

Pre 1979	Overseas students are part of UK government subsidised system. No policy distinction between o/s and home students. Universities receive government funding for all students
1979	As part of the Conservative (Thatcher) government's cuts, the Department of Education and Science implements new policy on overseas students removing government subsidy and differentiating them from home & European students. Estimated saving of £150m p.a. Results in huge reduction government funding to universities.
1981-2006	Higher Education Links Programme – funded by the UK Overseas Development Administration (then within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and then by ODA's successor Department for International Development (DFID). Managed by British Council. Aim is to promote collaboration between universities in the UK and their counterparts in the global South for capacity building in developing countries. Annual budget of around £3 million spread across 450 links in 44 developing countries (average cost of a link is under £7,000). Snapshot of 2003-04 shows 384 links in 49 countries, 15000 people trained, 500+ modules and courses developed, 1700 visits for professional development or enhancing mutual collaboration. Funds used almost exclusively for the travel and subsistence of participants. Cost-effectiveness study of the scheme carried out between 1993 and 1996; this found that the value of the outputs from the programme were at least 80 times its cost to DFID.
1983	<p>"Pym package" introduced after pressure by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in response to a major backlash from Commonwealth and other countries, and concerns that UK reputation and trade were suffering. £46m package for 3 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home fees for undergraduate students from Hong Kong, Malaysia, Cyprus • Expansion of existing Technical Co-operation schemes • New scholarship programme (Chevening) <p>Package also provides £100k p.a. to British Council to assist universities in overseas recruitment.</p>
1980s	In direct response to the loss of government subsidy for overseas students, universities establish international offices and mount vigorous recruitment policies. The move is led by universities who were major recipients of overseas students (LSE establishes first international office)
1984	British Council establishes the Education Counselling Service to support universities' overseas recruitment activities. 72 subscribing institutions. Pilot projects in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore. (By 1998 – 146 HEIs + 140 institutions from other sectors)
1984	Research Councils establish UK Research Office (UKRO) to promote the involvement of UK researchers in EU research programmes
1986	Quality assurance on universities' agenda – Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) establishes codes of practice on maintenance and monitoring of standards, including external examining and graduate training and research. CVCP sets up its Academic Audit Unit in 1987 to conduct institutional audits

1987	EU Erasmus programme set up and starts to send European students to UK – 1000 in 1987. By 1990s Europe is once more a major source of students
1987	Number of new scholarships funded by government in response to changing world situations – eg British Undergraduate Fellowships Scheme for black South Africans as apartheid breaking down; Sino-British Friendship Scholarships jointly funded by Britain, China, Hong Kong to support China’s modernisation agenda
1992	<p><i>Further and Higher Education Act:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> abolishes binary line between universities and polytechnics, initiating a major expansion of UK domestic HE sector over next two decades - in 1992 there are 52 universities, by 2016, 159 HEIs establishes the Higher Education Funding Council and Further Education Funding Council brings the regulation of all HEIs' teaching and learning activities within an overall statutory framework through a dual system – (1) Assessment by Higher Education Funding Councils of QA at subject level and (2) Audit by Higher Education Quality Council (HEQC) of institutions' QA mechanisms. HEQC is owned by the institutions and is set up by CVCP, CSCFC (Conference of Scottish Centrally Funded Colleges) and SCOP (Standing Conference of Principals). Its remit is to contribute to the maintenance and improvement of the quality of higher education in the UK through quality audits, development projects and production of good practice guidelines
1993	ODA closes its Technical Co-operation and Training Programme. In the late 1980s this brought over half of all government supported o/s students to UK (1988/9 12,000 of total 22,750). ODA shifts from funding individual projects to funding national programmes in agreement with governments. This means that universities can no longer tap into ODA funding to finance courses designed to meet o/s needs; instead they are required to assess market need.
1980-90s	O/s student numbers – after an initial fall, by 1986 numbers have increased by 25% in 5 years. Dramatic increase in early 90s – 1996 196,000. More moderate increase after this (2001 - 186,000). Increases helped by recovering economies of 1990s. O/s students are initially concentrated in traditional old universities (Oxbridge, London, Edinburgh). In 1992 when polytechnics change status, their o/s students are less than 6% of total. By 2006 Oxford and Cambridge have only 4%, London 11% (down from 20% and 22% in 1920s)
1997	Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) established after a Joint Planning Group of the universities and funding councils, recommends a new single system of QA for HE. QAA is funded by subscriptions from the UK's HEIs and by the funding councils.
1999	Distance Learning provision is included within the QAA Code of Practice for the Assurance of Academic Quality and Standards in Higher Education
1999	Prime Minister visits China and sees potential to recruit more Chinese students
1999	British Council Education Counselling Service with funding from government departments proposes a UK national brand to recruit students – “Building a world-class brand for British education: the Brand Report”

1999	PM announces the Prime Minister's Initiative (PMI) to increase number of o/s students including the number of Chinese students from 5,000 to 20,000
2000-2005	<p>PMI programme. British Council Education Counselling Service develops PMI strategy in consultation with ECS members and other UK bodies – <i>“Realising Our Potential: a strategic framework for making UK education the first choice for international students”</i></p> <p>5-year programme aims to increase the number of international students studying in the UK and to increase collaboration between universities, colleges, government and other bodies to promote UK education abroad.</p> <p>Target: increase number of non-EU students by 75,000 by 2005 – 50,000 in HE, 25,000 in FE. (Targets exceeded ahead of schedule with extra 93,000 in HE and 23,000 in FE).</p> <p>Funding: around £12m over 5 years Check Funding from BC (£6.15m), DFES, devolved administrations, other gov't depts</p> <p>PMI activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education UK brand – development of brand and deployment through country specific brand campaigns. Development of education sector campaigns • Marketing and communications – development of Education UK website and communication strategy, development and deployment of global and country/sector specific marketing campaigns, communication strategy through agents and influencers. • Market intelligence – development of emi to support recruitment. Includes transnational education. <p>Surveys:</p> <p>2001s - 67% of universities have an international strategy</p> <p>2003 - 80% of British HEIs have targeted marketing strategies to recruit international students</p>
2001	UK e-University established to deliver e-learning courses overseas (ceases operation in 2004)
2002	Research Councils UK (RCUK) set up after a government review. RCUK's aim is a strategic partnership between the seven individual research councils to work together more effectively to enhance overall impact and effectiveness of research, training and innovation
2004	<i>Education Act</i> , following Government white paper <i>'The Future of Higher Education' (2003)</i> which outlined the need for greater investment in higher education and made the case for increased graduate contributions. The Act aims to introduce a market into higher education by allowing HEIs to set their own fees up to a maximum of £3,000 per year provided that they have an access agreement approved by the Office of Fair Access (OFFA). Upfront fee payments are abolished - fees to be paid on a deferred basis through the repayment of a tuition fee loan after graduation. Majority of HEIs choose to charge £3,000 fees – these begin in 2006/07 academic year
2004	Collaborative provision and flexible and distributed learning included within an QAA updated code of practice. Globally this is the first time that any country has drawn these areas into its national academic infrastructure. This provides a mechanism for UK HEIs to demonstrate the quality and standards of their TNE and distance programmes
2004-08	BRIDGE programme – UK-Russia universities. Funded by DFES and managed by British Council. Aims to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase collaborative effort between Russian and UK universities by means of joint programme development leading to dual degrees or other mutually recognised academic qualifications • develop a model of university partnership brokering and dual degree development that will be replicable across other countries • extend the reach and availability of UK awards to Russian students • develop a community of innovators in Russia and the UK • facilitate a change in Russian higher education leading to a more outcomes-based, learner-centres, interactive and accountable system • provide learning points for UK and Russian higher education management • progress change in Russia’s systems as they follow the Bologna process <p>Resulted in 58 partnerships (44 were dual awards and 14 were research projects) <i>‘BRIDGE has been a success, meeting most of its targets and resulting in a high degree of satisfaction amongst institutions and students’</i>. <i>‘we conclude that some form of successor programme to BRIDGE – again delivered on a Russia-wide basis - would be welcomed in both countries and should be encouraged’</i> Evaluation of UK-Russia BRIDGE programme BIS (2010) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/31922/10-989-bridge-report.pdf</p>
2006	Africa Unit established by Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), in the wake of the Commission for Africa Report ‘Our Common Interest’. Based in the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU). Aim: to promote Higher and Further Education partnerships between the UK and Africa as part of the capacity-building needs identified in the Report.
2006-11	<p>PMI2 launched by PM alongside UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI). Both are 5 year programmes.</p> <p>PMI2 aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Securing the UK's position as a leader in international education and sustain the managed growth of UK international education delivered both in the UK and overseas. 2. Increasing the number of international students who choose to study in the UK continues to be a priority. However, PMI Phase 2 also addresses a wider international agenda. <p>The strategy sets out four interconnected strands designed to build on the success of PMI 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK positioning: marketing and communication strategies to position the UK as a leader in international education and to increase the number of international students undertaking UK education. • Diversification of markets in order to reduce dependence on a small number of countries that currently send high numbers of students to the UK. • Ensuring the quality of the student experience.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing strategic partnerships, including supporting more UK universities and colleges to engage in collaborative partnerships with their counterparts overseas. <p>Targets: By 2011, to achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An additional 70,000 international students in UK higher education; and 30,000 in further education Double the number of countries sending more than 10,000 students p.a. to the UK Demonstrable improvements to student satisfaction ratings in the UK:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> see steady increases in satisfaction ratings given by international students in attitudinal surveys see a demonstrable change in perceptions of students considering the UK as a study destination Achieve significant growth in the number of partnerships between the UK and other countries <p>Funding: £7 million a year – provided by the Government, British Council, the further and higher education sectors, and the English language sector</p>
2006-13	Development Partnerships in Higher Education (DELPHE). DFID funding of £15m. Managed by British Council. Aimed to use HEIs as catalysts within developing countries to stimulate research and develop products to support the achievement of the UN's Millennium Development Goals. Created 200 partnerships. DELPHE is the successor to the Higher Education Links Programme
2008-11	INSPIRE programme launched by British Council. International Strategic Partnerships in Research and Education aims to significantly strengthen the academic and research partnerships between the UK and a strategic selection of countries in Central South Asia, including: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan. Funded by British Council - £200,000 over 3 years. Continues beyond 2011 in some countries with matched funding from governments (e.g Pakistan, Bangladesh)
2000-2010	Decade of increasing Gov't funding pressures. Eg 2001 Commonwealth Scholarships are restricted to those that are relevant to needs of country. 2008 Spending Cuts – FCO protects Chevening but cuts awards to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Bahamas, Brunei, Cyprus, Malta, Singapore Immigration agenda coming to political forefront and visa policy is seen as key tool in managing immigration. Costs of student visa rise steadily – from £36 in 2002 to £145 in 2009. 2003 visa renewal fees of £115 introduced for students who need to extend visas to complete dissertations
2007	RCUK International Strategy published. Offices opened in China (2007), USA (2007), India (2008). Overseas teams based in these, working with Science & Innovation Network (SIN), UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) and British Council teams.

	By 2016 - China RCUK has facilitated £170million in co-funded programmes supporting 117 UK-China research projects involving 102 universities and 90 industry partners. India - RCUK and Government of India have invested over £200million in cofounder research projects - 100+ UK-India research projects involving 90+ industry partners.
2008	Secretary of State for Higher Education, Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) initiates a consultation <i>"The Internationalisation of Higher Education: a Ten Year View"</i> This questions the sustainability of international student recruitment levels, looks to long term partnerships/collaboration
2008	<i>'Globalisation: Meeting the challenge. An international strategy for Further Education in England'</i> (DIUS) file:///C:/Users/patki/Downloads/Globalisation_Strategy_Final.pdf Produced by the Learning and Skills Improvement Service <i>'The challenge for all colleges and learning providers is to ensure they have, or can develop, the appropriate educational and learning responses to the impact of globalisation'</i> . 4 goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting social cohesion and global citizenship • Supporting engagement with international partners to achieve their goals and ours • Maximising the contribution of the FE service to overseas trade and inward investment • Developing an underpinning infrastructure to support international engagement
2008-11	'Education Partnerships in Africa' programme agreed by BIS and British Council. BIS funding of £4.5 million plus BC funding to build/support 72 partnerships between further education and higher education institutions in England and Sub-Saharan Africa. Partnerships focus on developing employability, entrepreneurship and skills for local economies. Also includes capacity-building of higher education and further education. Successor to England Africa partnerships 2006-08.
2009	<i>"Higher Ambitions: the future of universities in a knowledge economy"</i> (BIS 2009) states 'Universities are one of the ways in which we engage with the world, and the world engages with us'. Government states it will continue to support universities in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding internationalisation at the core of their missions, in the way they engage with the rest of Europe and the world through collaboration, recruitment, teaching students a global perspective, and encouraging language learning; • Continuing to strengthen the UK's reputation as one of the world's best providers of e-learning, both for those who study here and students based outside the UK.
2009	International Education Advisory Forum (IEAF) established by BIS. Aims to co-ordinate UK Government approach to international education policy and strategy

2010	<p>Change of government to Coalition. PM David Cameron promise of “reducing immigration by tens of thousands” combines with “austerity” budget.</p> <p>Cuts to expenditure and new regime of university funding mean that income from international students is of continuing importance to universities. This is set against the government agenda of tightening of immigration and tackling abuse. Students represent one third of non-EU migrants entering UK each year – Home Office announces that net migration cannot be reduced without reforming student visas.</p>
2010	<p>Higher Education International Unit formed by merging the UK HE International Unit and the UUK HE Europe Unit. Funded by Universities UK, Guild HE, Higher Education Funding Councils, Higher Education Academy and QAA.</p>
2010	<p>Browne Review (October) <i>Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance</i> - aim to create a more sustainable way of funding higher education. Also considers wider participation and quality</p>
2011	<p>White Paper “<i>Higher Education: students at the heart of the system</i>” June 2011 BIS. sets out how the UK government will create a more dynamic and student-led system, which supports social mobility and economic growth and is affordable for government. The reforms will put higher education institutions on a secure financial footing and enable the HE system to compete internationally. New system of tuition fees started in September 2012 - all HEIs were permitted to charge a basic rate of fees of £6,000 per annum. HEIs with access agreements in place which had been approved by OFFA could charge a higher rate of up to a maximum of £9,000 per year.</p> <p>Government cut the amount of funding that institutions received from HEFCE in the form of teaching grants for low cost subjects – funding for these subjects now comes from student loan funding. This means that in most subjects from 2012-13 the costs of higher education teaching are primarily funded through tuition fees paid by students.</p>
2012	<p>Government provides funding to HE International Unit to develop HEGlobal website on TNE opportunities</p>
2013	<p>‘<i>Encouraging a British invention revolution: review of universities and growth</i>’. Independent review by Sir Andrew Witty for BIS investigates how universities can drive growth in their areas and for the benefit of the wider UK. Recommendations on simplifying complex funding streams, securing the potential of the technologies of the future, and giving universities a greater role in delivering economic growth</p>
2013	<p>Global Innovation Initiative launched. Initiated by British Council. Aim: to support multilateral research collaboration to address global challenges. Higher education partnership grant opportunity established between the United States and the United Kingdom aimed at strengthening multilateral research collaborations between universities in the U.S., UK, and other selected countries (Brazil, China, India, Indonesia). Approx. 16 grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$200,000 (U.S. competition) or from £100,000 to £150,000 (UK competition) to university consortia focusing on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)-related issues of global significance that foster cutting-edge multinational research and strengthen institutional international partnerships. Administered by the Institute of International Education in the U.S. competition British Council in the UK. Goals:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to increase the global mobility of students, researchers, faculty, and higher education administrators from the U.S., the UK, and other countries; • to develop a cadre of people in the U.S., UK, and other countries who have the international experience, outlook and knowledge to confront global challenges and operate in a global context; • to encourage international collaborations that develop capacity across a range of universities in the U.S., the UK, and other countries; • to forge university and business linkages that support a globally mobile talent pool and a multinational base for the exchange of discovery and innovation
2013	<p>2013 <i>'International Education: Global Growth and Prosperity'</i> published as one of the key sector strategies under the Government's Industrial Strategy. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/340600/bis-13-1081-international-education-global-growth-and-prosperity-revised.pdf</p> <p>Aims to expand UK exports via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 'warm welcome to international students' (estimated value £10.2bn in 2011-12 – government notes it is realistic for number of international students in higher education in the UK to grow by 15-20% over the next 5 years); • supporting TNE (including strengthening QA); Education technology (including MOOCs); • building relationships with emerging powers (8 priority countries - China, India, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Colombia, Turkey, Mexico, Indonesia and the Gulf) includes enhanced bilateral knowledge and innovation partnerships including the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) and UK-China Partners in Education Programme (UKCPIE), also expanding the number of Chevening scholarships (to attract highly qualified students), and Department for International Development (DFID) plans to double its investment in development partnerships in higher education (SPHEIR launched 2016) , UK Outward Mobility Strategy (HE International Unit – launched July 2013) • building the UK brand • establishing a new International Education Council to act as a champion and ensure effective communication and engagement with all parts of the sector <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/306854/bis-14-707-industrial-strategy-progress-report.pdf</p> <p>Working with key partner countries to achieve mutual recognition of qualifications forms part of the strategy <i>'We are engaged, in collaboration with the UK National Academic Recognition Information Centre (UK NARIC), in multilateral agreements, networks and initiatives to promote UK qualifications and to improve mutual recognition internationally. These include the Lisbon Convention on the mutual recognition of higher education qualifications in the European region, the Bologna Process and ASEM – the initiative between the European Union and the Asia Pacific regional recognition agreement. We are also engaged in bilateral discussions with a number of countries – including the United Arab Emirates, Spain, Russia, India and Chile to resolve some specific bilateral issues regarding mutual recognition of qualifications'</i></p>

2013-14	<p>Two reports commissioned by BIS to inform the international education strategy:</p> <p><i>The wider benefits of international education in the UK</i>. BIS Research Paper 128 (2013) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/240407/bis-13-1172-the-wider-benefits-of-international-higher-education-in-the-uk.pdf</p> <p><i>The value of Transnational Education to the UK</i> BIS Research Paper 184 (2014) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/387910/bis-14-1202-the-value-of-transnational-education-to-the-uk.pdf</p>
2014	<p>Newton Fund launched as part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA). Aims to develop science and innovation partnerships that promote the economic development and welfare of collaborating countries. Managed by BIS and delivered through 15 UK delivery partners (Academy of Medical Sciences, British Academy, British Council, Innovate UK, Met Office, Royal Academy of Engineering, Royal Society, RCUK, each of the 7 research councils) in collaboration with 16 partner countries (Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, South Africa and wider Africa, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam)</p> <p>Funding originally £75 million each year for 5 years. In the 2015 UK Spending Review the Newton Fund was extended from 2019 to 2021 and expanded by doubling the £75 million investment to £150 million by 2021, leading to a £735 million UK investment to 2021, with partner countries providing matched resources within the Fund. Funding covers activities in three broad categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People: increasing capacity for science and innovation in partner countries. • Research: research collaborations on development topics. • Translation: creating collaborative solutions to development challenges and strengthening innovation systems.
2015	<p>Conservative government elected. Agendas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to tackle abuse in student visa system continues (but difficulty of balancing this with 'welcoming more international students') • introducing framework to recognise universities offering the highest teaching quality • encouraging universities to offer more two-year courses • seeking to ensure that the UK continues to support world-leading science, and invests public money in the best possible way https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nurse-review-of-research-councils-recommendations

2016	Higher Education and Research Bill announced as part of the government's new legislative plans. Likely to be the most significant changes to HE system in England since 1992. Higher Education and Research Bill – proposals for major structural changes to HE system involving re-structuring of current funding, quality and research agencies and establishing an Office for Students (OfS) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).
2016	<p>SPHEIR (Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation and Reform) launched. DFID funded £45 million programme to support higher education transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Aims to deliver systemic and sustainable change within higher education systems, enabling them to better meet graduate and labour market needs and support inclusive development and economic growth. Will provide funding to large-scale partnerships working across different sectors and countries to improve the quality, relevance, accessibility and affordability of higher education.</p> <p>Led by the British Council in association with Price Waterhouse Cooper and UK Higher Education International Unit.</p>