



**NCUK's Year  
in Review:**  
2017/18

**NCUK**

THE UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

# Chairman's Message

As NCUK commenced its fourth decade in operation we achieved continued growth, entered new international education markets and saw continuing success for our students.

Our 2017/18 year has been a year to celebrate and it was timely that our first major event was the final celebration of our 30th anniversary which recognised the performance, dedication and hard work of our Delivery Partners and our students at the NCUK Partner Conference and Prize Award Ceremonies.

This annual event brings together the absolute best of our network and showcases our students and partners. In turn, this enables us to engage with our stakeholders and plan for the years ahead. The Student Prize Awards, an annual fund of around £50,000 part funded by the Northern Consortium and NCUK, celebrates the achievement of our students who come from over 100 countries and diverse backgrounds. In addition to the NCUK awards, our students' academic successes are also rewarded through university scholarships and awards. Our 2017/18 student cohort received the highest ever number of scholarships from NCUK. Universities with over 50 students being recognised for their achievements.

Overall, from an NCUK perspective, student performance in the International Foundation Year, our core qualification, has been high with an 86% pass rate. Most importantly, over 90% of our students continue to access their first and second choice universities. To NCUK, this is a greater measure of our success, particularly at a time where competition in the higher education market is increasing. NCUK students are recognised for their high achievements and

continued success at university. Indeed, despite the UK government's stance on immigration and visa control, 99% of NCUK students successfully received their visas.

Once at university, our students' success continues. In May 2018, we were delighted to share the findings of ten years of research by NCUK and our universities into student performance. The report, available on our website, was launched as part of a wider panel discussion at the NAFSA: Association of International Educators Conference in Philadelphia.

Over the last ten years, we have tracked thousands of international students from their NCUK qualification through to their graduation at university. The report shows that 80% of our students receive a first or second class degree. It also highlights that NCUK International Year One students have a higher than average pass rate when progressing to the second year of their degree at university. This is exceptional given the stigma sometimes attached to students, who for whatever reason, are not able to study all three years at a UK university.

The other key finding to come out of the report was the success that NCUK students have regardless of their performance against the required entry grades. Over 90% of students meeting or getting higher than the required grades, go on to pass their first year. At the same time, of those students who have been offered places with lower than the advertised entry requirements, the pass rate remains high at 88%. We believe this is a reflection of the preparation the students receive through our global network of quality-assured Delivery Partners. Our students are not just taught how to pass an exam, they are given the skills to get into university and succeed when they get there.

And so, to our Global Network. I am delighted that our long-term Delivery Partners started to see the benefits of our organisational and

developmental change plans during the year. These are now having a real impact on NCUK. Whilst our student enrolment increased by 8%, our expenditure was managed effectively and only increased by 2%. As we pass the halfway mark on our five-year plan, 2016-2021, the outlook for further growth and development has never looked better.

Our new Delivery Partners in Peru, the UK, Thailand, Malaysia, Qatar and Hong Kong all had successful first years. Where NCUK enters a completely new market, the first few years can often be the most challenging. Reflecting on the quality of our new partners, it is no surprise that the number of students from these markets more than doubled over the last year.

In addition to new Delivery Partners, NCUK embarked on a strategy to give NCUK students more choice in their destination of study. Our priority remains with the core NCUK Universities, but students want to increasingly keep their options open. We are delighted to have grown our network of universities over the last year to include destinations in Australia, New Zealand, the Caribbean and North America.

From this, we look to the year ahead with a strong foundation. We know we cannot be complacent and we have focussed on how we both future-proof and continually improve our business. Plans for an impressive Product and Digital Development strategy are in place and will start to roll out across our network over the coming year. Partners at our recent Partner Conference were delighted by the planned improvements to our teaching pedagogy and marketing support, which in turn will help them achieve continuing success.

As these developments and others continue to be made available to our partners and stakeholders, we hope that our whole community will see and enjoy the benefits of them.

*Neil McLean CBE, Chair, NCUK*

NCUK's 2017/18 cohort will provide NCUK partner universities with:

**2,072**  
students

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

**£22**  
million

of tuition fee income in the financial year 2017/18 (+9% on the 16/17 cohort)

**£58.9**  
million

of tuition fee income generated over the duration of their degree courses

# Global Partner Network News

NCUK welcomed the following Delivery Partners to its Global Network in 2017/18, entering two brand new markets in the Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

16% of NCUK enrolments came from new partnerships, an increase of 6% from 2016/17

**UK**  
Cambridge Tutors College (IFY)

**Kazakhstan**  
London Education Group (IFY)

**Ukraine**  
BSC Ukraine (IFY)

**China**

Tsingtao University of Petroleum (PMP)  
Liyang Cambridge Bilingual School (IFY)  
New Beacon Group (IFY)  
Global Learning Centre (GLC), Xi'an Eurasia University (IFY)  
Foshan Foreign Language School International Academy (IFY)

At the end of the 17/18 financial year, NCUK's global network of delivery partners consists of 59 centres in 19 countries.

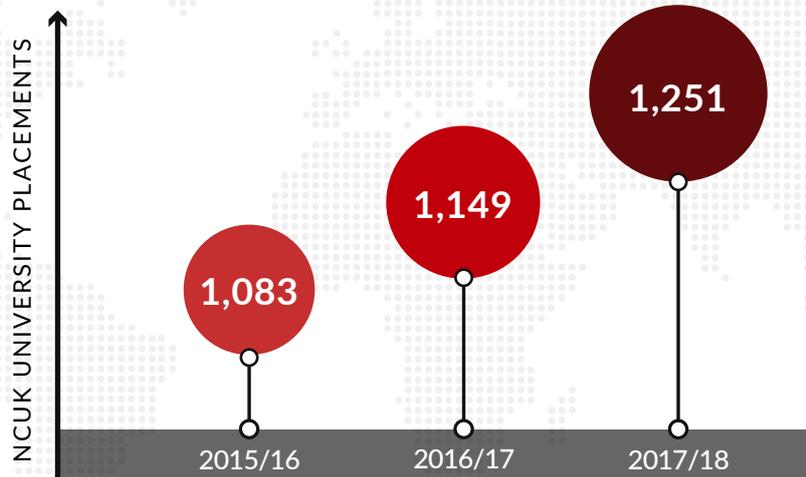


NCUK also saw **Existing Partners** expand their portfolio of NCUK Qualifications and/or new study locations:

- BEO Tokyo, Japan, International Foundation Year
- Oxbridge Tutorial College - Lekki Campus, Nigeria, International Foundation Year

# Value, Volume and Diversity

NCUK has seen a continued increase of students progressing to NCUK Universities with an **overall increase of 15.5%** since 2015/16, resulting in a total tuition fee income of approximately **£22 million** for NCUK Universities for the 2017/18 financial year. For NCUK, the income generated from NCUK students (qualification enrolments and university placements) for the 2017/18 financial year was £3.4 million

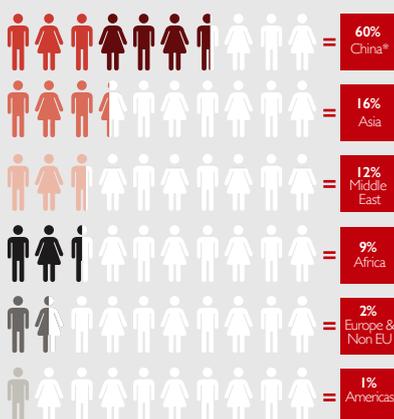


**Volume and Diversity:** Providing a growing pool of well-qualified students to NCUK Universities diversified by degree subject, degree level and nationality.

As shown in the image above, **1,251** students were placed at NCUK universities in 2017/18 (+8.9% increase from 2016/17), with an additional **587** students continuing onto the NCUK International Year One or moving to degree completion programmes at The Sino-British College in Shanghai. A further **129** students were admitted to other UK universities and **105** students chose to complete their degree at institutions in Ireland, Europe, Australia and North America.

## Diversity by Nationality

NCUK increased its diversity ratios over the period of this report. 88 nationalities were recruited to NCUK qualifications and 65 nationalities were placed at NCUK universities.



\*961 students are on full degree completion at the Sino British College, Shanghai, China.

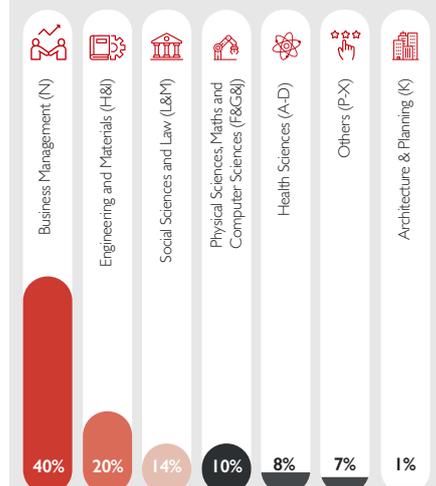
## Diversity by Qualification

The proportion of NCUK students studying the International Foundation Year increased to 72% (up from 55% in 2016-17), which led to more students being placed at university this year.



## Diversity by Degree

The subject choice for NCUK students progressing to university is more diverse in 2017-18 with a lower proportion of students choosing Business & Management subjects and a higher proportion of students choosing Social Sciences & Law and Health Sciences.



# Success of NCUK in 2017/18

This year saw many **firsts** for NCUK including the launch of NCUK's Support Hubs, Ambassador Chat Platform and the NCUK Summer School, hosted by Leeds Beckett University, providing international students from South America with the opportunity to experience life as a university student at several NCUK universities.



## Partner Conference and Prize Awards 2018

This year was NCUK's largest annual Partner Conference, hosted by Aston University. Delegates travelled from all over the world for a week filled with learning, networking and celebrating success at both the Delivery Partner and Student Prize Awards. Each year, NCUK and The Northern Consortium awards prizes to students with the best academic results from the NCUK global network. The annual prize fund exceeds £50,000 and individual academic merit prizes range from £50 to £1,000.

NCUK also sponsored the first **'World Access to Higher Education Day'** organised by NEON, which aims to become a platform to raise global awareness around inequalities in access and success in higher education, and act as a catalyst for international, regional and local action. The day, which saw international institutions supporting the cause, concluded with the launch of a first-of-its-kind report "All Around the World: Higher Education Policies Around the Globe", highlights national equity policies in higher education countries.

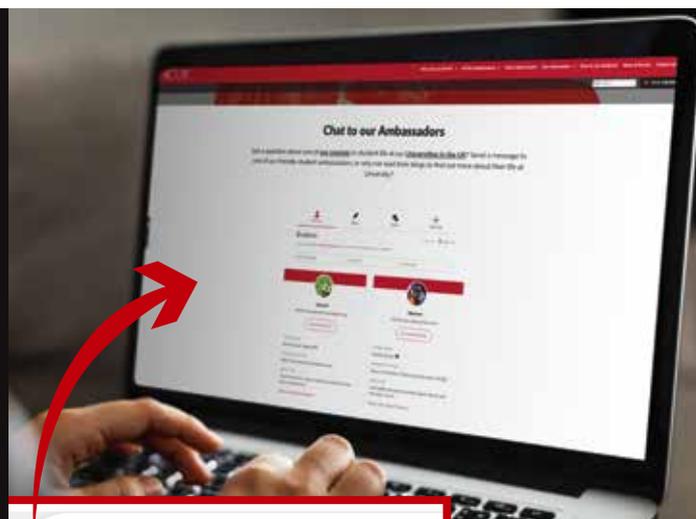
More information can be found online: [www.worldaccesshe.com](http://www.worldaccesshe.com).



## Launch of NCUK's Support Hubs and Ambassador Chat Platform!

Designed to improve communications, share marketing assets and help events planning within the Global Network, NCUK launched its online support hubs this year for its Delivery Partners (Marketing Support Hub) and Universities (University Support Hub). The Hubs have been well-received within the Global Network and plans are in place for further development in the coming year as part of NCUK's digital development strategy.

NCUK also launched its Ambassador Chat Platform, utilising Unibuddy technology, which allows peer-to-peer engagement between NCUK Ambassadors and prospective/current students. This platform allows users to chat directly with NCUK alumni currently studying at NCUK universities and ask any questions that they have about studying overseas, life on campus and their journey to study abroad. In just over three months, the platform has seen over 250 conversations between users and ambassadors, with users from 32 different countries enquiring about studying abroad with NCUK.





**Rose**  
Undergraduate  
NCUK International Foundation Year

Want to find out more about student life? Chat with our student ambassadors and ask any questions you have.

[CHAT WITH OUR STUDENTS](#)

# Join NCUK's Global Network

As well as benefitting from our unique relationships with our universities, being part of the NCUK Global Network allows our Delivery Partners to benefit from the following value-added services:

- Business development and marketing support
- University admissions and placement service, including clearing support
- Academic quality management
- Access to The Northern Consortium charity prize award fund

**“I studied an NCUK qualification because of the wide range of opportunities it brought as it paved a way for me to be able to gain admission into such prestigious universities.”**

**Simbiat Oluwafoyinkeji Owonikoko**

NCUK International Foundation Year  
Oxbridge Tutorial College, Nigeria  
LLB (Hons) Law with International Legal Studies  
University of Leeds



**“My experience at my NCUK Study Centre makes me feel more confident with my English skills. The teaching style was similar to the UK allowing me to be prepared to deal with any situation.”**

**Thammasit Srisawad**

International Foundation Year  
ABAC Study Abroad Center, Thailand  
BA (Hons) Politics  
Sheffield Hallam University

To join our Global Network please visit our website [www.ncuk.ac.uk/corporate](http://www.ncuk.ac.uk/corporate) or email [together@ncuk.ac.uk](mailto:together@ncuk.ac.uk) for more information on working with NCUK.