Celebrating years of INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

NORTHERN CONSORTIUM

NCUK

About The Northern Consortium and NCUK

he Northern Consortium is a charity founded in 1987 to facilitate access to British education for international students. It was established by a group of forward thinking universities in the north of England. The group, keen to share their knowledge and experience, established one of the earliest examples of transnational education.

As a result, tens of thousands of students have benefitted from access to international education over the last thirty years. They choose from thousands of different courses, and earn good undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in a huge range of subjects.

In 2003, the Northern Consortium, established its wholly-owned subsidiary, NCUK, to continue to create opportunities internationally that improve access to higher education for students globally.

NCUK qualifications are recognised by our own universities and by most others across the UK, as well as by universities internationally. Far more than other qualifications, they prepare students to hit the ground running at university.

Students can study in their own country or at one of our Study Centres in the UK or Europe, taught by quality assured partners whose standards are as high as our own. Our qualifications are backed by fantastic levels of service and support, and an outstanding 30-year track record.

NCUK is here to make sure that international students get in and get on. We help them find their perfect place at a UK university.























Developed by UK universities for UK universities, providing a **guaranteed** choice of programmes

"International students are an essential community in any UK university. They bring their own viewpoint to the classroom, allow our UK students to gain valuable experience of other cultures and ensure that we have a truly global learning community.

NCUK fulfils the aim of attracting students from around the world who are intellectually and socially well-prepared for their time at university and therefore will succeed in their chosen subject, contribute to the intellectual and cultural life of the University and become ambassadors for the University during their subsequent successful careers.

We have always found the preparation that the NCUK qualification gives our students enables them to perform at a consistently good level. The close relationship the member universities have with NCUK allows us to alert them to changes in requirements so that the NCUK curriculum is continuously adapting to improve student preparation.

My expectation is that over the next 30 years, NCUK will have greater global presence, with larger programmes in a wider range of developing countries, particularly across Africa and Asia. This will allow a wider group of students to access a quality UK education in an economical way, and some of these programmes could allow students to obtain their degrees as a collaboration between NCUK and member universities without having to leave their own country."

Jo Purves: Pro Vice Chancellor, University of Salford and Chair, The Northern Consortium















1987: Malaysia

he Northern Consortium and later NCUK came into being after the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) was approached by the Malaysian government to find a way of developing the skills of its own university students. As the story goes, UMIST thought they might be talking about 20 or so students. It turned out they were thinking in the thousands. A call went out to other universities based in the north around the M62 corridor. The result was the start of the only known university collaboration to produce a series of pathway and preparation programmes for international students. Professors were drafted in from 12 universities to produce the first syllabus that would be delivered in Malaysia. Students would be awarded credit and transfer over to a range of degrees at the UK universities. From the early days, the Consortium ensured quality assurance was central to the offer. Academics would regularly visit the operation in Malaysia, including flying out each year to mark and moderate the exams. This might all be done in the UK now but the same high academic principles are applied.

One of the first students to take up the offer was Redza Rafiq Abdul Razak. He shares his story here:

"My first impressions of my NCUK Study Centre were quite foreboding. However, over time, I realized that first impressions can be wrong. NCUK was definitely the right place to be with the holistic experience combining lectures, tutorials, assignments and exams definitely preparing me for university life in the UK.

I remember my NCUK teacher Ms. Sheila Tilly (if my memory serves me right), who was relentless in providing with words of encouragement and would drop us bits and pieces of UK culture in the course of our engagement with her.

While the NCUK experience did not really enhance my English Language skills much (this was actually something I had acquired through reading comics from England), its day-to-day rigours definitely helped my abilities to multi-task



The Northern Consortium is established.

1987

Liverpool John Moores recognises Liverpool-based businessman, Sir John Moores for his outstanding contribution to the region's business and community life by making him its first Honorary Fellow.



and compartmentalise. My NCUK experience was an eyeopener for me as it prepared me for student life in the UK."

After studying his NCUK qualification in Malaysia, Redza Rafiq managed to gain a place at The University of Hull studying Economics and Business.

"During my time at university, I had immersed myself in football and culture as well; and this was something that had stood me in good stead in subsequent years. University life gave me the freedom and the ability to test out individual judgement calls, albeit in the relatively micro environment. The experience, exposures and the networking were huge benefits to studying at university in the UK.

In retrospect, studying in the UK was absolutely the right decision for me, because being in the UK meant that I was able to attend an interview for the biggest conglomerate in Malaysia (at that time); and this led me to my first job.



UK education has absolutely been an asset to my career, I believe that there is no substitute for good education; and UK education fits the bill.

Redza Rafiq Abdul Razak.

NCUK Malaysia ► The University of Hull (Economics & Business)

If I could give my younger self some advice it would be to study more; and a lot less monkeying around. If I could advise anyone to study in the UK I would put it simply: Do It – the experience and the exposure will be your greatest assets.

I later went on to study an Honorary Doctorate in Economics from Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UNIMAP).

I haven't stayed in the same industry that I started in after graduation but the changes were due to external factors and decisions from third parties. The roles I have assumed between graduating and now include being the Chief Operations Officer and (eventually) Managing Director of the company that was tasked to rejuvenate Cyberjaya; and as the Chief Executive of the organization that has been mandated to spearhead economic development in the North of Malaysia.

UK education has absolutely been an asset to my career, I believe that there is no substitute for good education; and UK education fits the bill.

My current job as Chief Executive at the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) and the revitalisation of Cyberjaya with definitely be my two greatest achievements so far. NCUK provided me with the foundation to prepare me accordingly".

NCUK open up in Kenya o

1990

1995

1996



The University of Birmingham offers
Britain's first ever course in Playwriting.

Sir Harry Kroto, FRS, who studied BSc Chemistry 1961, and PhD 1964 at The University of Sheffield awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

30 years later, Malaysian students continue to benefit from studying with NCUK. Now though, they have a choice of over 50 Study Centres worldwide, including the UK and Ireland.

Soon Kiat Ker chose to complete his studies at the INTO Manchester centre. As he explains, NCUK remains a top choice for Malaysian students...





66

My tutors helped me a lot with my studies and the design of the NCUK International Year One qualification was very similar to university study which allowed me to settle into university comfortably.

Soon Kiat Ker
Malaysia ► INTO Manchester

The University of Manchester

It seems fitting that in NCUK's 30th Anniversary year, we also announced our new Study Centre in Malaysia, in partnership with Fairview School, Kuala Lumpur.

"We are delighted to be working with NCUK, the International Foundation Year is written by universities, specifically for international students and the quality of the qualification is exceptional. NCUK will enable Fairview to provide our students with a much-needed faster and guaranteed route to university. At Fairview we are committed to each and every student's success and we are excited to bring this new opportunity to Malaysian students."

Daniel Chian, Chairman Fairview School Kuala Lumpur

The NCUK Pathway established.

1997

 The Cassini-Huygens spacecraft is launched towards Saturn with expertise from Queen Mary University of London Professor Carl Murray.





High quality education that helps students reach their goal of studying successfully in an overseas university

heldon Smith is Centre Principal at Guangzhou, OnCourse Ltd and explains how the NCUK International Foundation Year qualification has benefitted students and Oncourse itself:

"The College Counselling department rely on the support of NCUK for student admissions, especially the difficult cases, and we are very thankful for that. I think NCUK is incredibly supportive and responsive. They understand the needs and circumstances of the centres and can be surprisingly flexible.

I think the main strength of the NCUK qualification lies in how the different modules interact and support the student, especially in terms of laying a foundation for both the skills and the language which students will need to succeed at an undergraduate level in an English speaking country. Doing this in a single year means more pressure for students, but also more rapid gains than if the same learning is stretched across two years (as with A level). The EAP module focuses on core academic English skills, rather than those which can readily be tests (as with IELTS).

I like the fact that it offers an opportunity to a wide spectrum the NCUK of students, Foundation Year qualification has a diverse student body. The best students will always succeed, but the weaker ones do need that extra support which the qualification can offer. What I'm most proud of is seeing students come in to the school, adjust to the demands of the qualification, work hard, and reach their goal of going to an overseas university. I've heard back from students who only just got the grades to progress to university, and I love seeing how confident they have become.





The best preparation for university study in the UK and beyond

eter Dale, Operations Director at St. Peter's College in Colombia, believes NCUK has helped provide a clear pathway for international students and recognises the importance of the qualifications:

"NCUK provides a complete and professional support service for all key aspects of our operation, specifically marketing, academic and university admissions. The academic and admissions support is invaluable for our operation, throughout the academic year. I believe that our relationship with NCUK is very positive, since we are supporting each other in achieving mutual goals of academic and business success.

The NCUK qualification combines key language skills (EAP) with focused teaching in subject areas. The IFY is attractive compared to A-levels because it is a one-year course and superior to IELTS because it offers serious academic training in subjects such as Maths, Economics and Physics.

NCUK will maintain its quality positioning over the next 30 years, which is crucial to future success. It will adapt, develop and expand its programmes according to the needs and opportunities of a fast-moving international education market place. With its continued expansion in terms of more university routes both in the UK and other countries, NCUK can position itself as a world leader in quality higher education solutions.

I'm most proud about helping our students to maximize their potential and get places in some of the best universities in the UK. See them improve and mature during the IFY programme so that they are equipped at the end of it to achieve more success in the UK.



Students like Maria Jose Ibarbo, one of our first cohort of students who wanted to study sound engineering but there were no suitable degrees available in Colombia. Her dreams to study in the UK were supported by a a three year grant from the Northern Consortium."



Expansion into China

n the 1990s, NCUK and the ACE Education Group started working together to offer Pre-University preparation programmes in China. From this collaboration, NCUK and ACE established Study Centres across China from Beijing and Shanghai, to Chengdu, Chongqing, Changsha, Suzhou, Wuhan and Guangzhou. ACE later separated but that existing partnership, NCUK now operates with the Cogdel Group in Chengdu, Chongqing and Suzhou; OnCourse in Wuhan, Guangzhou and Xia'an; and KaiBo Financials in Chengdu, Xi'an and Changsha.

Haijun Liu (Justin) studied the International Foundation Year at Chengdu No.7 High School in China in 2003. His journey with NCUK began with a stroke of luck...

"NCUK just happened to initiate the first joint venture in China with my high school in which I attended at that time. My parents and I were actually considering studying higher education abroad, so we went to the office, found the course and knew it was a very good opportunity. When I think of it now, it was a very confusing and helpless time for both muself and my parents to make such an important decision for the future since they barely had any experience of foreign studies. But the International Foundation Year qualification specified a very straightforward and clear path to university admission, so we chose it.

NCUK provides a great opportunity to open a door to a world of adventures for students wanting to study in Britain, this gives students more life opportunities with more variety and possibilities.

Haijun Liu (Justin). NCUK IFY in China ▶ UK University



I enjoyed the process of re-learning the subject from a different perspective such as adapting to western thinking and expressions of knowledge in English which was like a logic transformation process to me. In addition, the heuristic and guiding teaching methods used by the lecturers and amiable class atmosphere was quite memorable.

I think NCUK offered a very good bridge between my high school

study in China and university study in the UK. The International Foundation Year qualification provided by NCUK gave me a clear preview and insight of British style education such as thesis writing and selectable questions in exams which were totally different experiences compared to my previous learning experience in Chinese school.

On the social side, I joined lots of student societies, had several part-time jobs and travelled to lots of interesting places. Most importantly, I gained so many unforgettable and invaluable memories, friendships, knowledge and methodologies.

It took me some time at the beginning of university to grasp the rhythm and set the pace when it came to my education. I was fortunate to get through this and enjoyed the rest of the following years which helped me to succeed in getting a 1st class degree and distinction degree."

Justin is now a Project Manager for Philips Healthcare based in Suzhou. His

responsibilities includes leading a cross-functional project management team, developing KPI, motivating his team and ensuring the team has clear targets to enable top quality delivery, align functional and BU team activities to instil a structured, hierarchal project approach

and overall management of product design and development, quality control, regulatory affairs, marketing, service and manufacturing with appropriate project management tools.

"NCUK provides a great opportunity to open a door to a world of adventures for students wanting to study in Britain, this gives students more life opportunities with more variety and possibilities."

Dean Arthur is Director of Operations (Academic) at Cogdel and has worked with Cogdel for over 15 years. He's currently based at the Chongqing Centre but has responsibility to support all the Cogdel Centres.

"The International Foundation Year is much more than an academic qualification. The true benefit is that it does what it says on the tin! It gives students a strong foundation in academic studies but more importantly it prepares them for study and life at University in the UK. Students from the Chongqing Centre often return to visit us after their first year at university and tell me thank you, the qualification really made it easy for me to follow the courses and the practical lessons prepared me for work in the labs.

NCUK is a holistic pathway to a bright academic future. It is a real pleasure to watch students develop during the course both academically and as people. The International Foundation Year gives them a platform to grow not only their academic

understanding but also their English abilities. My daughter is Chinese, if she decides to study in the UK I would put her onto the International Foundation Year qualification. I can give no greater endorsement than that!"



First partnership in China launched.

NCUK provides preparation qualifications for Masters students.

1999



Xian ∠hang.Cogdel Chengdu Centre (China)► Aston University





Creating impact and adding value to each student's life...

atasha Chopra is Managing Director of The Chopras Institute of Professional Education, Delhi and highlights the relationship between The Chopras and NCUK:

"Our relationship with NCUK is a relatively recent one but the trust and faith that has been placed in our organisation is inspiring and motivating. We are committed to do justice to this relationship and overcome the challenges that are there in the Indian market which has a resistance to foundation and pathway progression programmes based out of India.

As relative newcomers to the NCUK family, we do have many stories to tell. The family of one of our students from Kolkata, Mohammed Faizan Ahmed, were impressed by how much he had matured during his year in Delhi studying The International Year One (Mohammed now studies Business Management at the University of Salford). Another student Yukti Bhardwai, has achieved the highest grades (outside China) of all NCUK students worldwide. For his efforts, Yukti is a winner of an NCUK Prize Award in 2017.

Our mission to create impact and add value to each student's life is in perfect sync with the NCUK product offering of a progression pathway and philosophy. We are proud of our partnership that is backed by credited and high ranking universities that allows us to guide the students to make a smooth transition from their Indian High School to being successful students in a UK university.

NCUK is a fabulous pathway and progression option for international students wanting to study in the UK."

Georgina Jones, NCUK's Market Development Director remembers meeting the first cohort of students in Delhi studying the NCUK International Year One.

"Amongst the group was a very quiet student who was polite when spoken to but I'm sure would have preferred to stay in the background. One year on and Shivin was one of the successful NCUK Prize Award winners, having achieved one of the highest grade across the International Year One. He'd started his second year at the University of Manchester.

The transformation was incredible. Before Natasha and myself stood a confident, proud young man, keen to share his experiences at Manchester."

As Shivin himself states:

"The NCUK qualification helped me to understand the UK education system before *I came here for university.* Doing this made it easier to adjust to studying in the UK whereas if I had tried to enter university without studying the NCUK qualification then it would have been much more difficult. Not only this but the NCUK International Year One kept its focus on independent learning which was a highly valuable asset when it came to studying in the UK."



Natsha Chopra and Shivin Gupta



nne Lawrence is Director of International Pathway Programmes at The University of Leeds and knows how qualifications such as the ones that NCUK provide are vital in helping international students:

"The NCUK qualifications are designed by and for UK Universities, meaning that the students who study them are well prepared for study at undergraduate or postgraduate level in the UK. The academic study skills and British style of learning which is present throughout the NCUK qualifications proves invaluable to them once they commence their degrees at UK institutions enabling them to succeed and flourish during their study at university.

International students bring an invaluable diversity to life on campus at the University of Leeds. We welcome students from over 145 different countries, and we are proud of the vibrant and the large international community on our campus.

NCUK provide a vital source of well-qualified and diverse international students to the University of Leeds. Throughour long-standing and well-established relationship with NCUK, we have seen many NCUK students study with us, become Leeds graduates and go on to a wide variety of successful careers internationally. NCUK has helped us engage in new markets and with transnational education in a way we would not have done as a lone institution.

Our university provides a 'Link to Leeds' Ambassador scheme, which gives new and prospective students the opportunity to speak with current international students at Leeds."



At SBC, the study pattern was just like at a UK university. It was a great foundation that prepared me for life in the UK. Studying in the UK is a challenge for international students but I wanted to make friends with people from different backgrounds and experience a diverse culture. The way people deal with difficulties is by being involved in teamwork and I wanted to make sure that I helped myself and other students.

Jiaxuan Ju (Joyce)
The Sino-British College, USST(China)

► The University of Leeds



Expanding the GLOBAL Network



y the early 2000s, NCUK decided it was time to expand the network. With successful partnerships in China, Japan and Pakistan, NCUK looked to the growing Nigerian market. There, leading educationalist and school owner, Dr Femi Ogunsanya, had recently opened Oxbridge Tutorial College and was looking for a Foundation Year for students who had completed the West African Senior School Certificate Examination offered by the West African Examination Council (WAEC). NCUK offered not only the perfect solution, but what would prove to be a long-standing relationship that continues to grow to this day.

Dr Femi Ogunsanya explains...

"The relationship with the NCUK has been very cordial. As our major international partner, they are always willing to share information on the UK system of education and this has enhanced the marketing of the NCUK International Foundation Year qualification to parents and students.

I am very proud of the fact that we help students to make informed university choices as a result of having had the opportunities to visit and interact with the faculties in the respective universities, which is an all-expenses paid initiative of NCUK. These visits equipped the Oxbridge Tutorial College team to deliver more effective marketing of the NCUK International Foundation Year qualification.

NCUK is a partnership that thrives on quality, excellence, integrity and fulfilment of aspirations through hands-on operations strategies."

NCUK announce partnerships in Japan and Nigeria.

Ajulu Nchedonna studied the International Foundation Year at Oxbridge Tutorial College in Lagos, Nigeria from 2008-2009. Studying for A-levels in Nigeria proved to be quite challenging for Ajulu, so he decided to join the Science and Engineering stream of the NCUK International Foundation Year. Although difficult at times, Ajulu had the support of Oxbridge staff throughout his time studying the International Foundation Year.

"My dislike and phobia towards chemistry made it an onerous task of understanding it. However, Mr. Onanusi (the Programme Coordinator), had this aura of brilliance whilst he taught the subject. Mind you, this was done without a single note, all he did was communicate the subject for 12 months, off the top of his head. Simply amazing. It inspired me to want to attain such level of excellence in whatever profession I was going to expose myself to."

It was the right move for Ajulu as he completed his Engineering degree from the University of Liverpool with First Class Honours and later a Masters course in Railway Systems Engineering at the University of Birmingham – the only university in the UK to offer this academic discipline. Recently Ajulu studied a MSc, DIC Petroleum Engineering Degree at Imperial College London.

Ajulu has had a robust core engineering career progression cutting across the several degrees acquired, covering manufacturing, oil & gas as well as railway transport industries. He has transferred the skills he learnt from NCUK and the universities he attended to the jobs he has done including:

- Mechanical/Manufacturing Design Engineer with Engineers' without Borders in Liverpool
- Systems Track Design Engineer with Dean Forest Railway in Birmingham
- Enhanced Oil Recovery Analyst at the QCCSRC in London
- Operations Systems Engineer at the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) in Nigeria
- Interface Engineer at the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), in Nigeria.

Currently, Ajulu works as a Project Manager with the NNPC Group, providing design and engineering services across the lifecycle of oil and gas assets; in addition to, EPCMI - Engineering, Procurement, Construction, Management and Installation operations.



Ajulu Nchedonna

NCUK IFY at Oxbridge Tutorial College (Lagos, Nigeria)

- University of Liverpool (Bachelors)
- ► University of Birmingham (Masters)

"The NCUK qualification provided me with a sense of ownership, in terms of being responsible for my study – from my studying strategy, to working out my intended career path at the time. Basically, it provided me a higher level of maturity and independence. NCUK is simply phenomenal."



"The best thing that NCUK provided for me was confidence. When I started university in the UK, I was able to communicate with my teachers and my classmates and I had the confidence to ask if I didn't know something which definitely helped with my degree.

Grace Liu

Wuhan Centre (China) UMIST & The University of Manchester

"Testimonies of other NCUK alumni made me realise how much of an advantage it is undertaking the NCUK qualification in your home country before you start your university studies."

Pearce Oluwaseyi

 $Chrisland\ Pre-Degree\ College\ (UK/Nigeria)$

► The University of Sheffield

"NCUK has a lot of experience in China.
The NCUK International Foundation Year
qualification is great for students whose first
language is not English. All of the students liked
the fact that the teachers are native English
speakers because they could practise their
presentation, learning and writing skills."

Li Chen Qing Dao Centre (China)

The University of Huddersfield & The University of Warwick

"I originally felt I wasn't ready to go abroad to study, but with NCUK I could stay in my own country and study in the UK style of education. I wanted to improve my potential for the future."

Jeonguen Park

IEN Institute (South Korea) ▶ The University of Bristol

OSino British College established with the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology.





International students' compelling cultural and communal contribution to UK Universities is immeasurable

Rory Clarke from Queen Mary University of London is part of the International Team and speaks about the university's partnership with NCUK and the importance of this partnership:

"International students' compelling cultural and communal contribution is immeasurable to a University like Queen Mary. The institution currently has 162 nationalities represented on campus and over 45% of our student body are classed as international students. Diversity in our student population is very important to the continued success of Queen Mary.

NCUK's successful and renowned pathway qualifications, across a multitude of different countries, help attract students who wish to study in the UK and specifically Queen Mary. The University's partnership with NCUK helps us to meet this key aim, most certainly by raising our own international profile in the regions where the consortium are active.

NCUK is in the very healthy position that it can decide on the scale of their own operation. So it can decide whether it wishes to consolidate or to grow its number of school partners over the coming years. I imagine that NCUK will have strong representation on each corner of the globe.

NCUK and the range of programmes it offers, really prepares the students for University level study in the UK."



The NCUK qualification provided me with the support I need to progress to a UK university, the EAP module felt very professional and allowed me to practice my English language skills. Everyone at my NCUK university has been very friendly and helpful too. I get lots of information and support from the staff.

Wanying Liu Changsha, China

Queen Mary University of London



he Northern Consortium's core charitable object is the advancement of education which it pursues through the activities of NCUK, its trading arm, and directly through the provision of scholarships, awards and investments in the international education market.

NCUK has contributed over £2m to the charity since 2010. In turn this has been reinvested in the communities NCUK works with. Each year, the Consortium awards over £50,000 to NCUK's highest achieving students. In Kenya alongside Brookhouse School, the President's Scholarship scheme has helped numerous students from one parent families and orphans who wouldn't have otherwise been able to attend university.

Brookhouse School in Kenya provides the NCUK International Foundation Year qualification. IFY Course Leader Tajinder Sehmi explains how NCUK has helped support Brookhouse School as well as how the qualification helps students...

"NCUK has boosted the numbers in the Sixth Form. In some cases, the siblings of IFY students join other Year Groups within the School.

NCUK has been very supportive as they have provided solutions to areas we have faced challenges. The partnership has worked very well as it has enabled most of our students to get placements. The current cohort started their Course much later than usual and so as a centre we faced issues regarding the dates for the EOS1 tests and EOS2 Examinations, but with the able support of the Academic Team, the dates for the examinations were changed to our favour.

Since we have had a partnership with the NCUK for over a decade, we are pleased with the cordial relationship we have maintained. This has benefitted us in our roles from Academic matters, Placements to Alumni at NCUK Universities.

The NCUK qualification guarantees a place at one of the NCUK Partner Universities whilst other qualifications do not. The duration of the course is shorter than A-Levels therefore suitable to the Kenyan (KCSE) curriculum. The RCS module prepares the students better for tertiary education as they learn the importance of research methods, presentations, referencing, plagiarism and meeting deadlines.

We are happy that by partnering with NCUK, we are able to give KCSE students opportunities to study in top UK universities. The Scholarship scheme in particular allows brilliant who are financially disadvantaged to get the opportunity to study abroad. We are proud to see our top achievers getting recognised when they win the NCUK prizes."

As the NCUK accommodates more partners (Centres and universities) globally, the number of students attaining a NCUK qualification will continue to increase. NCUK is an approachable, professional and non-profit body that has worked hard to help students across the globe to achieve academic and career goals.

James Richardson is Global Engagement Director at Sheffield Hallam University and is also part of the Northern Consortium Board of Trustees:

"My role is all-encompassing as I am responsible for delivering the University's Global Engagement strategy which includes partnerships, mobility and student recruitment. The University has new ambitious targets to increase the engagement of all our students in Study, Work or Volunteering Abroad and I'm very much looking forwards to supporting this development. For NCUK I have two key roles. I am my University's key contact for strategic developments and thus am part of the Stakeholders Group. We consider matters such as NCUK programme developments and suitability for today's international markets, as well as how we raise awareness of the unique and sector leading NCUK progression guarantee to a broad range of highly regarded universities. I am also a Trustee for the Northern Consortium charity which seeks to develop opportunities for the enhancement of education, particularly for students who may not otherwise be given the chance to study overseas; hundreds of students have benefitted from NCUK scholarships over the last 30 years.

Without international students studying at Sheffield Hallam, our UK students would not be able to explore their academic subjects in the full context of a globally engaged world. Whilst it is fine to hear the words of a professor or to watch a YouTube clip, nothing compares to sharing experiences or ideas with a fellow student from another country.

Sheffield Hallam University is one of the biggest universities in the UK and we aim to maintain a significant population of international students on campus. NCUK plays a vital role in enabling international students to progress to Sheffield Hallam from numerous countries and from a variety of academic backgrounds. Without the NCUK qualifications, students that want to study with us may not be able to do so.

NCUK is the only UK university consortia owned pathway provider. In 30 years I am confident NCUK will still be the market leader in the UK and also providing progression routes to some of the best universities around the world.

NCUK provides the best preparation for university study; high academic quality, internationally recognised and affordable."



James Richardson

"My favourite NCUK experience was the Prize Awards Ceremony. It was amazing that we all achieved something and people were able to recognise it. It was really inspiring to be in a room full of other people who had gone through the same experience as I had. It made studying an NCUK qualification worthwhile."

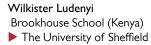
Damarie Saada Musenya Kalonzo Brookhouse School (Kenya)

The University of Leeds

"I was very fortunate to be the eighth recipient of the NCUK President's Award Scholarship...in addition to just being able to study at a Russell Group university which was a brilliant opportunity I think being able to reach out to the NCUK staff whenever I needed help or advice on different things

including just applying for the research that I was interested in added so much value to my experience as a student.

Without family here you need someone like family to support you and that was NCUK for me."



In South Korea, NCUK has been partners with IEN Institute since 2008, with over 97% of students admitted to university annually. Joan Park is the Academic Director of the IEN Institute and delves into the importance of NCUK and its qualifications:

"NCUK provides valuable support throughout the academic year with any questions that may arise. Both the academic and placement team are experienced people who look at students as individuals and not just a student number. Especially with university applications which can be a daunting task for international students and parents, NCUK placement team ensures that individual students are placed considering each student's case.

Our relationship with NCUK is a partnership, where we work together to educate and place students in UK universities. We do this by equipping students with the necessary skills and experience prior to going overseas, to cope with life and succeed in their studies in the UK universities. The mutual understanding of each other's roles and open communication allows for its success. It's a successful partnership that's in its 9th year

I consider NCUK qualification as a qualification that combines both the A-level and IELTS. That is, students study the subjects at the level of A-level and English for Academic Purposes is used instead of IELTS. However, having said this NCUK qualification better prepares international students as it provides students support with Academic English and studies. Students learn to take notes, to synthesize text and communicate them in subject specific essays, presentations and discussions. They also learn to evaluate, reflect and apply their new learnt knowledge and skills to other topics; unlike the IELTS, which test general academic skills. For example, in IELTS writing, students write about graphs or a general essay question. However, in EAP students develop skills to write for a subject specific essay, synthesizing and citing materials they have read in their essays.

Seeing students develop over the course of the programme and achieve their goals. It is always a pleasure to have students visit to talk about their experience in the UK and what they are doing now. NCUK is an opportunity provider for international students."

Such is the support for the Consortium, many of the universities add further value to the work of the Charity in increasing access to Higher Education. In 2017. Liverpool John Moores launched a £70k scholarship scheme to support NCUK's new market initiatives in Qatar, Colombia, Myanmar, Abuja, Nigeria and Thailand.



"As I studied the NCUK International Foundation Year in my home country, it allowed me to use my own language to get help and clarification."

Gee Moon Nam
IEN Institute (South Korea)

▶ The University of Kent



"Coming from high school in Nigeria, I had no idea what university life was going to be like. The NCUK qualification really showed me what it was going to be like. The Key Skills module helped me a lot, it taught me about doing research and how important that is for your studies."

Chiemeri Oluchi Mogbolu Oxbridge Tutorial College (Nigeria)

Sheffield Hallam University

"For me, all of the subjects and EAP module are very useful to study. The whole NCUK qualification will be beneficial for people like me who choose to study abroad."

Dongkwan Kang
IEN Institute (South Korea)

Aston University



A transformative journey for many students connecting them with the

BEST of British

Higher Education

s one of our 16 NCUK Universities, The University of Kent plays a big part in many of our students becoming successful. International Officer Rob Batchelor explains how his role fits into NCUK and delves into the importance of international students:

"International students are hugely important to us. Kent is known as the UK's European university, and we are very proud of our European and international connections. International students enrich our campuses in many ways, not least in the classroom where a range of experiences and opinions makes for more lively discussions. A range of nationalities also helps create exciting new social opportunities for all of our students wherever they are from, through student societies, accommodation, and off campus activities.

NCUK helps us initially by attracting overseas students to come and study at Kent. The breadth of countries they work in helps us maintain diversity in our overseas student population, avoiding overrecruitment from specific countries and thus maintaining a good student experience. However, it's not just about student recruitment, NCUK gives us access to education experts working on the ground in more than 17 countries. Although many of these countries are places we already visit regularly, without a doubt we've benefited from the local knowledge we've been able to tap into.

It's incredibly difficult to predict what NCUK might look like in 30 years, given the level of success that has been achieved in the first 30 years. However, something that I am convinced will not change is the determination and dedication of the organisation's network of brilliant staff. As such, I can only see NCUK going from strength to strength, with stronger student numbers coming from an even wider range of countries."



"A GLOBAL organisation that students and alumni can be PROUD

of being a part of"

racey Lancaster is Deputy Vice Chancellor (Corporate Communications) at Leeds Beckett University and also a member of the NCUK Board of Trustees:

"As DVC Corporate Communications for Leeds Beckett, my portfolio includes the recruitment of students and enhancing the reputation of the institution. The recruitment of students, both from within the UK and around the globe, is business critical and as such, NCUK is significant partner in achieving our objectives. In addition, this role takes action to increase the reputation and influence of the University. This includes raising the profile of the hugely diverse range of research undertaken at Leeds Beckett including the care for those with Dementia, tackling the misuse of drugs in sport, research into business ethics, and across the creative arts. The achievements of our students, our staff or our alumni are also integral to the reputation of the institution.

I am a member of the Northern Consortium Board of Trustees, working alongside colleagues from partner institutions to ensure that the charity fulfils its objectives, and is a positive influence in the markets in which we operate.

I see NCUK continuing to be a global organisation that students and alumni can be proud of being a part of."

Susan Isherwood, International Development Manager (Pathways) at Leeds Beckett University talks about her role and the positive influence of international students:

"My role is International Development Manager (Pathways), with responsibility for international student recruitment to our courses from partner organisations such as NCUK and I work extremely closely with all colleagues at NCUK.



International students make our campus and city the vibrant multicultural city that we are proud to be a part of. Students bring new perspectives to our subject areas for both the UK students and our academic staff.

Our University aims to be an excellent, accessible, globally engaged university. We are committed to creating meaningful links across the regions of the world and preparing graduates for life and work in a global society. NCUK prepares international students

to join us from a diverse range of regions and for a diverse range of subject areas which helps us to achieve this.

A global organization that students and alumni can be proud of being a part of.

NCUK is supportive to students and universities, preparing students well for their future studies in the UK."

"The most important thing for me is that through studying the NCUK International Foundation Year qualification, I became an independent learner."

Carlton Ayoola
Oxbridge Tutorial College (Nigeria/UK)
► Leeds Beckett University



From Undergraduate to Postgraduate

n 2002, NCUK had found significant success in the pre-university undergraduate market. Over 10,000 students had successfully been placed to UK universities. Now, an approach was made to expand its portfolio to help prepare international students seeking to join a Masters programme. As a result, the NCUK Pre-Masters Preparation qualification was created. Combining research methods with English for Academic Purposes, the Pre-Masters has since helped prepare international students for the rigours of postgraduate studies. Almost all of the students successfully complete their Masters within a year. A great achievement for any student.

Alastair Wood is Chair of Engineering Mathematics as well as Director of Internationalisation at the University of Bradford and has been involved with NCUK through its academic quality committees and qualification development:

"International students bring different ideas, different perspectives, cultural breadth and diversity, an international experience for our UK students, development of different programme offerings (regionally relevant), longerterm professional linkages (as alumni).

Jinghan Tan, from Shenyang, graduated from the Pre-Masters in 2011, moved to an MSc at the University of Bradford (graduating with a distinction in 2012) and is now completing a 3-year PhD project at Bradford, in collaboration with Bentley Motors. He has written and presented 4 international conference papers – THAT IS SUCCESS!

NCUK is a bridge to translate a multitude of international educational experiences into a common language.

On where he thinks NCUK might be in another 30 years: "Impossible to say! Personally, it feels like the original mission and modus operandi of NCUK and the requirements nowadays to be a sustainable transnational education organization are diverging. The international education marketplace has become very volatile and very competitive, making it very difficult to predict what NCUK might look like in another 30 years!"



NCUK launch in South Korea.

NCUK announce partnerships in Pakistan.

2009

2010

University of Manchester professors Konstantin Novoselov and Andre Geim awarded Nobel Prize in Physics for discovering Graphenes.

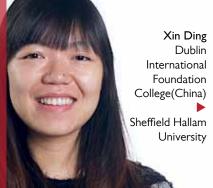




"When I came to the UK, as part of the programme we were given a short time to prepare a presentation. If I hadn't taken the NCUK Pre-Masters Preparation qualification I wouldn't have felt confident enough to complete the work."

Mikiko Yoshikawa BEO Osaka (Japan) ► The University of Leeds

"The NCUK Pre-Masters Preparation qualification has definitely helped me with my language skills. On my university degree, I have already completed two essays in just one month."





"NCUK is very helpful and provides high quality support for students who want to study abroad - because I studied an NCUK Pre-Masters Preparation qualification I have more confidence when speaking in English."

Rena Abe BEO Tokyo (Japan) ► The University of Salford

NCUK offers opportunities for degree courses in Ireland. O-





Many of NCUK's Study Centres offer both undergraduate and postgraduate routes for students. This includes Dublin International Foundation College (DIFC). Diarmuid Moroney shares his thoughts on their partnership with NCUK:

"NCUK have contributed to our business success by providing high quality accredited programmes

which are recognised for entry in to a large number of Universities worldwide which has enabled us to recruit a growing number of international students.

The strengths of NCUK qualifications are that they give an integrated learning experience for international students in that they integrate EAP in to the other subject modules and they prepare students better for studying in University in that they have to prepare assignments, make presentations to class etc.

I feel proudest in the fact that we can take in students who may not have performed that well in their own high school exams but mature and thrive in DIFC environment and go on to study in Universities they would not have been above to join after high school, then go on to obtain good jobs and salaries and make their parents proud of them.

NCUK is a high quality provider of pathway courses giving access to a wide range of Universities worldwide."

In addition to routing students to the UK, the NCUK/DIFC partnership is one of the leading pathways to Irish universities. Nearly 1,000 students have successfully gone on to complete their studies in Ireland.

Diarmuid Moroney



Opportunities for

STUDENT SUCCESS through

world-leading preparation qualifications designed and

QUALITY-ASSURED

by UK universities

he Consortium has been in a fortunate position to benefit from the expertise of its university network. Currently, ten senior university representatives sit on the Board of Trustees and four on the Board of Directors. Elspeth Jones is an Emerita Professor of the Internationalisation of Higher Education at Leeds Beckett University, whose specialisations are in personal, professional and employability outcomes from international mobility, strategic leadership, internationalisation of the curriculum at home and abroad, global citizenship and intercultural competence development. She has published widely and is Series Editor for the Routledge book series Internationalization in Higher Education. She is also former Chair of the NCUK Board of Directors and member of the Board of Trustees.

"I originally became involved with NCUK as I was the nominated Board of Trustees member for Leeds Beckett University, which was Leeds Metropolitan at the time. I was then asked if I would consider becoming a member of the Board of Directors and eventually was elected as Chair.

Seeing the organisation grow into the professional business it is today is the result of so many different phases. When NCUK began, it seemed like a good idea for member universities to work together to address some significant recruitment challenges linked to changes in fees and government policy both in the UK and elsewhere. Nowadays there are very clear business models, a professional approach

across the board and NCUK has become a very important part of university recruitment strategies. It is making a real difference to students wanting to study in UK universities, and offers opportunities to some who would find it difficult to go through more standard admissions processes. Of course, its success is down to many dedicated and hard-working members of staff over the years and they are to be congratulated for all they've done to achieve this.

It's difficult to predict where NCUK will be in the next 30 years but given the current trajectory, I'd say the sky's the limit!"





NCUK are ambitious, focusing their work on the student experience and their partners' international objectives

o Phillips is International Market Development Manager at the University of Bristol and from first-hand experience understands the value of international students in the UK:

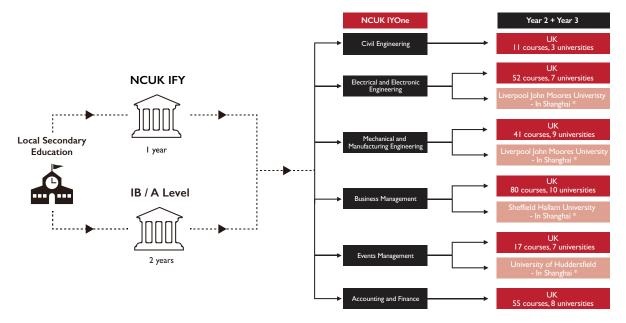
"During my time as a student at university, international students formed an integral part of my overall experience, eventually forming the core of my friendship group. This first-hand experience of diversity means that I understand why international students are so important to any university environment. International students provide different perspectives, challenge ideas, embrace learning and make friendships worldwide.

NCUK allows us to meet with bright, driven students within key markets. Moreover, NCUK students want to study a variety of subjects: internationalisation does not just relate to diversity of nationalities but also diversity of the academic areas of interest. It is rare to find a centre where every conversation you have with a student or parent is completely different.

NCUK has developed significantly over their first 30 years: a portfolio of international universities, overseas staff, regional partners and a variety of programmes."



Internationally Recognised Transnational Education



he new millennium has provide to be a busy one for NCUK. With the growth in popularity of British Education in China, the Consortium and ACE Education Group looked at how they might provide an innovative solution for the thousands of Chinese students seeking a British degree, but, for whatever reason, they couldn't go to the UK.

The result was the Sino-British College that came into being on 21st September 2006 after being approved by the Government of

the People's Republic of China. It started by offering Electrical and Electronic engineering and Accounting and Finance courses. Students typically complete the NCUK International Foundation Year and the NCUK International Year One. The Year One gives successful students 120 credits towards a number of degrees at the NCUK universities. Under the license with nine of the NCUK universities, the Sino-British College now offers four routes leading to nearly 100 UK degrees and four options for students to complete their UK degree at one of the three universities offering the final two years in Shanghai.

Partnerships in Colombia and Malta.

2014

University of Salford winners of the Business School of the Year and Outstanding Contribution to Innovation and Technology at the Times Higher Education Awards 2014.

new world speed record with TV presenter and racer Guy Martin.



Each year, nearly two thousand students can be found on the Sino-British College campus in the heart of Shanghai. Increasingly, the college is growing the number of international students on campus. In 2017, the initiative won the prestigious International Transnational Education award at the Educate North & UK Leadership Awards ceremony.

Karen Abril Dominiguez Montes studied the International Foundation Year and International Year One at The Sino-British College, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology.

Originally from Mexico, Karen decided to set herself apart from the start by undertaking part of her undergraduate degree in Shanghai at The Sino-British College:

"Studying at SBC in Shanghai was quite unique. For me it was about experiencing Chinese culture, meeting new people and learning the language. I've had a truly global learning and cultural experience."

On deciding on where she should study in the UK, Karen made her choice that the NCUK University she would attend would be Manchester Metropolitan University:

"I wanted to study at Manchester Metropolitan University because it's one of the top universities in the UK. The lecturers are passionate about what they teach, which makes students feel passionate about their learning. At Manchester Metropolitan University you can tailor your degree according to your needs. For instance, I chose to do a placement year to gain more

UK NARIC confirm NCUK Foundation outcomes comparable to A Level. •

professional experience, so I chose modules to support this."

Always thinking ahead to her future career, Karen had chosen a degree course with a placement. Placement years give students the opportunity to gain real work experience as part of their degree course:

"Iwent back to Mexico to work for a marketing company. I gained experience as a project manager on a trade mission, travelling to Guatemala and Costa Rica to oversee operations and coordinating the event."

Karen hoped to work for a large multinational corporation in her home country of Mexico and studied hard during her final year to make sure that this dream was achievable.

Karen successfully achieved a first-class degree from Manchester Metropolitan University in 2017 and managed to secure a job for herself back in Mexico:

"I'm extremely proud of my achievements and wouldn't be where I am today without NCUK."

Since graduating, Karen started working in Imalinx, a marketing firm for food and beverages in Morelos, Mexico. This company offered Karen a job after she spent one year on placement with them during her academic degree. Karen currently works as a Market Intelligence Specialist which means she is responsible for creating links between foreign companies and Latin American markets through coordination of trade missions, retail promotions and trade servicing:

"Being part of a truly international company such as this one allowed me to fully develop the skills I learnt during my International Business degree. This would have not been possible without NCUK, which provided me with direct access to one of the leading Universities in the UK that helped me grow both personally and professionally."

Professor John Wilson, Principal and CEO of The Sino-British College, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, enjoys the fact that together NCUK and SBC give students opportunities to gain international experience, in China and the UK, through pathways to universities that otherwise may be more difficult to access or perceived to be inaccessible:

"The Sino-British College (SBC) was created in 2006 as a Joint Venture (JV) between the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology and nine members of NCUK. In the period since 2006, the College has offered the NCUK qualifications as the first two years of four years of undergraduate study. Most students have then taken the opportunity to complete two years, or one year, of study in the UK, others have been able to complete 4 years in Shanghai. NCUK as a consortium is an essential part of the JV and its qualifications provide the basis for subsequent study. Through its qualifications and the support of the Consortium members, particularly those universities that have approved their qualifications to be offered on a 4+0 basis, NCUK has contributed significantly to SBC's success.

Whatever the world might look like in 2047, it seems reasonable to assume two things. First, universities that seek to collaborate internationally rather than compete will be the ones that offer greatest developmental opportunities to students and staff. Second, such collaboration should be based on two-way flows of students and staff. In this context, NCUK in the next 30 years could be an even larger consortium domestically, part of an even larger network internationally, and as much a vehicle for outbound student mobility as inbound whilst also being a vehicle for staff mobility.

NCUK is a unique consortium that offers excellent developmental opportunities for students across the world and, in doing so, is a significant contributor to the international profile and reputation of UK higher education."



The Sino-British College successfully achieved its ten year re-license by the Chinese Ministry of Education.



"I found that the NCUK qualification suited my abilities and allowed me to improve even further, not just academically but also culturally and socially."

Semen Segal
The Sino-British College, USST (Russia)
▶ Leeds Beckett University





"The NCUK International Year
One qualification has provided
me with a lot - how to write good
essays and how to communicate
with others - it gave me a great
opportunity to practise and
learn more - along with being
taught by good teachers in great
learning facilities."

Hin Fung Ip
INTO Manchester (Hong Kong)

► The University of Manchester

Partnerships announced in Peru, Qatar,
Thailand, Myanmar, Taiwan, Uganda & Hong Kong.

NCUK and SBC win Best Transnational Education Project at
Educate North Awards. The Northern Consortium donates £20k/year.

2017

University of Leeds awarded University of the Year,
The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2017.

LJMU wins Educate North: University of the Year Award.

NCUK is a
well-established,
recognisable brand
which facilitates
the route for
international students
to apply to
quality institutions
in the UK



ina Morris, International Strategy Co-Ordinator at the University of Birmingham, speaks about how the university actively works towards being multi-cultural:

"International students contribute immensely to the diversity, culture and intellectual reach of the University of Birmingham, and bring important new perspectives both to our education and research capabilities. We have been welcoming international students onto our campus since our inception in 1900 - and with over 5,000 international students from over 150 different

countries, we have one of the largest and most vibrant international student communities in the UK.

Local and international collaborators such as NCUK help motivated students to overcome the barriers of distance and different educational background to become Birmingham students. NCUK Schools and qualifications provide the opportunity for high quality international students to apply to the University of Birmingham, and bring important new perspectives to the culture of our University."



66

I made lots of friends while studying the NCUK International Foundation Year qualification in China, now we are studying at the same university in the UK, or at ones which are close by which means that we can still see each other outside of lectures.

Qianzhi Ye

Guangzhou, OnCourse Ltd (CHINA) ▶ The University of Birmingham

Glebal Ambassadors

ver the last five years, NCUK has sought to reconnect with NCUK Alumni. It created an Ambassador scheme, having recognised the vital role that students who have been through the qualifications themselves could offer prospective students.

Dr Mansoor Hayat Butt, Riphah International University, in his role as Marketing & Placement contact for NCUK, has seen increased contacts with International Offices of UK Universities, enhanced knowledge of international placements, closer coordination and understanding of NCUK needs and pathway mechanisms:

"It's enhancing my own role in Riphah and successfully creating NCUK as a separate Strategic Unit at University. What I enjoy the most is being a part of their dream University come true. NCUK is a trusted pathway program providing a guaranteed University place to international students.

NCUK academic support enhances our awareness of quality assurance and updates in teaching, assessments and the wider academic experience. Admissions support is now ever challenging with growing partners and student's need. Riphah values each step NCUK contributes support from applications, academic projection to clearing where student need vital University communication to make last minute decisions.

The Riphah relationship with NCUK is always seen in high value among University executive management and now felt importance to seek new opportunities as local market expansion and among Riphah various faculties."

Ms Khaliqa Arshad is an NCUK brand ambassador, having secured a scholarship at Riphah and now having a graduate placement with Commons at the University of Kent:

"From my positive experience, I would recommend NCUK to other students because by living independently you grow as a confident individual who gets prepared for life during the process of studying and working abroad."

Khaliqa Arshad
Riphah International
University (Pakistan) ►
Sheffield Hallam University
NCUK Ambassador

"NCUK has prepared me a lot, apart from the culture and systems of the UK, I learnt about plagiarism, referencing, essay writing and things that I never knew in high school. If I had just left from high school and gone to the UK I'd have had problems with my essays, but I learnt all I needed to from NCUK."

Ebunoluwa Eniola Dorcas Adeniran Oxbridge Tutorial College (Nigeria)

► The University of Kent





LOOKING to the FUTURE

nd so, where next for the Consortium and NCUK? New Partnerships and plenty more opportunities for NCUK students. With the continued success of the Sino-British College in Shanghai and a continued demand for international education, NCUK is regularly approached by universities around the world looking to replicate the Shanghai model. In recent years, NCUK has expanded its network of Global Study Centres to countries including Colombia, Peru, Thailand, Myanmar and Qatar.

Dr Edward Roekaert Embrechts, Rector at Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas in Peru comments:

"NCUK and Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (UPC) have just become partners this year and are extremely excited about the opportunities this relationship will bring, not only to UPC but to Peru's talented youth.

NCUK has already proven its value through the support it has provided during the launch phase. Great commitment and excellent follow-up! NCUK is represented by a fabulous team of talented professionals which makes our work much easier.

The NCUK qualification provides great flexibility and efficiency, allowing us to offer a pathway to all interested applicants. We feel proud of the fact we are building a bridge between Peru and the UK, allowing Peru's young talent to have access to great world-class universities. In my view NCUK will become a leading network of world-class higher education, a consortium of best practices, and a pathway towards a better future for the world's youth. NCUK is a fabulous pathway towards excellence!"





www.ncuk.ac.uk