



# NCUK'S YEAR IN REVIEW: 2019/20

**NCUK**  
THE UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

# YEAR IN REVIEW

NCUK entered the 2019/20 financial year on the back of five years of consecutive growth. Our strategic plan to diversify by subject, level and nationality was delivering results both for NCUK and our Partners, as well as opening opportunities for students seeking an international higher education. 22 new Delivery Partners were onboarded successfully across the globe, and we entered new markets in Columbia, Hungary, Indonesia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Partners in Hong Kong and Peru were solidifying their positions both in quality and volume three years into joining the network. NCUK also saw expansion in core markets, such as China and Nigeria.

As we entered 2020, early indications were that NCUK was heading for its sixth consecutive year of growth, with a 14% increase in student enrolments. But in January 2020, news first started to filter out from our Partners in China regarding the first signs of what has turned into the COVID-19 pandemic. As schools were closed and lockdowns imposed, NCUK started to rethink all of its operations, from academic delivery and assessments to university counselling and recruitment events. By April, the vast majority of NCUK Study Centres had moved to online teaching, and NCUK was fully working remotely. Thanks to the swift responses of NCUK, our Delivery Partners and University Partners, all students were able to complete their qualifications and our assessment approach resulted in fewer than 1% of students appealing their awards in a year when many others were unable to complete their studies. Despite concerns that students would not be able to progress to universities, a range of blended, online and face to face provision was on offer, and NCUK ended the year with a 15% increase in students confirming their place at university.



*At the start of the pandemic, we set out to offer continuity during times of great uncertainty. It's a credit to the quality of NCUK staff and our Partners that all students were supported to complete their qualifications, and a record number took up their place at university. On behalf of everyone at NCUK, thank you to all our stakeholders, students and Partners.*

”

Professor John Brewer,  
CEO, NCUK

# NCUK's 2019/20 Highlights

*'When I joined NCUK, I was very much aware that the organisation had massive potential. There was a real desire across the ten universities that established the group to see its reach expand. In our customer base, there was the passion, knowledge and experience to deliver a first-class student experience. This equipped the students academically as well as with the resilience and understanding of the demands that are expected of all students at university, not just international students. As I come to the end of my tenure as Chair, it has been a genuine honour to see the network grow from strength to strength, and I strongly believe that NCUK will continue to thrive in its mission of helping international students progress to university. I welcome the new members to the Board and wish everyone associated with NCUK a strong and prosperous future.'*

Neil McLean, CBE

## 2,488 students

*were admitted to  
university or continued  
with NCUK qualifications  
(12% increase from 18/19)*

## £25.7 million

*in new tuition fees  
generated for NCUK  
Universities in 2020/21*

## £72 million

*in tuition fees generated  
for NCUK Universities  
over the duration of our  
students' degree courses*

## £34 million

*in qualification  
fees generated for  
NCUK Delivery  
Partners in 19/20*

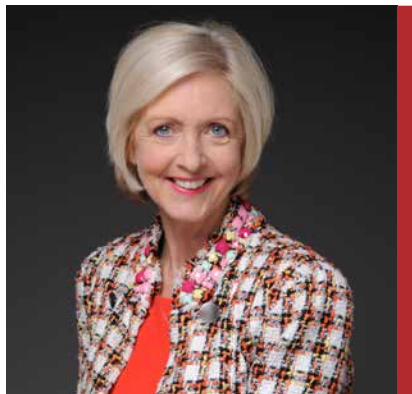
## £106 million

*generated for the NCUK Global  
Network (Delivery Partners &  
Universities) over the duration of  
our students' qualification  
and university lifetime*

# TAKING NCUK FORWARDS

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NCUK welcomes four new Directors to its Board in 2021.



## **Jan Ward CBE – Chair Designate**

Jan is a highly experience NED and founder of an international manufacturing business. She brings expertise in international trade, growth, strategy and corporate governance to NCUK's Board and is a panelist for the prestigious Queen's Award for International Trade.



## **Dr Arfan Ismail**

Arfan is a thought leader in digital education, with extensive leadership experience in public and private education in the UK and Middle East. Arfan is currently Head of Digital Learning at Blackpool and the Fylde College, and his experience in leveraging digital technologies will support NCUK's digital transformation.



## **Michael Bartlett**

Michael has 20 years' experience in commercial, international education and has led the development of many highly successful international pathway partnerships. He now leads an educational consultancy and brings expertise in transnational education, market strategy and market entry to NCUK, with a particular specialism on Asia.



## **Professor Carl Stychin**

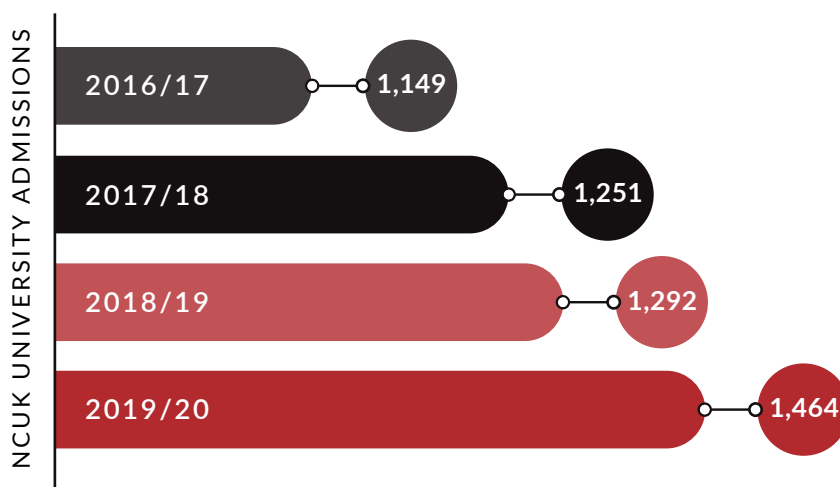
Carl is Director of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and Professor of Law in the School of Advanced Study at the University of London. He brings extensive academic, leadership and legal experience in Higher Education in the UK, USA and Canada. Carl will oversee NCUK's robust quality assurance processes as Chair of our new Academic Quality Board.



# VALUE, **VOLUME** AND **DIVERSITY**

## UNIVERSITIES

Our students from 2019/20 have generated approximately **£25.7 million** in tuition fee revenue for NCUK Universities in 2020/21 and will generate more than **£72 million** in tuition fee revenue over the duration of their courses.



NCUK has continued to increase the number of students placed at NCUK Universities year-on-year since 2016/17. As highlighted on the graph, **1,464 students** were placed at NCUK Universities in 2019/20, a 13% increase from 2018/19.

## DELIVERY PARTNERS

NCUK students from 2019/20 generated more than £34 million in NCUK qualification tuition fees for our Delivery Partners worldwide.



## THE NCUK GLOBAL NETWORK

Collectively, NCUK students from 2019/20 will generate more than **£106 million** for the NCUK Global Network over the duration of their NCUK qualification and university degree.

For NCUK, the total income generated from student enrolments, university placements and Delivery Partner operating fees in 2019/20 was **£5 million**, an increase of **13%** from 2018/19.

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

## Diversity by Nationality

NCUK continues to offer our universities a diverse mix of nationalities. Growth has been equally spread over the last year.



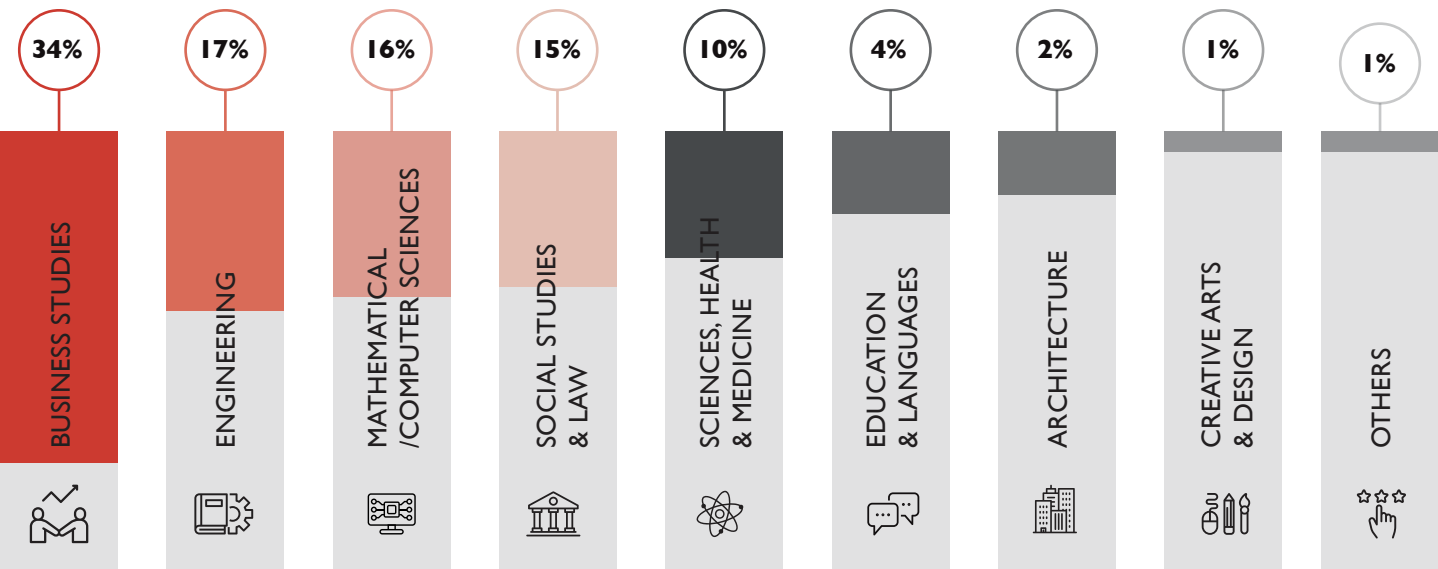
## Diversity by Qualification

NCUK experienced continued growth in the demand for our foundation qualification, leading to more students gaining a place at university.



## Diversity by Degree

NCUK continues to provide our universities with students who progress to a wide-range of degree subjects.



# Growing our Global Network

In 2019/20, we increased our global network by adding 22 new Delivery Partners and entering five new markets.\*

At the end of the 19/20 financial year, NCUK's Global Network consisted of **81 Delivery Partners** in **31 countries**

② Established NCUK Market

⑦ New NCUK Market\*

\*(7) = Number of new Delivery Partners in 2019/20

## UK & Europe:

Padworth College, UK  
Taunton School International, UK  
MPW – Cambridge, UK  
Celtic English Academy, UK  
Avicenna International College, Hungary

## South America:

Bogotá International Centre, Colombia

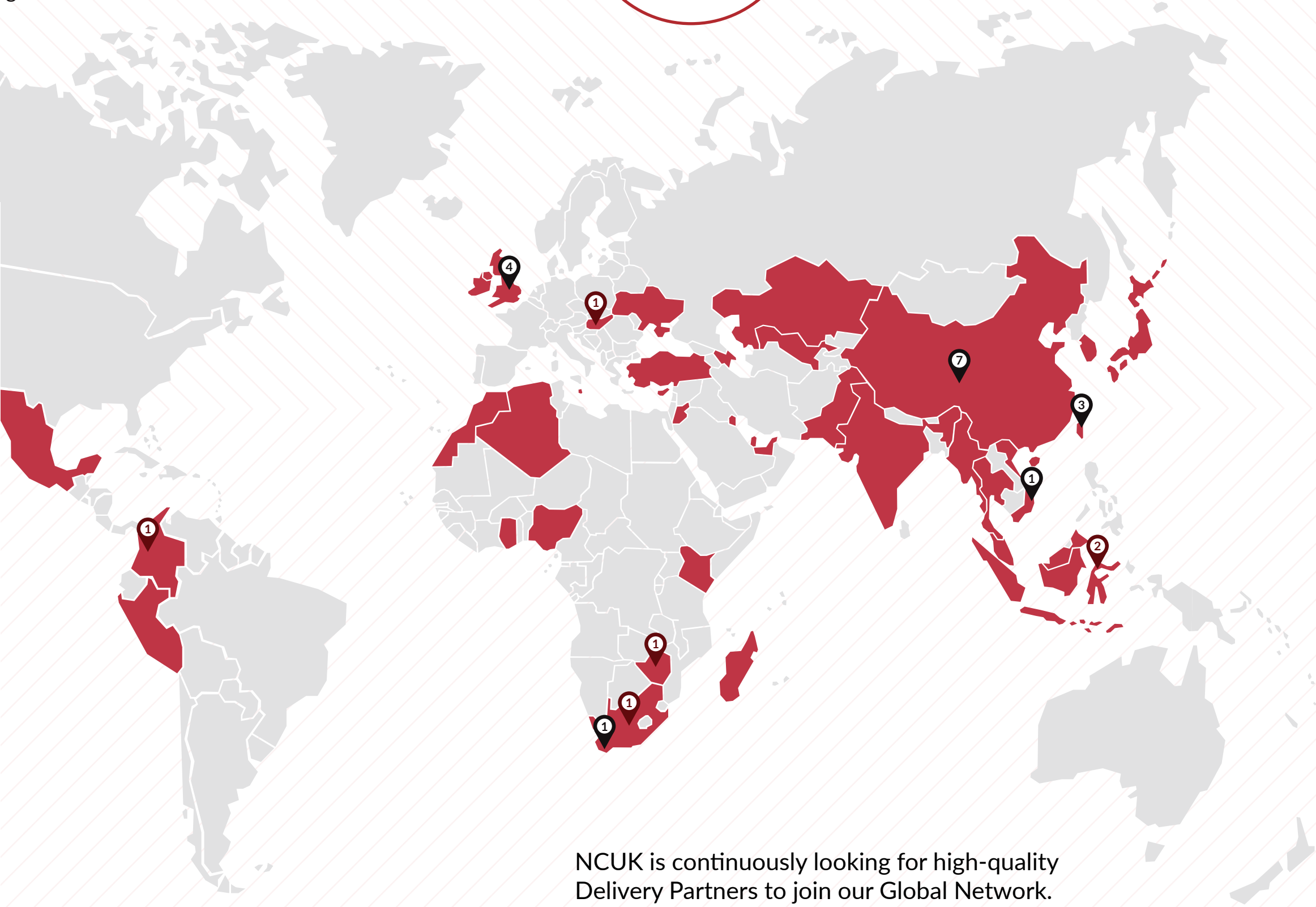
## Africa & Middle East:

Reddam House Constantia, South Africa  
Reddam House Waterfall, South Africa  
Africa University, Zimbabwe

## Asia:

Longyou Kema International School, China  
Jiangsu Huaian High School, China  
Guangzhou Puiying Middle School, China  
Sanya Foreign Language School, China  
UFEIC Shenzhen University Study Centre, China  
UIC-ACE Center, China  
Xiang Jiang International High School, China  
i3L School of Business (iSB), Indonesia  
VIC Global Pathway College – Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia  
Taipei Municipal Chenggong High School, Taiwan  
Taipei Municipal Jingmei Girls High School, Taiwan  
Taipei Municipal Wanfang Senior High School, Taiwan  
University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

\*Data provided correct as of March 2021



NCUK is continuously looking for high-quality Delivery Partners to join our Global Network.  
**Interested?** 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).

# Ensuring Continuity in Times of Uncertainty

2020 was a trying year for many organisations around the world, especially within the international higher education sector. At NCUK, not only did we overcome these challenges but we also managed to strengthen our offering and ensured continuity for students, enabling them to progress to their chosen university.

## STUDENT SUCCESS

### Exams, Assessments & University Progression

NCUK successfully helped our 2019/20 cohort of students with the move to digital learning and digitally enabled assessments. Working closely with our Delivery Partners and University Partners, thousands of NCUK students completed their qualifications in 2020.

We worked with our stakeholders to develop a robust and quality-assured awarding model that was transparent and fair to all students, and appeals were in line with previous years with fewer than 1% submitting an appeal to NCUK. By adapting our tried and trusted methodology, we were able to provide students with the grades they deserved, enabling thousands of international students from our 80+ Global Network of Study Centres to progress to university.

Professor John Brewer, NCUK's Chief Executive Officer, commented:



***'Any student joining the NCUK class of 2021 will be assured their full assessments will take place as planned. Our Study Centres are ready to deliver online, face-to-face or blended learning as needed. We launched our digital assessment plans, building on over 30 years of quality-assured history and our successful adaptations in 2019/20. We will once again offer continuity for our students at times of uncertainty. With NCUK, our students will be future-ready to continue their education and become global citizens who make a valued contribution to societies and economies around the world.'***



# Get Ready for NEW

THINK  
NEW<sup>®</sup>



At the end of the calendar year, NCUK announced its innovative partnership with Education New Zealand (ENZ) and all eight New Zealand universities, allowing students to begin their study towards a New Zealand education at home.



This unique partnership, backed with more than NZ\$300,000 in scholarships a year, provides more opportunities than ever before for international students to access a world-class education.



*'We are delighted to have been chosen to support New Zealand's universities via our global network of Study Centres. This partnership enables our network to provide additional routes throughout the academic year, increasing the number of opportunities for international students to access leading universities.'*

**Georgina Jones, NCUK Market Development Director**

ENZ Chief Executive, Grant McPherson, said the partnership is a first for New Zealand:

*'It's the biggest university sector-international education collaboration to date, and it's the first time that the Government has facilitated international students beginning their New Zealand study offshore.'*



(Image: ENZ Chief Executive, Grant McPherson (left) and Universities New Zealand Chief Executive, Chris Whelan, were joined by ENZ staff members in Wellington, New Zealand at the e-signing of the partnership agreement between ENZ and NCUK on 25 November.)

Intakes for the qualifications begin in Spring 2021. Students will start either their New Zealand or online study in 2022 or 2023 once they complete one of the three relevant NCUK pathway qualifications: a one-year International Foundation Year programme to enter an undergraduate degree in New Zealand; a one-year International Year One programme, equivalent to a year's study towards a business or engineering bachelor's degree; or a Pre-Master's Programme towards a Master's degree in New Zealand.

# Expanding Our University Network

As well as providing routes to all New Zealand universities, NCUK has also increased its university network globally by announcing direct routes from NCUK qualifications to the following new universities:

- University of Alberta, Canada
- RMIT, Australia
- Robert Gordon University, UK
- UNSW Sydney, Australia
- University of Southampton, Malaysia
- Harper Adams University, UK

By increasing our university network, we are providing more progression options than ever before, resulting in NCUK becoming even more attractive for international students when searching for a pathway qualification provider.

**Our University Partners now consist of more than 45 universities in the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and the Caribbean.**



# Creating Opportunities Internationally

Become a focal point in your local market for international university progression and join our global network of 80+ Study Centres in 30+ countries. You'll benefit from fantastic levels of support, including:

- ✓ Academic quality management
- ✓ University applications service
- ✓ Business development and marketing support
- ✓ Full teaching syllabus, assessments and external moderation

NCUK has placed over **35,000** international students at university since 1987.



“Our partnership with NCUK is one that thrives on quality, excellence, integrity and fulfilment of aspirations through hands-on operations strategies.”

Dr Femi Ogunsanya,  
Managing Director of  
Oxbridge Tutorial College in Nigeria

## Why choose NCUK?

- ✓ Flexible delivery models with multiple university intakes per year
- ✓ Direct progression to world-class universities
- ✓ Exclusive scholarships for NCUK students

“NCUK qualifications are developed with universities – like ours – which is why they are trusted by universities around the world.”

Jo Purves, Pro-Vice Chancellor  
International and Regional Partnerships  
at the University of Salford



**BECOME AN NCUK DELIVERY PARTNER**  
[www.ncuk.ac.uk/corporate](http://www.ncuk.ac.uk/corporate) | [together@ncuk.ac.uk](mailto:together@ncuk.ac.uk)