domain.

# Student numbers caps

No caps

# Student dependents policy

Visas for dependents can be issued subject to requirements related to accommodation and financial means. Dependents' visas will only be issued for spouses of students.

# **Typical PGT course duration**



The average Master's course duration is two years.

# Opportunities to study in third country

Students from non-EU countries may have the opportunity to participate in the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees programme or student or youth exchange programmes. Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Turkey are associated to the Erasmus+ programme so students from these countries can participate in most of the normal components of Erasmus.

Multiple universities in Italy offer dual degrees which enable a student to receive a second degree from a partner university abroad in addition to an exchange study year in that country.

Universities such as Sapienza in Rome and Bocconi operate exchange programmes which allow students to spend a certain amount of time (e.g. a term) studying abroad at a partner university.

# **Associative qualifications**

There are only six business school programmes in Italy that offer accredited associative qualifications according to Studyportals.



#### THE NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands offers the NL Scholarship, a significant state-sponsored scholarship for students from outside the European Economic Area, along with various scholarships from non-profit organisations targeting students from less economically developed countries such as Indonesia. The Netherlands also offers a vast array of courses taught in English. Most international students originate from Germany, Italy and Romania, with incoming Chinese students declining since 2017 according to a 2022 Nuffic report on incoming student mobility in Dutch higher education in 2021-22. Except for China, all the top 10 countries of origin for Dutch institutions are within the EU.

The Netherlands offers a vast array of courses taught in English.

## **Post-study options**

The Orientation year allows students to work in The Netherlands for a year after they completed their studies. Once a graduate has obtained a job they can apply for a residence permit as a highly skilled migrant, start-up or self-employed.

#### Costs

Low to reasonably high tuition fees (\$6455 - \$21517 p/a). Tuition for non-EEA students ranges a great deal from institution to institution.

# **Academic reputation**

**QS rankings:** 3 Universities in the top 100 for Business and Management. **THE rankings:** 5 Universities in the top 100 for Business and Management. **FT European Business School rankings:** 6 business schools in the top 100.

#### **Scholarship opportunities**

The Netherlands has a wide range of scholarships that are available to international students, including the NL Scholarship from the Dutch Ministry of Education – only available to students outside the EEA for a bachelors or masters. Non-profit organisations offer scholarships for international students. Scholarships also available via Erasmus+.

## Attractiveness

No data for attractiveness is available for the Netherlands as they are not included in the British Council 'Global Perceptions' report as they are not a G20 country.

# **Safety and Security**

The Netherlands ranked 14th overall in the 2025 Global Peace Index, scoring an average 1.508 in the Societal Safety and Security domain.

# Student numbers caps

In July 2025 PIE News¹ reported that the Netherlands government had reversed a proposed policy to reduce the number of English-taught degrees offered by Dutch universities. The policy would have required Dutch universities to show that teaching a degree in a language other than Dutch was not only necessary but would also enhance the programme. Had the policy gone ahead it was expected to result in further reductions in enrolments of international students in the Netherlands.



# Student dependents policy

Visas for dependents can be issued subject to requirements related to accommodation and financial means. Dependents' visas will only be issued for spouses of students.

## **Typical PGT course duration**

Academic Master's courses (including in Business) typically take one year to complete while research Masters, teacher training programmes, and courses in agriculture, science, math, and engineering usually take two years.

# Opportunities to study in third country

Students from non-EU countries may have the opportunity to participate in the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees programme or student or youth exchange programmes. Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Turkey are associated to the Erasmus+ programme so students from these countries can participate in most of the normal components of Erasmus.

Multiple universities in the Netherlands offer dual degrees which enable a student to receive a second degree from a partner university abroad in addition to an exchange study year in that country.

Universities such as Amsterdam and Leiden operate exchange programmes which allow students to spend a certain amount of time studying abroad at a partner university.

# **Associative qualifications**

The data from Studyportals indicates there are only six business school programmes in The Netherlands that offer accredited associative qualifications.



#### **UNITED KINGDOM**

The UK is one of the most attractive study destinations in the world. It is second only to the USA in terms of academic prestige as measured by the standing of its institutions in the QS and THE rankings and many business school programmes come with qualifications accredited by UK professional bodies. The UK has the second highest ranking in the British Council's 'Global Perceptions' report and many UK universities offer students the chance to study in a third country through dual degree programmes or other arrangements. The UK's post-study offer remains attractive despite the imminent reduction of the Graduate Route to 18 months. This reduction along with the ban on dependents' visas and the high costs of tuition and living risk further eroding the UK's strong competitive position for international students.

Many UK
universities offer
students the
chance to study
in a third country
through dual degree
programmes or other
arrangements.

## **Post-study options**

The Graduate Route will be reduced from two years to 18 months for applications made on or after 1st January 2027. Options for switching from the Graduate Route to a Skilled Worker Visa have been made more restrictive due to the increase in the salary threshold and a reduction in the roles considered eligible for a Skilled Worker Visa.

#### Costs

High average tuition fees for international students (\$20,542 average p/a), high costs of living (\$13,604 p/a).

## **Academic reputation**

**QS rankings:** 13 universities in the top 100 for Business and Management, 4 in the top 20 of which 3 are in the top 10.

**THE rankings:** 12 universities in the top 100 for Business and Management, 3 in the top 10.

FT European Business School rankings: 18 business schools in the top 100.

#### **Scholarship opportunities**

Universities tend to offer their own scholarships, with a handful of very competitive non-university scholarships available to international students from specific countries.

## **Attractiveness**

Ranked 2nd in the British Council's 2023 'Global Perceptions' report.

# **Safety and Security**

The UK ranked 30th overall in the 2025 Global Peace Index, scoring an average 1.599 in the Societal Safety and Security domain.

#### **Student numbers caps**

No caps

#### Student dependents policy

Dependents' visas will only be issued for PGR students.

# **Typical PGT course duration**

Academic Master's courses (including in Business) typically take one year to complete.



# Opportunities to study in third country

International students in the UK have abundant opportunities to study in a third country although the availability of specific types of arrangements will depend on the institution they are studying with. Some universities operate exchange programmes with institutions overseas or international internships.

Multiple UK universities offer dual degrees at undergraduate and/or postgraduate level. On graduation these programmes will award a degree from a UK university in addition to a partner university abroad. Students undertaking a dual degree will typically spend an exchange year studying in the country of the partner university. Non-EU students are also eligible for study or work placements under the UK's Turing scheme.

# **Associative qualifications**

From the 53 countries included in the Studyportals dataset, the UK has the highest number of business school programmes offering associative accreditations, slightly ahead of the USA. The accreditations offered include ACCA, CFA, CIM, CIMA, CMI, HR Certficiation, PMP and Prince 2. The four most commonly offered are CIM (offered by 321 programmes), ACCA (251 programmes), PMP (240 programmes) and CMI (212 programmes).





# COMPETITOR COUNTRIES – REST OF THE WORLD

#### **AUSTRALIA**

In addition to China and the South Asian countries, Australia is a particularly popular study destination among internationally mobile students from South-East Asia. Business and Management is a particularly popular subject among international students, but study costs are on average very high.

Business and
Management is
a particularly
popular subject
among international
students.

## **Post-study options**

Temporary post-study visa for up to 2 years, including visa for immediate family members. Business and Management students are ineligible for extension of a further 2 years unless they did a combined degree or a PhD.

#### Costs

High tuition fees (\$23,575 average p/a) with very high costs of living (\$14,502 p/a).

#### **Academic reputation**

**QS rankings:** 6 universities in the top 100 for Business and Management, 0 in the top 20.

**THE rankings:** 6 universities in the top 100 for Business and Management, 0 in the top 20.

## Scholarship opportunities

Australia offers an array of scholarships to international students at all levels, with 250 million AUD spent on scholarships for international students in the academic year 2022/23. Scholarships are available to students from the UK, USA, and 55 'developing' countries. Many Australian universities also offer scholarships for international students.

#### **Attractiveness**

Ranked 7th in the British Council's 2023 'Global Perceptions' report.

#### **Safety and Security**

Australia ranked 18th overall in the 2025 Global Peace Index, scoring an average of 1.547 in the Societal Safety and Security domain.

#### Student numbers caps

The previous policy directive to cap students at 270,000 in 2025 was blocked by political opposition and the latest policy enacted in December 2024 will introduce two categories of student visa processing: high priority and standard priority. All universities will receive high priority processing up to 80% of their indicative international student cap. Once each institution reaches 80% of its cap, other institutions will be prioritised for processing, which means those in the standard priority queue will see delays to applications. The policy is seen as acting as a cap by the 'back door'.

#### Student dependents policy

Visas for dependents can be issued subject to requirements related to accommodation and financial means.



# **Typical PGT course duration**

Postgraduate courses involving coursework typically last between 1 and 2 years, but can be longer if a placement is involved. Research Master's usually last 2 years.

# Opportunities to study in third country

Exchange programmes that international students can participate in appear to be more limited than at European universities which have the Erasmus scheme. However, some Australian universities do offer exchange programmes (e.g. University of Wollongong and University of Western Australia) and many offer dual degrees with partner universities overseas.

# **Associative qualifications**

Australia has the fourth highest number of business school programmes with associative accredited qualifications according to the Studyportals data, with 100 in total. Nearly half of these are the CPA, followed by the ACCA (27 programmes), and CFA (14 programmes).



#### **CANADA**

The number of international students in Canada has grown most rapidly of any other country on the list. They have the most generous graduate visa programme among the countries included in the analysis and enjoy a very positive perception among the G20 countries, just behind that of the UK.

Canada has the most generous graduate visa programme among the countries included in the analysis.

## **Post-study options**

Temporary Post-Graduation Work Permit for 3 years, with a variety of options to progress to permanent residence.

#### Costs

Reasonable tuition fees (\$15,591 p/a), relatively high costs of living (\$11,737p/a)

# **Academic reputation**

**QS rankings:** 4 universities in the top 100 for Business and Management, 0 in the top 20.

**THE rankings:** 5 universities in the top 100 for Business and Management, 0 in the top 20.

#### Scholarship opportunities

Canada offers scholarships for international students at all levels from a selection of countries across the world. Governmental scholarship programmes include the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships and the IDRC Research Awards. Non-governmental scholarship programmes include the Trudeau Scholarships and Fellowships. Many Canadian universities also offer scholarship programmes to study in Canada.

#### **Attractiveness**

Ranked 3rd in the British Council's 2023 'Global Perceptions' report.

## **Safety and Security**

Canada ranked 14th overall in the 2025 Global Peace Index, scoring an average of 1.654 in the Societal Safety and Security domain.

#### Student numbers caps

For 2025 the international student permits that will be issued in Canada will be limited to 437,000, down by 10% from the 2024 target of 485,000. The cap for 2026 will remain at the same level and will include Master's and PhD students.12% of the allocated spaces will be reserved for these students in recognition of their benefits to the Canadian labour market.

# Student dependents policy

Visas for dependents can be issued subject to requirements related to accommodation and financial means. Dependents' visas will only be issued for spouses of students.

# **Typical PGT course duration**

Postgraduate courses involving coursework typically last between 1 and 2 years, but can be longer if a placement is involved.



# Opportunities to study in third country

Opportunities for international students to study abroad don't seem to be as widely available in Canada compared to European universities, but individual universities do operate exchange programmes with partner institutions in multiple countries (Western University and University of Ottawa). Several universities in Canada offer dual degrees with partner institutions in other countries.

# Associative qualifications

The Studyportals data reveals that there are 117 business school programmes that offer associative accreditations. Of these the most common is the CPA (52 programmes), followed by the CFA (26 programmes), CIM (16 programmes), and the CMA (12 programmes).



#### **CHINA**

China is the only country on this list which provides generous government scholarships including monthly stipends to citizens of any country. Together with low living costs, growing recognition of the quality of their universities, and an expanding course offering in English, it may grow into a very popular study destination. However, they have the strictest approach to post-study opportunities.

China is the only country which provides generous government scholarships including monthly stipends to citizens of any country.

## **Post-study options**

Recently revamped but very complicated; international students may apply for work visas following their studies but must have secured employment meeting salary thresholds. It is a points-based system, and eligibility depends on the institution they graduated from, degree subject, the location of their employment, and industry of their employer, among other things.

#### Costs

Very low tuition fees (\$3,813 p/a) and costs of living (\$7,452 p/a).

#### **Academic reputation**

**QS rankings:** 6 universities in the top 100 for Business and Management, 0 in the top 20.

**THE rankings:** 6 universities in the top 100 for Business and Management, 2 in the top 10.

#### Scholarship opportunities

China offers generous scholarships through the Chinese Scholarship Council, a government office. Scholarships cover the full amount of tuition fees and lodging and include monthly allowances the sum of which depends on the location of the university. Unlike the other countries, CSC scholarships are available to students from any country in the world.

#### **Attractiveness**

Ranked 15th in the British Council's 2023 'Global Perceptions' report.

# **Safety and Security**

China ranked 98th overall in the 2025 Global Peace Index, scoring an average 2.219 in the Societal Safety and Security domain.

#### Student numbers caps

No caps – China is looking to grow the number of international students in the country.

## Student dependents policy

Dependents' visas will be issued for visits of a maximum of 180 days.

# **Typical PGT course duration**

Master's programmes will typically be two years in duration but some may extend to three years.



# Opportunities to study in third country

Very limited evidence found of opportunities for exchange programmes or placements for international students in China. It appears that such opportunities are limited to dual degrees which some universities in China offer in partnership with universities in the West.

# **Associative qualifications**

There are 14 business school programmes in China with associated qualifications according to Studyportals. Half of these offer the CPA, with the rest being the ACCA (3 programmes), and the CFA and CIM with two programmes each.



#### **JAPAN**

Japan is looking to grow its share of the international students market and certain aspects of its offer are strong. It is viewed as one of the most attractive countries in the G20, its cost of tuition is much lower than in Western countries, and it offers an array of scholarships and opportunities to study in third countries. It also has reasonable post-study options and a fairly accomodating offer for student dependents.

Japan is viewed as one of the most attractive countries in the G20, its cost of tuition is much lower than in Western countries.

# Post-study options

Japan offers international students a 'Designated Activities' visa for recent graduates, allowing them to stay in the country for 6 months, and can be extended by an additional 6 months, while they seek employment in Japan.

#### Costs

The cost of tuition in Japan is significantly lower than the UK, with international students paying an average of around \$4,800 USD annually.

## **Academic reputation**

**QS rankings:** 1 University in the top 100 for Business and Management. **THE rankings:** 2 Universities in the top 100 for Business and Management.

# Scholarship opportunities

Japan has a wide range of scholarship opportunities, the majority of which are available after arriving in Japan. They are funded by local governments, local international associations and private foundations which accept applications from overseas. These include: the Japanese government Monbukagakusho MEXT scholarship and Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students.

# Attractiveness

Ranked 4th in the British Council's 2023 'Global Perceptions' report.

## **Safety and Security**

Japan ranked 12th overall in the 2025 Global Peace Index, scoring an average 1.292 in the Societal Safety and Security domain.

# **Student numbers caps**

No caps – Japan is looking to grow the number of international students in the country.

## Student dependents policy

Visas for dependents can be issued but are only available for spouse and children.

# Typical PGT course duration

Master's degrees in Japan are two years in duration.



# Opportunities to study in third country

International students in Japan may have the opportunity to study abroad through exchange programmes between universities in Japan and third countries. Some Japanese universities also offer dual degree programmes with partner institutions abroad.

# **Associative qualifications**

The Studyportals data suggests that there are no business school programmes delivered in the English language in Japan that offer associative accredited qualifications. However, there may be similar accreditations offered in languages other than English.



#### USA

The USA has the most universities ranked in the top 100 for Business & Management, but study costs are the highest among the countries studied and their post-study opportunities are very limited. It remains the most popular destination for international students globally.

The USA remains the most popular destination for international students globally.

# **Post-study options**

Up to 12 months for non-STEM subjects.

#### Costs

Highest average tuition fees at \$29,254, high costs of living (\$12,054 p/a).

#### **Academic reputation**

**QS rankings:** 28 universities in the top 100 for Business and Management, 10 in the top 20, including the top ranked business school in the world, Harvard Business School.

**THE rankings:** 37 universities in the top 100 for Business and Management, 13 in the top 20, including the top three, MIT, Stanford, and Harvard.

#### Scholarship opportunities

Scholarships in the USA tend to be provided by universities directly or by private organisations, with eligibility varying between each university.

## Attractiveness

Ranked 6th in the British Council's 2023 'Global Perceptions' report.

# **Safety and Security**

The US ranked 128th overall in the 2025 Global Peace Index, scoring an average of 2.369 in the Societal Safety and Security domain.

# Student numbers caps

No cap imposed by the government but some institutions have quotas for international students to ensure there are sufficient places on courses for U.S nationals.

## Student dependents policy

Visas for dependents can be issued subject to requirements related to accommodation and financial means.

## **Typical PGT course duration**

Master's degrees in the USA usually take two years to complete but some courses can be shorter.

## Opportunities to study in third country

The Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Exchange Program is accessible to non-U.S citizens. Numerous U.S universities operate exchange programmes with partner universities overseas and/or dual degrees.



# **Associative qualifications**

The USA has the second highest number of business school programmes with associative accreditations of the countries in the Studyportals dataset, with 1,204 programmes, just behind the UK's 1,360 programmes. Three-quarters of these programmes offer the CPA, with the next most frequently offered accreditations being the CFA (193 programmes) and the PMP (58 programmes).





## LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

For this analysis the top five universities of these non-English language countries were used as representative examples to determine the main language of instruction.

**China:** The main language of instruction is Mandarin. However, all top five universities offer courses in English, including Business and Management, and have large international colleges.

**Italy:** The main language of instruction is Italian. Nonetheless, all top institutions offer undergraduate courses in English, with some providing Business and Management courses in English. Some institutions accept IELTS and DET to prove proficiency in English to enrol onto their courses.

**Germany:** The main language of instruction is German. Three of the top five institutions offer courses entirely in English, with a handful of institutions offering Business and Management related courses. Of these, two offer only master's courses, while one offers undergraduate courses entirely in English. Some courses require a CEFR level in English.

**The Netherlands:** The main language of instruction is Dutch. Three of the top five institutions offer an undergraduate course in a subject that is allied to Business, e.g. International Business and Business Administration. One institution offers a postgraduate course in Sustainable Business and Innovation. English taught courses require TOEFL iBT Test, IELTS Academic and Cambridge C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency.

**France:** The main language of instruction is French. Four of the top five universities offer postgraduate courses delivered in the English language, and one university offers an undergraduate course entirely in English. Of the institutions reviewed, one university offered a Business and Management related postgraduate course. Courses in English require certifications such as TOEFL (CBT, iBT), IELTS or Duolingo.

**Japan:** The main language of instruction is Japanese, however, in recent years, because of globalisation of Japanese universities, there has been an increase in the number of universities offering undergraduate courses entirely in English, including Business and Management courses. English only courses require TOEFL iBT (71-80) or IELTS (5.5 – 6). However, it should be noted that to gain post-study employment in Japan, it is considered essential to learn Japanese.





#### VARIATION IN COSTS

#### Analysis of cost of living by country and key cities

The following compares the data, where available, for the most populous cities in the countries in this analysis. A standardised 'Cost of living' rank was obtained from Numbeo. com<sup>2</sup>. The index provided is relative to New York City, with a baseline of 100%.

The index indicates the relative prices of consumer goods like groceries, restaurants, transportation, and utilities. It excludes accommodation expenses such as rent or mortgage. For instance, a city with a Cost-of-Living Index of 120 is 20% more expensive than New York City (excluding rent). Below are the countries analysed in this report with the capital city in bold.

In the 2025 mid-year Cost of Living Index, the UK is markedly more expensive than several U.S cities, including Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles and Miami. Among the 57 cities compared across eleven countries, London ranks third, whereas other UK cities such as Edinburgh (14th), Manchester (23rd), and Glasgow (26th) are positioned much lower on the list.

London has the highest cost of living index in the UK at 83.2, positioning it as one of the more expensive cities globally but still below cities like New York City (100.0) and San Francisco (90.7).

#### **UK cities:**

**London** (83.2), Edinburgh (70.6), Manchester (67.4) and Glasgow (66.7).

#### Irish cities:

**Dublin** (72.2), Cork (71.0), Galway (63.7)

#### Chinese cities:

Suzhou (38.0), Shanghai (37.9), **Beijing** (35.7), Shenzhen (35.4), Guangzhou (34.1) and Chengdu (27.3)

#### Italian cities:

Milan (68.2), Bologna (65.6), Turin (58.1) and **Rome** (56.7)

#### German cities:

Hamburg (69.9), Munich (72.3), Dusseldorf (67.7), **Berlin** (66.0), Cologne (67.1), Leipzig (62.9) and Dresden (63.3)

#### French cities:

**Paris** (74.6) and Lyon (70.2)

#### IIS Citios

New York (100), Los Angeles (76.3), Chicago (71.7), Boston MA (82.7), Miami (74.9), Dallas (67.0), **Washington DC** (82.5), San Francisco (90.7), and Houston (61.1)

#### **Canadian cities:**

Victoria (65.9), Vancouver (64.3), Calgary (62.8.), Halifax (61.2), **Ottawa** (59.7), Toronto (63.8), Winnipeg (58.3), Montreal (59.4) and Edmonton (59.4)

#### **Australian cities:**

**Canberra** (66.5), Adelaide (62.6), Sydney (69.3), Perth (62.7), Brisbane (60.1) and Melbourne (65.4)

#### **Netherlands cities:**

**Amsterdam** (75.9), Utrecht (69.0), Eindhoven (66.3), Rotterdam (69.9), The Hague (67.7) and Groningen (61.0).

# Japanese cities:

**Tokyo** (56.4)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Available at: https://www.numbeo.com/ Based on 2025 Mid-Year dataset (Accessed: 20 October 2025).



Figure 1 Colour map of cost of living comparison by country

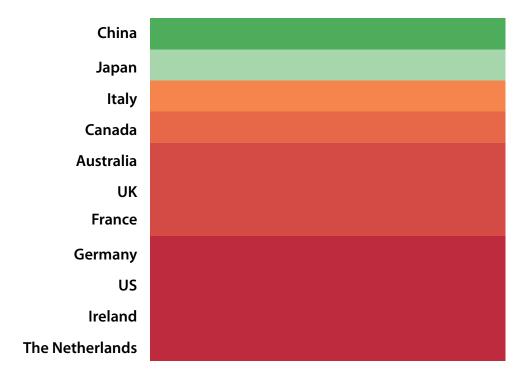


Figure 1 depicts the cost of living comparison using a colour map, with green being the cheapest countries to live in and red the most expensive. As can be seen, China and Japan are the least expensive and the Netherlands, Ireland, and the U.S the most expensive. The UK is in the middle of the group but is still significantly more expensive to live in than China and Japan.

**Figure 2** Cost of living and cost of rent relative to the UK

Competitor Countries	Cost of Living relative to UK	Cost of rent relative to UK
The Netherlands	6.10%	13.68%
Ireland	3.74%	35.87%
USA	0.93%	25.53%
Germany	0.77%	-22.80%
France	0.31%	-33.13%
Australia	-1.87%	-2.43%
Canada	-5.45%	-3.04%
Italy	-10.90%	-38.60%
Japan	-23.83%	-53.19%
China	-54.20%	-67.78%

The above table displays the cost of living and the cost of rent relative to the UK. A positive figure indicates that the cost is higher relative to the UK, meaning the UK has a competitive advantage, whilst a negative figure indicates that the cost is lower relative to the UK, indicating that the UK is at a competitive disadvantage.



# COMPARISON BETWEEN KEY CITIES IN COMPETITOR COUNTRIES

**USA:** New York City (100.0) and San Francisco (90.7) have significantly higher cost of living indices compared to UK cities. However, there is significant variation between American cities, with the cost of living in cities such as Dallas and Houston being closer to UK cities like Manchester and Glasgow which are much cheaper than London.

**Australia:** Sydney (69.3) and Melbourne (65.4) show similar cost of living indices to UK cities, with Sydney being comparable to Edinburgh (70.6).

**France, Germany, and the Netherlands:** Paris (74.6) and Munich (72.3) have cost of living indices higher than all UK cities except London, indicating comparable living expenses in these major European cities. Amsterdam (75.9) aligns closely with Paris. In contrast, other Dutch cities like Utrecht, Eindhoven, and Rotterdam have significantly lower cost of living indices.

**Canada:** Toronto (63.8) and Vancouver (64.3) have indices more similar to UK cities outside of London such as Manchester.

**China:** Shanghai (37.9) and Beijing (35.7) have significantly lower cost of living indices compared to any UK city, highlighting a stark difference in living expenses.

**Japan:** Tokyo has a cost of living lower than that of any city listed for the UK, with an index of 56.4.

**Italy:** Italian cities have cost of living indices ranging from 68.2 (Milan) to 56.3 (Naples), with an average of 57.2. Italy's most 'expensive' city (Milan) would be comparable to the cost of living in Manchester (67.4), and both Milan and Manchester are popular student cities. London is fifteen points higher than Milan.



# COST BY COUNTRY ACCOUNTING FOR SCHOLARSHIP AND TUITION FEES

**Australia** (63.0) has a slightly lower cost of living compared to the UK (64.2), with many of the cities having similar scores for cost of living. Additionally, Australia has a wide range of scholarships, grants and bursaries that help financially support international students, with a strong focus on developing countries. Given this, Australia is a strong contender to the UK for attracting international students.

The **USA** (64.8) also has a similar cost-of-living index to the UK (64.2), with some of its cities being the most expensive in the world (New York – 100.0, San Francisco – 90.7). Additionally, the USA has limited scholarship opportunities with the highest tuition costs, making it the most expensive country in this analysis for international students.

**Canada** (60.7) has a slightly lower cost of living to that of the UK (64.2). Canada has abundant scholarship opportunities with lower tuition costs than the UK, and is reported as 'medium' for cost in this analysis.

Accounting for scholarship opportunities, **China** (29.4) has the lowest cost-of-living index for a country in this analysis and has an abundant supply of scholarship opportunities with low tuition costs. In this regard, China is a significantly cheaper destination for international students than the UK.

**Japan** (48.9) also has an abundance of scholarship opportunities for international students, with many government sponsored schemes to encourage the internationalisation of their higher education institutions. Further to this, Japan has low tuition costs – making it a far cheaper alternative to the UK for international students.

**Italy** has a cost-of-living index of 57.2, with an abundant supply of scholarships along with low tuition fees which makes Italy a cheaper option to the UK for international students. Additionally, some Italian HE institutions offer free or nearly free tuition. Interestingly, the Italian city with the highest cost-of-living (Milan – 68.2) is situated in the Lombardy region, which is reportedly the most populated region for international students, with 26,182 residing there in 2021/22.

**France** (64.4), **Germany** (64.7) and the **Netherlands** (68.1) all have a country cost-of-living index either slightly or marginally higher than that of the UK. However, all three nations have lower tuition rates, and an abundant supply of scholarship opportunities.

China has the lowest cost-of-living index for a country in this analysis and has an abundant supply of scholarship opportunities with low tuition costs.



# STUDY COSTS IN DEVOLVED NATIONS

Comparing the cost-of-living in the devolved nations is difficult due to a lack of data in this area. In this analysis, the most populated cities in England (London, Birmingham and Manchester) are compared to the most populated city in the three devolved nations (Cardiff, Belfast and Glasgow) to establish a comparison in the cost-of-living between the constituent nations of the United Kingdom. Below, all cost-of-living comparisons account for rent.

# **Wales compared to England**

The cost-of-living in Cardiff is 40.2% lower than that of London; 0.7% higher in Cardiff than in Birmingham; 9.5% lower in Cardiff than in Manchester.

# Northern Ireland compared to England

The cost-of-living in Belfast is 42.7% lower in London; 0.6% lower in Belfast than in Birmingham and 9.3% lower in Belfast than in Manchester.

## **Scotland compared to England**

The cost-of-living in Glasgow is 21.9% lower than in London; 7.9% higher in Glasgow than in Birmingham, and 1.4% higher in Glasgow than in Manchester.

See below a visual representation of the above comparing the cost of living between the three most populated cities in England compared to the most populated city in each of the three devolved nations.

**Table 1** Comparison of cost of living between key cities in UK nations

	Cardiff	Belfast	Glasgow
London	-40.2	-42.7	-21.9
Birmingham	0.7	-0.6	7.9
Manchester	-9.5	-9.3	1.4



# APPENDIX - INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLMENTS IN COMPETITOR COUNTRIES

#### **AUSTRALIA**

All levels of study	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total international students	378,871	412,284	389,834	345,906	325,823	404,009	461,079	503,071

Top countries of origin (2025): China, India, Nepal, Vietnam, Philippines, Colombia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand.

#### **CANADA**

All levels of study	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total international students	354,260	400,575	255,530	443,505	548,050	298,765	515,390

**Top countries of origin (2024):** India, China, Nigeria, Philippines, France, Iran, Vietnam, Algeria. **Notable growth markets:** Senegal, Ghana.

#### **CHINA**

All levels of study	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total international students	307,501	333,072	273,792	255,720	253,177

**Top countries of origin (2018):** South Korea, Thailand, Pakistan, India, USA, Russia, Indonesia, Laos, Japan, Kazakhstan. **Notes:** Business & Management makes up roughly 15% of total students (including domestic).

#### **FRANCE**

All levels of study	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total international students	358,000	370,052	364,756	392,630	402,883	419,694

**Top countries of origin (2023/24):** Morocco, Algeria, China, Italy, Senegal, Tunisia, Spain, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Cameroon. **Notes (2023/24):** 15% of total international students in France are enrolled at a business school.

## **GERMANY**

Undergraduate	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total international students	113,730	121,325	127,241	130,478	132,534	133,889
Postgraduate	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total international students	141,748	152,960	164,874	177,646	190,331	202,092

**Notes:** Business & Management is not one of the more popular subjects among international students in Germany. Business & Management is grouped with Economics, Law, and Social Sciences, which together make up 25% of international students.

Top countries of origin (2023/24): India, China, Turkey, Austria, Iran, Syria, Russia, Italy, Ukraine, Pakistan.

Notable growth markets (2023/24): Guyana, Myanmar, Honduras, Gambia, Sri Lanka.





#### **IRELAND**

All levels of study	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total international students	26,470	29,080	29,855	26,785	31,720	35,140	40,400	44,535
Undergraduate	16,895	18,180	17,435	15,280	17,615	19,415	20,895	22,825
Postgraduate	9,580	10,900	12,420	11,505	14,105	15,725	19,505	21,710

#### **ITALY**

All levels of study	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total international students	51,598	56,380	60,573	70,507	83,951	96,730	110,295

**Top countries of origin (2024/25):** China, Tunisia, Morocco, Cameroon, Egypt.

## **JAPAN**

All levels of study	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total international students	298,980	312,214	279,597	242,444	231,146	279,274	336,708

**Top countries of origin (2024):** China, Nepal, Vietnam, Myanmar and South Korea.

## THE NETHERLANDS

Undergraduate	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total international students	83,305	91,434	100,722	112,791	120,619	127,169	131,004

**Top countries of origin (2024):** Germany, Italy, Romania, Spain and China.

# USA

Undergraduate	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total international students	522,155	517,556	445,659	443,440	450,408	457,906	464,843
Postgraduate	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total international students	498,625	494,099	411,340	438,390	507,195	608,857	667,622

**Top countries of origin (2024):** India, China, South Korea, Canada, Brazil, Vietnam, Nepal, Taiwan, Nigeria, Bangladesh.





# SOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLMENTS DATA

## Australia

International Education Data and Research

#### Canada

Temporary Residents: Study Permit Holders – Monthly IRCC Updates

#### China

Ministry of Education Statistics

# France

<u>Campus France - Chiffres clés - 2025</u>

## Germany

<u>Wissenschaft - Weltoffen</u>

## Italy

Ministry of University and Research

#### Ireland

<u>Irish Higher Education Authority</u>

## Japan

Study in Japan (Government approved information site)

## **The Netherlands**

Nuffic: Dutch Organisation for internationalisation in education

#### **USA**

ICE PDF, ICE Library



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