

# The UK Higher Education International and Europe Unit

A central intelligence and policy coordination unit on  
higher education, internationalisation and European  
policy for UK higher education institutions



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## UK higher education in the spotlight

The UK Higher Education International and Europe Unit (IEU) works to support the development and sustainability of the UK higher education sector's influence and competitiveness in a global environment and to represent the sector's distinctive strengths within Europe and internationally.

### The IEU:

- ▶ is a central observatory of international and European issues and inform all higher education institutions and other stakeholders through its research, publications and websites;
- ▶ coordinates strategic engagement between UK and international stakeholders, providing timely and high-quality data and information about developments, and provides policy support and guidance to UK stakeholders engaging in European policy dialogue; and
- ▶ produces collective UK statements and responses to consultations in key areas of European Union and Bologna Process policy, lobbying to support them as appropriate.

In representing the sector as a whole, the IEU works closely with higher education institutions and organisations, including the British Council, UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Department for Employment and Learning (Northern Ireland), UKTI, Universities Scotland, the Scottish Government, Higher Education Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government.

The IEU also works with other sector organisations, including the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education, the Council for Industry and Higher Education, the Observatory on Borderless Higher Education, the Association of UK HE European Officers (HEURO), the UK Research Office (UKRO), Welsh Higher Education Brussels (WHEB), Wales International Consortium (WIC), and the National Union of Students.

The IEU was formed on 1 August 2010 by merging the UK HE International Unit and the UK HE Europe Unit.

The IEU is located at Universities UK and is jointly funded by:



The UK sells more brainpower per capita than anywhere else in the world. In 2008, this amounted to £118 billion in knowledge services – worth 6.3% of GDP.

THE WORK FOUNDATION 2010

The UK has 1% of the world's population but undertakes 5% of the world's scientific research and produces 14% of the world's most highly cited papers.

UNIVERSITIES UK 2010

There were 248,000 international students (excluding EU) enrolled at UK higher education institutions in 2008/09. There were also 121,000 EU students the same year.

HESA 2010

More than 2.8 million students were enrolled in higher education institutions outside their countries of citizenship in 2007. This represented 123,400 more students than in 2006, an increase of 4.6%. Eleven countries hosted 71% of the world's mobile students, led by the United States with 21.3%.

UNESCO 2009

In 2008/09, there were 388,000 students studying for a UK qualification outside of the UK. Of this number, 83% were non-EU students.

HESA 2010

Since expansion of the EU in 2004 there has been a 177% increase in the number of students from ascension countries studying at UK higher education institutions.

Just over half of all EU students at UK higher education institutions are studying at first-degree level and over a third are studying a postgraduate qualification.

In 2008/09 10% of staff at UK higher education institutions were from an EHEA country.

The top countries for outward and inward movement of students on Erasmus student exchanges are Spain, France and Germany.

In 2009, the UK led in the number of successful applications for Seventh Framework Programme funding: 525 of 1,923 applications, followed by Germany, 475 of 1,879 applications.

The vast majority, some €889m, of Seventh Framework Programme funding to the UK goes to higher education institutions (66%).