



Universities Scotland submission to the Scottish Affairs Committee's inquiry into Scotland and Brexit: Trade and Foreign Investment inquiry

As the representative body of Scotland's 19 higher education institutions (HEIs), Universities Scotland welcomes the opportunity to provide evidence to the Scottish Affairs Committee inquiry on Scotland and Brexit: Trade and Foreign Investment inquiry.

Scotland's universities are a success story, nationally and internationally. As highly internationalised institutions, our members deliver, and are linked to, high-quality research, learning and teaching across the world. Scotland's HEIs are a key export sector for the Scottish economy, a key partner in unlocking export growth for Scottish companies, and attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to Scotland. Scotland is the best performing region/country in the UK outside London for research and development-focused FDI.

In 2015/16 the Scottish HE sector generated £1.65bn in international exports. This has grown 16.75% from 2012/13 and is a figure the sector wants to build upon. For comparison, wholesale was Scotland's fifth large exporting industry with £1.7bn worth of exports in 2016.

Global trade as a key part of the HE funding mix

Audit Scotland has found that public funding from the Scottish Government via the Scottish Funding Council has fallen since 2010. Therefore HEIs in Scotland are increasingly dependent of the recruitment of international students and transnational education (TNE) for financial sustainability¹.

HEIs will continue to recruit students from across the world, as part of their missions to be open to students with the most potential. This would be made significantly easier if international students did not count towards the UK Government's net migration numbers. Scottish universities are competing for students with higher education providers across the world, but especially in English-speaking nations. Our natural competitors: Australia, Canada and Ireland, for example have all taken policy steps to offer students an attractive visa programme including post-study options. This naturally puts Scottish (and UK) institutions at a disadvantage. We also recognise that many non-EU nations invest in overseas tuition and research through government sponsorship which is often spent in UK institutions. Any future trade deals could be cognisant of this as it may create opportunities through bi-lateral trade agreements to put more of these links in place and formalise the relationships.

In 2016, we undertook a survey of our members to get a sense of the scale of transnational education (TNE) and Overseas Programme Delivery. Our members are most active in Europe with over 1,200 unique links which are now complicated by Brexit. Looking beyond

¹ TNE is education delivered in a nation outside the country in which the awarding institution is based.



Europe, Scottish higher education has over 310 unique links in Asia and North America and these numbers grow monthly. Since 2012/13 the main areas of activity to show growth for HEIs have been:

Non-EU international students studying at overseas Scottish HEIs (FPE) ²			
Activity	2012/13	2016/17	change
Overseas campus of reporting HE provider	3,345	6,240	+ 86.5%
Distance, flexible or distributed learning	9,475	10,795	+13.9%
Other arrangement including collaborative provision	8,445	12,880	+52.5%
Total students registered at a UK HE provider	21,260	29,915	+40.7%
Total students studying for an award of a UK HE provider	8,870	6,385	-28.0%
Total outside the European Union	30,135	36,300	+20.4%

Our TNE activity include but is not limited to: English language course provision; joint programme delivery; research collaboration; capacity building; research commercialisation; overseas personnel and overseas campuses. Examples of TNE and Overseas Programme Delivery can be found in the Annex.

We have concerns about the current uncertainty relating to the future of external quality assurance of the UK’s TNE provision. With the creation of the Office for Students has created uncertainty about the future of existing arrangements which take place with QAA on a UK-wide basis. We will be ensuring that any future arrangements will be robust and do not put at risk the international reputation of Scottish higher education.

Post Brexit priorities for HE trade

Following Brexit we would want the UK Government to prioritise the removal of barriers to greater levels of TNE both for the enhancement of the sector’s success as an exporter but also to give consideration to how education can complement broader trade discussions. We are aware that an educational component are a priority for many non-EU nations in negotiating trade deals as demonstrated most recently by India. Even when education is not the main focus of a trade deal, the UK’s wider policy framework including immigration policy can either help or hinder deals because of the supporting role that education can sometimes play in these trade deals. An immigration system that doesn’t easily allow for student exchanges for example or for students and staff to study, live and work in the UK for a defined period of time could impact on the sector’s ability to maximise the opportunities for Scottish HEIs to maximise its exports for the UK exchequer.

Promoting Scottish higher education

Scottish universities have long understood the value of working together and with other partners to promote the sector. We have been partners in initiatives such as Connected Scotland for several years which demonstrates our commitment to collaboration to secure the best outcomes for the sector and the wider economy.

² Higher Education Student Statistics: UK, 2016/17 - [Where students come from and go to study](#)



On promoting Scottish exports, the sector is keen to maximise the situational nature of export visits and strong brand identities through efforts such as *GREAT* and *Scotland Is Now*, where the study, invest, and work strands of the latter fit well with our members. Together, Scotland's universities have links in almost every country and territory in the world and it's important to recognise that different markets have different priorities. Promotion and branding is therefore complex and each institution will come to a view, drawing on evidence, on what will work most effectively in any given location. Institutional 'brand' and reputation is clearly important. Institutions will complement this with promotional brands and campaigns operating at the city, regional, Scotland and national level. All are of value situationally. We appreciate the work being undertaken by the British Council in its Study UK work. Our experience has also been that Scottish Development International; British Council; Ambassadors & High Commissioners work extremely well together to maximise the benefits for HEIs when opportunities arise.

We are also aware that when considering the UK as a study destination, it is clear that English language tuition is a significant factor in student choice. It is notable, however, that, alongside strong competition from other English-language speaking countries such as North America, Australia and New Zealand, an increasing number of other nations with strong HE sectors are creating and growing an educational offer in English so one of our inherent advantages is at risk of being eroded.

ENDS

Contact: Duncan McKay, Senior Public Affairs Officer, duncan@universities-scotland.ac.uk, 0131 225 0714



Annex: Examples of TNE and Overseas Programme Delivery

<p>University of Aberdeen</p>	<p>Bangalore, India The University of Aberdeen’s Business School has a Memorandum of Understanding with Bangalore Management Academy to deliver its Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme. Indian students have the opportunity to visit Scotland as part of the Bangalore MBA, which is taught and assessed by Aberdeen staff.</p> <p>South Korea Opening in September 2017, the University of Aberdeen Korea Campus in Hadong, South-Korea will be a specialised campus offering highly competitive postgraduate training, research and consultancy. They will offer programmes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSc Petroleum Engineering • MSc Topside Engineering • MSc Subsea Engineering • MBA Energy Management • PhD opportunities • Staff training
<p>Edinburgh Napier University</p>	<p>Hong Kong Edinburgh Napier University is the largest UK provider of education in Hong Kong with more than 3,000 students enrolled every year. Edinburgh Napier partners with Hong Kong University and City University of Hong Kong to deliver their programmes.</p> <p>India Edinburgh Napier offers a Bachelor of Engineering and Computing at the International Institute of Information Technology in Kolkata (Calcutta) in India.</p> <p>The Business School currently offers a BA in Hospitality Management with the Institute of Advanced Management in Kolkata and Goa. The programme offers an opportunity.</p> <p>The Business school offers a BA in Hospitality Management with the International Institute of Hotel Management (IIHM) in Kolkata and Dehli.</p> <p>Edinburgh Napier University and PSG Institute of Advanced Studies (Coimbatore) signed an MoU for collaborative academic programme leading to BEng(Hon) degree for science graduates who have completes 3 year courses from Indian universities.</p>
<p>University of Dundee</p>	<p>Kenya</p>



	<p>The University of Dundee's Distance Learning Centre (Nursing and Palliative Care) provides a Bachelor of Nursing and a Masters of Nursing Programme by distance learning in partnership with the Kenya Medical Training College.</p>
University of Glasgow	<p>Tianjin, China The University of Glasgow-Nankai University Joint Graduate School opened in 2015. The dual masters qualifications on offer include Environmental Management, International Relations or Urban and Regional Planning.</p> <p>Muscat, Oman Distance Delivery of the MSc in Organisational Leadership: this TNE collaboration was established in April 2011 between the University's School of Education and Majan University College (MUC) in Muscat, Oman (the top private college in Oman). The partnership involves the delivery of the University of Glasgow's MSc in Organisational Leadership.</p> <p>Singapore Launched in 2011 and delivered in partnership with Singapore Institute of Technology. As well as teaching, research is a key focus within the disciplines of Mechatronics, Aerospace Systems and Computing Science.</p>
Glasgow Caledonian University	<p>Dhaka, Bangladesh A partnership between GCU and Grameen Healthcare Trust, the Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing was established in 2010 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The college offers international standard nursing education and clinical practice to its students.</p> <p>Muscat, Oman GCU delivers programmes in partnership with the Caledonian College of Engineering which has been operating successfully for 17 years in Muscat, Oman.</p> <p>Johannesburg, South Africa GCU is working in partnership with The University of Johannesburg and the Institution of Railway Operators to deliver a BSc in Railway Operations Management by Learning Contract to South Africa's largest freight rail organisation, Transnet Freight Rail.</p> <p>New York City, USA GCU New York currently offers a range of professional development and leadership programs in the business of fashion, luxury brand management, social business and finance and compliance. The University plans to expand its offer to include degree level courses.</p>



<p>Glasgow School of Art</p>	<p>Singapore From September 2012, the GSA has delivered years 3 and 4 of its Bachelor of Art (Hons) Programmes in Communication Design and Interior Design in Singapore, in partnership with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) and Temasek Polytechnic (TP). The programmes enable Diploma students from one of Singapore's Polytechnics to progress from a Diploma to a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree.</p>
<p>Heriot-Watt University</p>	<p>Dubai, United Arab Emirates Providing specialised programmes in the fields of management, engineering, built environment, food science and fashion. The Dubai campus opened in 2005 and provides higher education to over 3,500 students.</p> <p>Putrajaya, Malaysia Heriot-Watt University Malaysia campus opened to students in Putrajaya in 2014. Degree provision is specifically tailored to the Malaysian and the South East Asia economic need.</p> <p>Global Network of Heriot-Watt University and Edinburgh Business School Approved Learning partners delivering degrees in over 30 countries, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladesh • China • Europe • Hong Kong • Jamaica • Malaysia • Mauritius • Middle East • North & Central America • Russia • Singapore • South Africa • South America • Sri Lanka • Trinidad & Tobago
<p>Queen Margaret University</p>	<p>Singapore QMU has been working in Singapore since 2003 and offers a range of courses through their QMU Asia partner, East Asia Institute of Management.</p> <p>Kathmandu, Nepal</p>



	<p>In 2011, QMU became the first British university to offer a British degree delivered face-to-face in Nepal. QMU programmes are delivered through the Silver Mountain School of Hotel Management (SMHS).</p> <p>India QMU operates transnational education partnerships in Islamabad, Mumbai and Bangalore. The programmes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA International Hospitality and Tourism Management (delivered at three locations in India). This programme provides accessible and affordable training for students seeking management level careers in the hospitality and tourism industries. • PgCert Human Resources for Healthcare Management. This programme is supported by the German development agency and is one of only four specific HR for Health Service Management programmes worldwide. <p>Jeddah, Saudi Arabia QMU provide a BSc (Hons) in Nursing programme in collaboration with the Al-Riyada College of Health Sciences in Jeddah. All the teaching is provided in-country with support from QMU. Staff at Al-Riyada College have taken MSc programmes at QMU to assist with their pedagogic development.</p>
Robert Gordon University	<p>Algeria Robert Gordon University has delivered training and education services to Algeria's largest oil and gas company, Sontatrach for over 10 years, including delivering an MSc in Drilling and Well Engineering to its employees.</p>
University of St Andrews	<p>Global The University of St Andrews offers programmes jointly with the following partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA International Honours in Economics, English, History, International Relations with The College of William and Mary, Virginia, USA • Collaborative Course in Organic Chemistry for Pre-Med Programme – University of Washington and Lee, Virginia, USA • International Medical Programme – Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta, Canada • MLitt in English Language Teaching with Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing, China
University of Strathclyde	<p>Global Strathclyde Business School offers a number of PG programmes via a network of overseas teaching centres. These are permanent Strathclyde-branded operations in collaboration with a local partner. Flying faculty</p>



undertake the core teaching with the local centre offering academic support between teaching periods. Activity includes:

- Oman - MBA
- Dubai - MBA, MSc Supply Chain Management
- Abu Dhabi - MBA, MSc Marketing, MSc Supply Chain Management
- Bahrain - MBA, MSc Supply Chain Management
- Greece - MBA, MSc Human Resource Management, MSc Finance, MSc Marketing
- Switzerland - MBA
- Malaysia - MBA
- Singapore - MBA
- Hong Kong - MBA, MSc Procurement Management
- MSc Finance is taught in Tanzania
- BA in Hospitality and Tourism is taught at Hong Kong SPACE University

