

All Party Parliamentary Group for International Students

REPORT 2018-19



1. Elected Officers

The APPG for International Students was re-formed on 12 July 2017 following the 2017 General Election. The first meeting of the new Parliament elected eight officers:

- Paul Blomfield MP (Co-Chair and Registered Contact)
- Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea (Co-Chair)
- Nicky Morgan MP (Secretary)
- Baroness Uddin (Treasurer)
- Geoffrey Robinson MP (Vice-Chair)
- Alison Thewliss MP (Vice-Chair)
- Baroness Warwick of Undercliffe (Vice-Chair)
- Lord David Willetts (Vice-Chair)

During 2018-19, the APPG for International Students' main focus of activity has been conducting and reporting from our first inquiry.

2. Inquiry

Our first inquiry was launched in July 2018 and reported on 6 November 2018. The report, *A Sustainable Future for International Students in the UK*, was well received by the education sector, press, and government officials. The report was the first of its kind to explore the whole international student journey, receiving evidence and giving recommendations on school, English language, further and higher education. We gratefully acknowledge the support received from the University of Sheffield for their support in writing and designing the report, to the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) sponsoring the dissemination of the report, and to the secretariat Independent Higher Education and their group Exporting Education UK for delivering the inquiry evidence call and sessions and their role in writing the report. The APPG is also grateful to the three international students who supported the inquiry through paid-internships hosted by the secretariat. These students supported the writing up of the various inquiry sessions.

The inquiry received over 60 pieces of evidence from over 49 different organisations. Fifteen representatives from education, business, and the community joined the initial roundtable, and a further 18 attended oral evidence sessions in Parliament. The APPG hosted an event with London-based Embassies who support international students in which 12 countries were represented. We had further events at the annual Study World Conference and with Exporting Education UK. Overall, over 100 individuals and groups contributed to the APPG Inquiry.

The inquiry has had a significant impact already with many of the recommendations supported in the government's new International Education Strategy. The APPG will continue to encourage the education sector and government to move forward with the recommendations and ideas put forward through the evidence session.

[The Inquiry report can be found on the APPG Website.](#)

3. Events

The APPG Inquiry was the focus of most APPG events in 2018-19:

APPG Inquiry Sessions: 17 July 2018

Session 1: In the Classroom Simon Marginson, Institute for Education, UCL Yinbo Yu and Ilyas Nagdee, NUS James Pitman, Bellerby's College and Study Group Shelagh Legrave, Principal of Chichester College Group	Session 2: Research, Trade and Soft Power John Bramwell, British Council Eliza Bonham-Carter, Royal Academy Schools Dr Sonal Minocha, Bournemouth University Dr Zainal Abidin Sanusi, Embassy of Malaysia
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APPG Inquiry Sessions: 11 September 2018

Session 3: In the Community Sunder Katwala, British Future Binita Mehta-Parmar, Modern Britain Conor Burns MP Jane Gratton, British Chambers of Commerce	Session 4: Nations and Regions Ruth Arnold, Sheffield University Dan Jarvis MP and Mayor of Sheffield City Region Catriona McCarthy, Ulster University	Session 5: Soft Power of Students José Ignacio Valenzuela (Columbia) Baby Ruth Villarama (Philippines)
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APPG Launch: 6 November 2018

The report *A Sustainable Future for International Students in the UK* was launched in Parliament on 6 November 2018. The launch featured a presentation from the report's main author, Jennifer Knapp-Wood of the University of Sheffield, and a roundtable to discuss the report. The roundtable brought representatives from education, business, community, and government together to discuss the recommendations and support planning for ensuring the report made an impact in the lives of international students.

Annual International Students Day Celebration 15 November 2018

The Group also held their annual celebration of International Students Day on 15th November 2018.

The Group invited 25 international students and 12 members of embassy staff from London embassies to the House of Commons for Afternoon Tea. The event was again delivered in partnership with the British Council and featured speeches by Yinbo Yu, NUS International Students Officer, and the APPG Co-Chairs. Seven members attended alongside representatives from schools, colleges, universities, and representatives from European national student unions.

Supporting International Students: A View from Directors of International: 29 April 2019

The final event of the 2018-19 session was held in partnership with the British Universities International Liaison Association (BUILA). The APPG hosted a roundtable focusing on the key recommendation from the Inquiry for Universities. The roundtable also explored the international education strategy and how universities, government, and others could collaborate to overcome the barriers faced in supporting international students.

4. Finance

The secretariat for the APPG is provided by **Independent Higher Education** on behalf of the **Exporting Education UK** group which they administer. Independent Higher Education is a not for profit group representing the interests of independent providers of higher education including training, professional skills, and pathways for UK and international students into HE.

Exporting Education UK is a group led and administered by Independent Higher Education to bring together those with an interest in international education including schools, colleges, universities, and student groups. The group is cross sector and aims to support a collaborative approach to international education and protect and promote the UK's international education sector.

As in the past, Independent Higher Education allocated two days per month of staff time to the APPG; however, this year a significant amount of additional staff time was allocated for the APPG Inquiry. This will not be able to be sustained in the next year, and the secretariat has stated that additional funding must be found to support the level of activity the APPG now conducts. In-kind support from Independent Higher Education was the second largest contribution to the APPG.

This year the APPG encouraged those interested in supporting the work of the APPG to become *APPG Supporters*. Supporters can be organisations with a strong interest in international students, who support the aims and objectives of the APPG and wish to support future work done by the group. As membership of the APPG for International Students can only be held by MPs or Peers, Supporter status allows those organisations an opportunity to fully engage with the APPG through meetings, events, and briefings. APPG Supporters contribute £250 per organisation (charity) or £350 per organisation (other) and receive all APPG for International Students newsletters, reports and briefings, invitations to APPG events (where appropriate and subject to room capacity) and recognition of their Supporter status at APPG events and on the APPG website. Invoices were issued on an annual basis rather than the APPG reporting year due to the accounting year of the secretariat being on an annual basis.

All members of the group Exporting Education UK were given APPG Supporter status in recognition of the funding they provide to the APPG through their membership fees.

APPG Supporters for 2018-19 were:

National Union of Students (NUS)
UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)
Universities UK
Association of Colleges
British Association of Independent Schools with International Students (BAISIS)

Independent Schools Council (ISC)
English UK
Study Group
INTO Global
Cambridge Education Group
Kaplan International Pathways
University of Bradford Faculty of Management & Law
London Business School
The Northern Consortium (NCUK)
International Students House
University of Reading
London Metropolitan University
Oxford Business College
Royal Academy of Dance
Sannam S4
Boarding Schools Association
Alpha Plus Group
Bosworth Independent College
CIEE London
Chartered Association of Business Schools
Carfax Education
China-Britain Business Council
Dukes Education
Dulwich College Management International
IDP Connect
Oxford Business College
SAE Education
Sotheby's Institute of Art
Twin Group

Donations

For the second year we are grateful to the British Council for their donation to the APPG Celebration of International Students Day which was held on 15 November 2018. The British Council's donation covered the cost of the room, afternoon tea, and sound equipment for the event.

APPG Inquiry

The APPG Inquiry was funded through donations and in-kind support from a number of different groups.

The University of Sheffield provided in-kind support to the writing and design of the APPG Report to a total of £15,973.35.

Independent Higher Education provided in-kind support through staff time and three internships for international students to support the inquiry to a total of: £781.21

UKCISA donated £1200 to print and disseminate the reports.

The APPG has reached the minimum threshold for reporting to the Register of All-Party Parliamentary Groups for the first time and will submit these accounts within 28 days of the AGM which considers this report. The APPG doesn't have a bank account and holds no funds or assets itself at this time.

5. Income and expenditure statement for the All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Students

Period covered by this statement: 17th July 2018-16th July 2019

A. Balance brought forward from previous year	£962.48
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B. Income received during the year:	
i. Membership subscriptions (parliamentarians)	£0
ii. Monetary Donations	
a APPG Supporter memberships	£8,700
b Monetary donations (sponsorship only)	£3,165.74
c Monetary donations (in-kind)	£15,973.35
d Monetary donations (secretariat)	£5,502.58
iii. Trading income	£0
iv. Interest received	£0
v. Other (please explain)	£0
TOTAL income	£33,341.67
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C. Expenditure during the year:	
i. Employment costs (salaries, NI, pensions costs)	£14,784.19
ii. Cost of contractors and freelance staff	£15,973.35
iii. Visits and Events (UK)	£1970.03
iv. Visits and Events (abroad)	£0
v. Cost of generating income	£0
vi. Office and communication costs	£1576.78
vii. Other (please explain)	£0
TOTAL expenditure	£34,304.15
D. Balance Carried Forward	£0

E. Value of benefits in kind or sponsorship received from each source during the year:

Source	Description	Value in £s in bands of £1500	Received
UKCISA	Sponsorship – Printing Costs	0-1500	06/11/2018
University of Sheffield	In-kind - Writing and Design of Inquiry Report	15,001-16,500	06/11/2018
British Council	Sponsorship (Afternoon Tea) – International Students Day	1501-3000	17/11/2018
Independent Higher Education	Secretariat (Staff)	15,001-16,500	16/07/219
Independent Higher Education	Event Costs	1501-3000	16/07/2019