

MIDLANDS ENGINE OBSERVATORY ACADEMIC INSIGHTS

The Impact of International Staff on the Quality of Education in Midlands Universities

Theme:

Internationalisation of Midlands universities.

Area of Focus:

This insight aims to evaluate whether international staff have positively contributed to the quality of education in the Midlands.

Key Findings:

In the academic year 2017-18, 87,615 international staff worked at UK higher education institutions. This was an increase of 25.3% since the 2013-14 academic year. Moreover, as per Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data, the number of non-EU staff increased by 9% in the 2021/22 period, which when taking the past three years into account, indicates a combined total proportion of international staff and non-EU academic employees at 32%.

Key findings include:

- The presence of international staff in Midlands' institutions has improved international research performance, improving educational quality and progressed educational performance.
- International staff play visible and strategic roles in fields such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) within Midlands universities, contributing to development of the economy, environment, and society. Their presence has also increased student satisfaction and enhanced graduate prospects.
- International staff have promoted a cultural and inclusive learning environment which has supported fostering of students' awareness and tolerance of other cultures enabling for career opportunities in a globalised environment, where cross-cultural understanding is highly valued.
- Diverse experiences of international staff have positively and significantly enriched student experience, contributing to development of fundamental skills and built capacity needed to train future generations.



Midlands Engine Impact:

- International staff provide a wide range of perspectives, experience, and research contributions. Their involvement improves educational experiences and research quality, contributing to academic excellence and enhancing the reputation of Midlands Universities.
- Through employment, spending, and taxation, international staff contribute to the Midlands economy. They often provide specialised skills and information that benefit diverse industries and innovation, ultimately fueling economic progress.
- International staff in the Midlands region bring a diverse range of traditions, languages, and customs, enriching the local cultural landscape and promoting cross-cultural understanding within the wider community. Their presence contributes to the cultural diversity of the region, fostering an inclusive and multicultural environment.

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