



Annual Report

2016/17

NCUK

THE UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

Chairman's Message

I am delighted to be able to report that good progress has been achieved in the second year of NCUK's strategic plan despite the political and economic challenges we have faced. The celebration of our 30th anniversary which was a major milestone did not distract us from pursuing our core objectives.

The organisational and developmental changes which commenced in 2015/16 are having real impact and resulted in an expansion of our international Partner Network and the recruitment of over **2700** students which generated nearly **£1m** of net income to NCUK in addition to the international student fees earned by NCUK Universities.

The outlook for 2017/18 targets is positive at the time of writing. We can report students enrolled from new business grew for a third consecutive year and early registrations indicate a fourth year of growth with students from new business now accounting for 8% of all NCUK student enrolments.

From an academic perspective, our support infrastructure has resulted in all new Partners successfully passing their initial audit and 85% successfully completing their first intake within 12 months of agreeing contracts. New initiatives to maximise the number of NCUK students placing to one of the 16 NCUK Universities have also started to have an impact.

Our number of students placed in 2016/17 exceeded the target set and 1,149 students successfully took up their place at an NCUK University. Over 700 continued on the NCUK International Year One or moved to degree completion programmes at the Sino British College (SBC), NCUK's transnational education partnership with the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST). A further 100 students successfully progressed to a range of leading Irish institutions through our partnership with Dublin International Foundation College (DIFC).

In the UK, whilst the majority of our students continue to choose from NCUK Universities our students have been accepted at over 60 institutions. Relations will be built with some of these universities to improve our students' experience through the university admissions process. NCUK also renewed its contract with INTO Manchester, where NCUK qualifications are delivered as part of INTO's arrangements with the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University.

Whilst the political environment is far from stable it appears that the lobbying across the higher education sector which NCUK has been a visible part of seems to be showing signs of having a positive impact on the treatment of students in UK immigration policy. Whilst NCUK maintains a 99% visa success rate, we have as a matter of good strategic planning looked to develop our business outside of the UK.

In Ireland, our long established Partner in Dublin, DIFC, expanded to a second location in Cork. In China, 2016/17 also saw the introduction of a new Business degree at SBC being offered by Sheffield Hallam University. In Australia and North America, we started to raise the profile of NCUK qualifications to increase the range of destinations for NCUK Students.

China remains a key market and importantly we renewed our contractual arrangements with NCUK's flagship Partners, the Sino British College (SBC) at University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST). In the case of SBC, this included our contract renewal by the Ministry of Education for the People's Republic of China. Achieving this took an enormous amount of commitment and hard work by NCUK and its partner universities continuing the successful collaboration and support that has achieved and delivered so much for all concerned. This renewal lays the basis for many more years' successful partnership working.

This Partnership was also recognised as the 'Best International Transnational Project' at the Educate North Awards. As we commented at the time, a lot of hard work goes into getting 10 universities to collaborate and this award is in recognition of everyone's contribution over the years to its continued success. More importantly perhaps it is a tribute to the thousands of students who have chosen to study at SBC, many of whom are now completing Masters Degrees or are in successful careers.

As I draw my comments to a close, it is appropriate to focus on the achievements of our students. Our academic performance remains consistently high. Pass rates on NCUK qualifications remain over 80%. More importantly, 93% of our students successfully complete their first year at university – and 80% receive a first or second class degree. As a quality driven organisation, we continue to celebrate our students' success and are determined that it will continue.

*From Neil McLean CBE, Chair,
NCUK Board of Directors*

NCUK's 2016/17 cohort will provide
NCUK partner universities with:

2073
students

*were admitted to
universities or continued
on the NCUK International
Year One*

£19.8
million

*of tuition fee income in
the financial year 2017/18
(+5% on the 15/16 cohort)*

£51.1
million

*of tuition fee income
generated over the
duration of their
degree course*

NCUK Partner Conference & Prize Awards

The 3rd annual NCUK Partner Conference, hosted by Manchester Metropolitan University, took place during the week of 20th November 2017 with over 50 delegates travelling from NCUK Study Centres as far away as Peru, China, Thailand, Nigeria and many more! The conference was an opportunity for delegates to discuss various topics in workshops led by NCUK staff, NCUK university staff and NCUK Delivery Partners. It also included the Annual Prize Award Ceremony, celebrating the successes of 2016/17.

Throughout the course of the week, delegates were also treated to engaging visits and tours of 6 NCUK University Partners (University of Bradford, University of Kent, Liverpool John Moores University, University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Salford).

- **100%** of delegates would strongly recommend the NCUK Partner Conference to a colleague or new NCUK delivery partner
- **95%** of delegates are very likely or extremely likely to attend the NCUK Partner Conference again
- **85%** of delegates rated the NCUK Partner Conference as Very Good or Excellent

“As a new NCUK Study Centre, it was very useful in terms of the networking opportunities that it afforded. I got plenty of good advice from new and existing centres, and offers of more in the future if need be.”

Kelley Proctor, representing North West Regional College

80%

of NCUK students
achieve a first or
second class degree
at university

NCUK maintained its
99%
visa success rate.

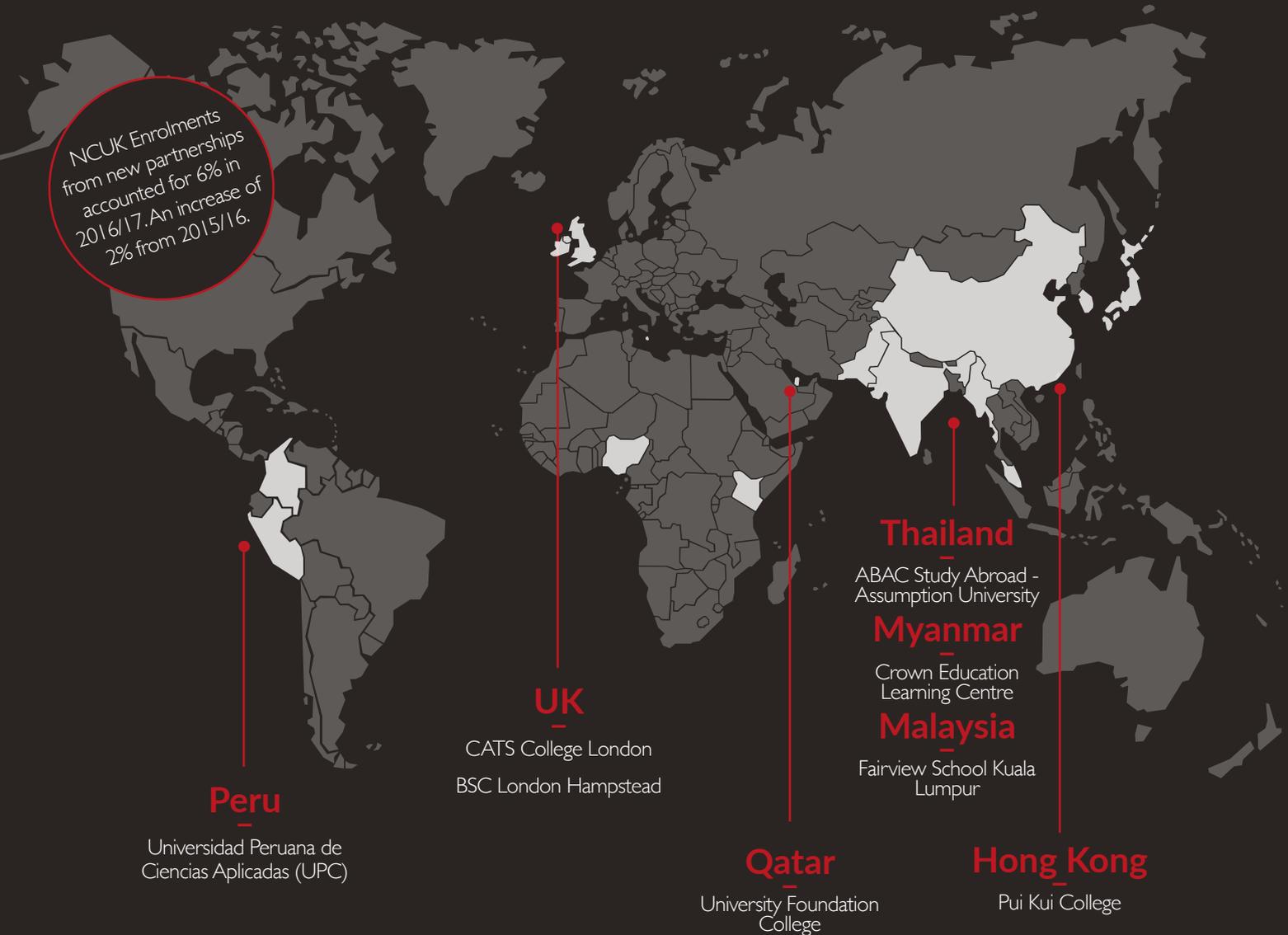


“We have always found the preparation that the NCUK qualification gives our students enables them to perform at a consistently good level. The close relationship the member universities have with NCUK allows us to alert them to changes in requirements so that the NCUK curriculum is continuously adapting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

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

Global Partner Network News

NCUK welcomed the following Partners to the NCUK Global Network of Study Centres in 2016/17:

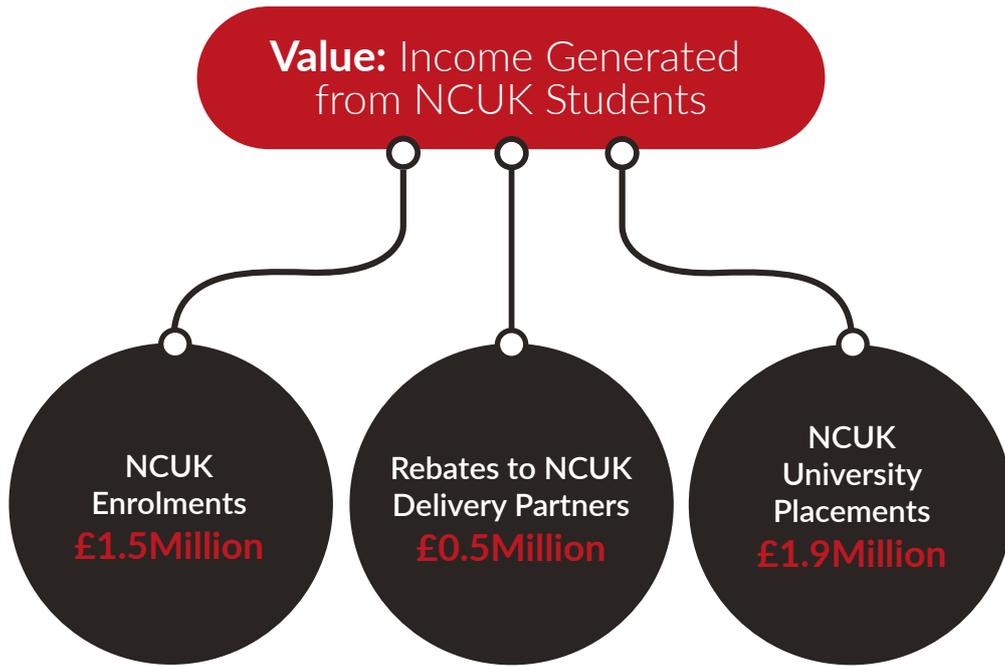


NCUK also saw **Existing Partners** expand their portfolio of NCUK Qualifications and/or new study locations.

At the end of the 16/17 financial year, NCUK has a total global network of delivery partners of 50 centres in 17 countries.

- KBF Graduation Preparation Centres in Xi'an and Changsha, China
- Riphah International University - Lahore, Pakistan
- Brookstone International Foundation School, - Abuja Campus, Nigeria
- IEN Institute, Korea - Pre-Masters Preparation
- DIFC - Cork, Ireland
- New Oriental - Changsha, Xiamen, China

Value, **Volume** and **Diversity**



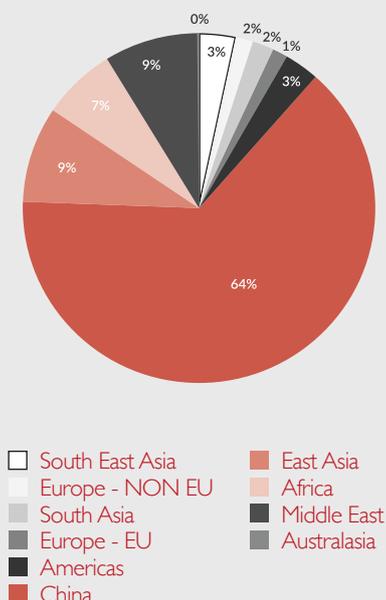
Volume and Diversity: Growing a Pool of Well-Qualified Students, Diversified by Subject, Level and Nationality to NCUK Universities

1,149 students were placed to NCUK Universities in the UK, with an additional **709** continuing students on NCUK International Year One or moving to degree completion programmes at SBC. A further **100** students were admitted to other UK universities. In addition, around **115** students chose to complete their degree in Ireland, Europe, Australia or North America.

NCUK Placements were above the target of **1,091**. They remain consistent with 2015/16 figures in a challenging environment for UK higher education.

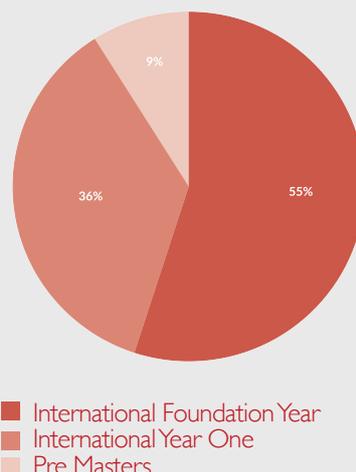
Diversity by Nationality

NCUK increased its diversity ratios over the period of this report. 80 different nationalities were recruited to NCUK qualifications and 47 nationalities were placed to NCUK universities.



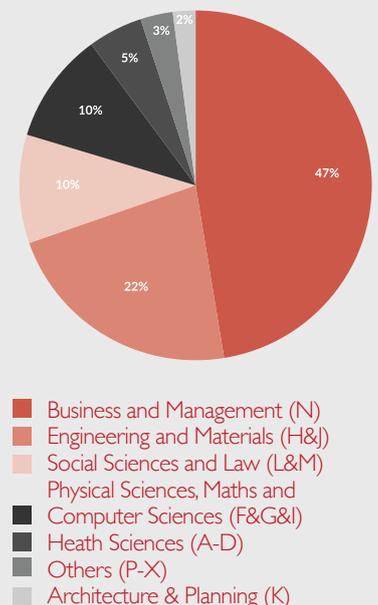
Diversity by Qualification

The proportion of student by qualification remains consistent with 2015/16. NCUK met its target of increasing the number of Masters students and overall the number of students admitted was 5% above target. This year's report includes student progression at SBC which results in a higher percentage of International Year One students compared to the 2015/16 report.



Diversity by Degree

There has been no significant change in the subject choice from 2015/16 with Business and Engineering remaining the most popular.



Celebrating NCUK Student Success

During the 16/17 financial year, NCUK hit a milestone for student placements and has now placed over 30,000 students onto university courses since 1987.

“The writing and academic English I learnt on my EAP course helped me to adjust quickly and made studying my degree in the UK seem less difficult.”

Chensi Cai

International Foundation Year & International Year One at Sino-British College (USST)
China to Liverpool John Moores University
BA (Hons) Business Management



“NCUK has provided me with the platform, essential tools and opportunities to excel and achieve what I have today. It is a journey which sets you out on a new yet rewarding path. Truly a life changing experience.”

Daniel Haider Tabassum

International Foundation Year & International Year One at Riphah International University
Pakistan to University of Manchester
BEng (Hons) Electrical and Electronic Engineering with Industrial Experience

To discuss any questions or queries you may have about this Annual Report please contact: together@ncuk.ac.uk