UK Higher Education in the Global Economy—Far Sight or Myopia?

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Nottingham 16 September 2008

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Benefits of engagement in international HE

- Extending the nation's influence by educating future leaders during a formative period of their lives
- Increasing our access to highly qualified manpower
- Extending our research effort with gifted PhD students
- Keeping alive many of our departments
- Improving the educational experience of all our students
- As well as the enormous financial benefit this all brings

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Economic benefits of international students

- Exports – HE is bigger than
  - Drinks
  - Textiles
  - Clothing
  - Publishing
  - Cultural & media industries
- Direct expenditure (fees and living) – over £4 billion pa
- Contribution to GDP – at least £2 billion per year
- And this is just the benefit from students

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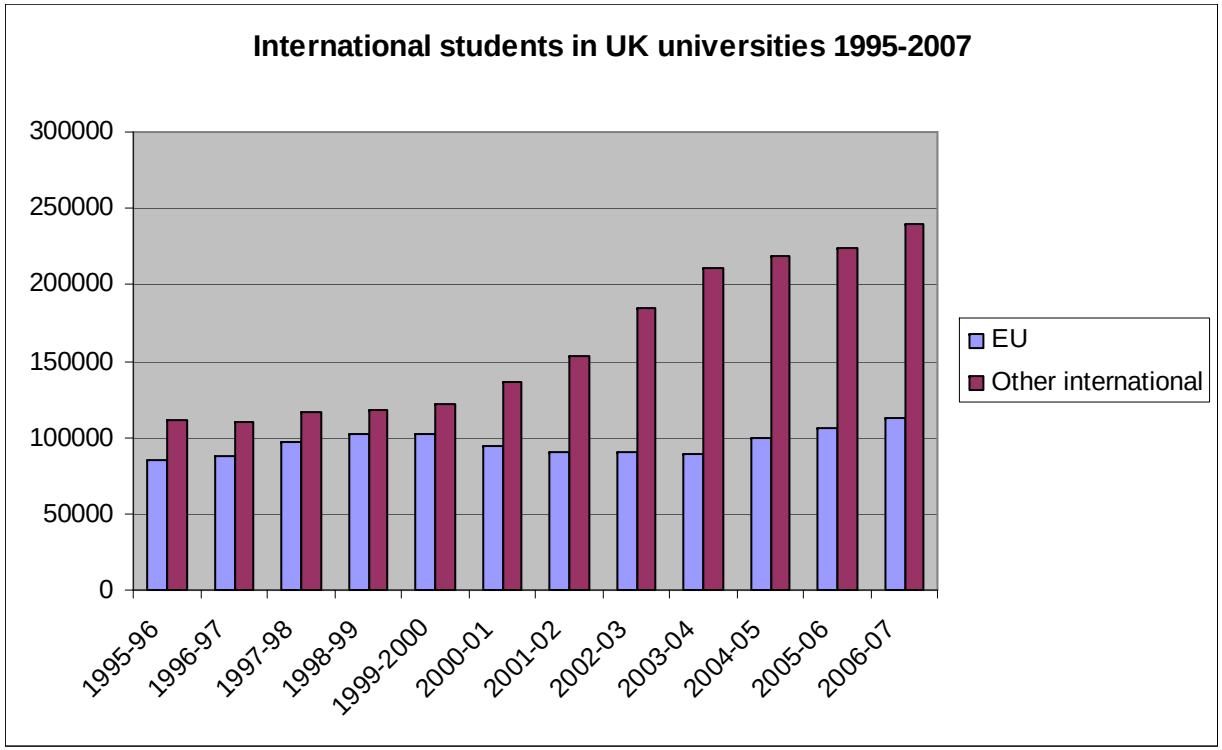
Growth in international student numbers



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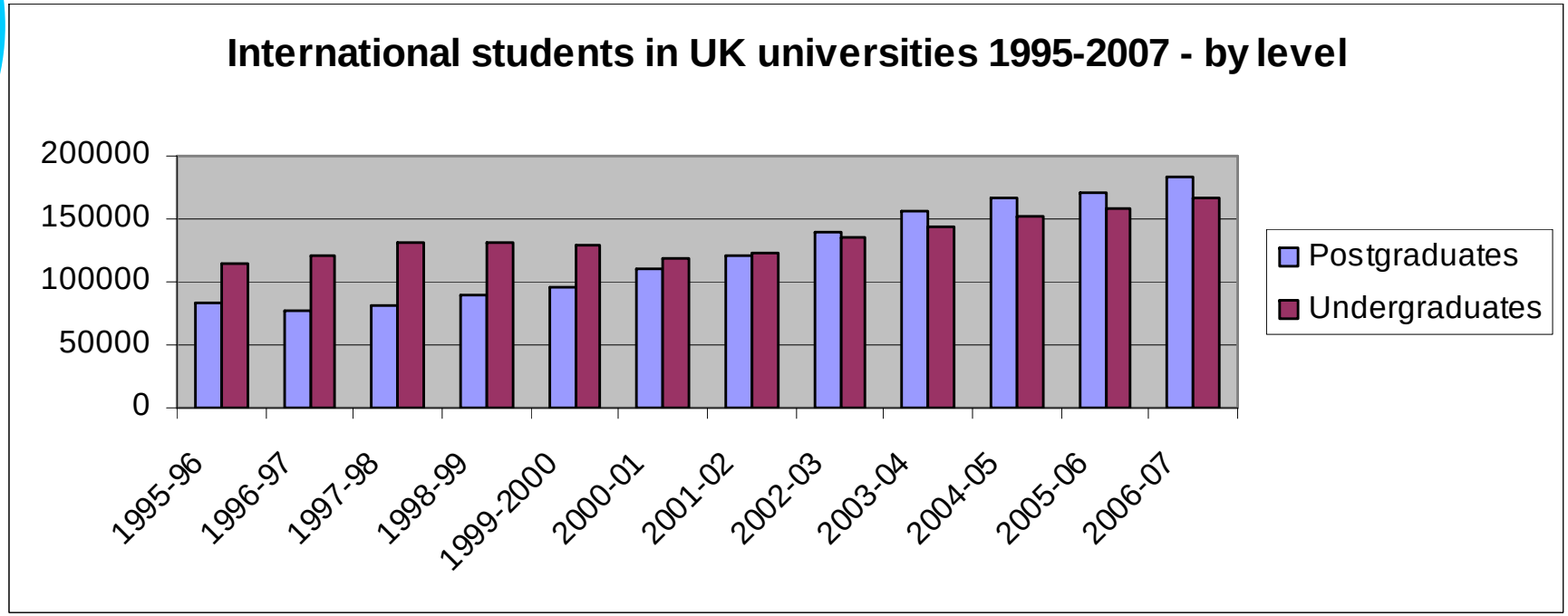

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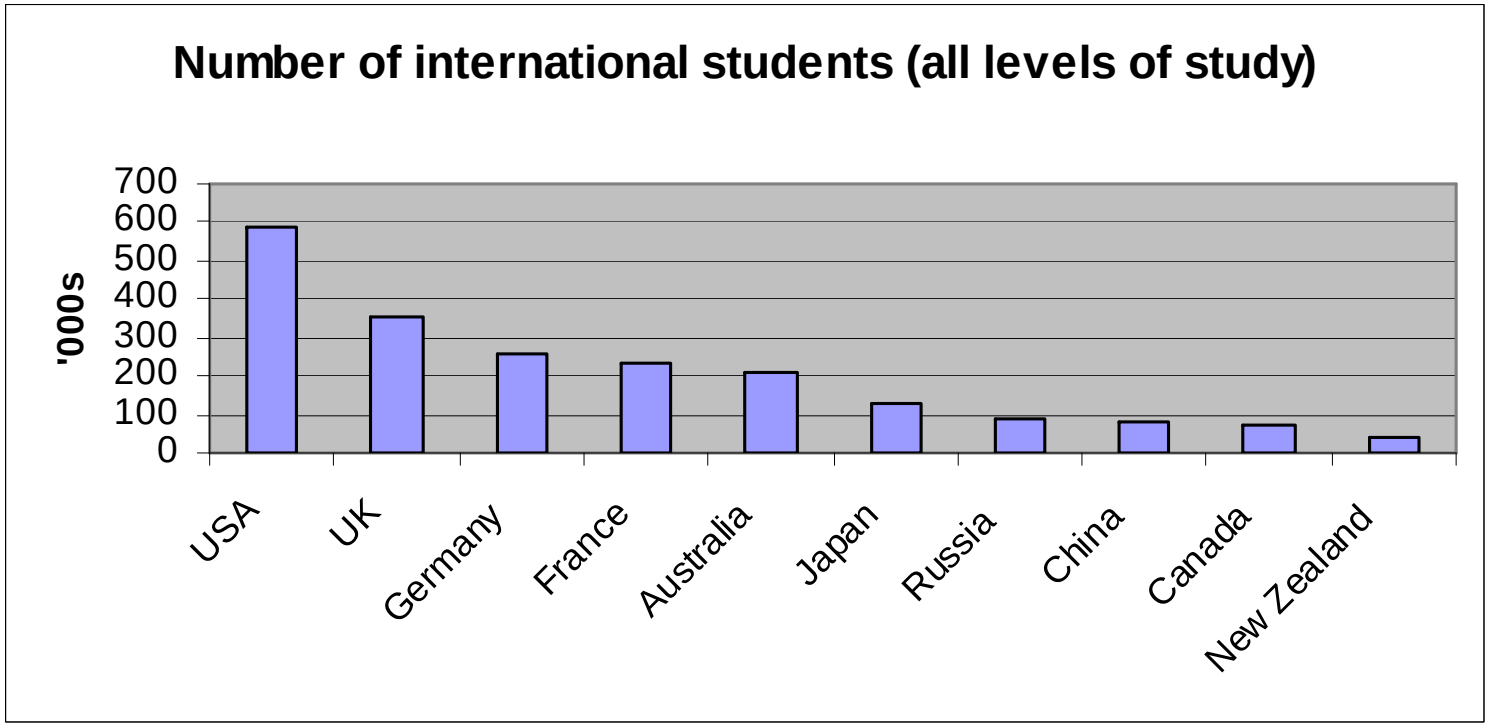
The UK is remarkably attractive for international students



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UK is not lagging as far as international collaborations are concerned

	% of world output	Collaboration as % of output	% collab increase 1996-00 to 2001-05
UK	9	40	11.4
USA	34	25	5.3
Canada	5	41	7.9
France	6	44	8.3
Germany	8	43	8.6
Japan	9	21	4.9
Australia	3	40	9.2
China	5	26	0.5

Source: Evidence Ltd 2007

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And the UK attracts more than its share of international collaborations

	UK	USA	Canada	France	Germany	Japan	Australia	China
UK		30	6.4	10.7	14	4.6	6.6	3.8
USA	12.9		11.6	8.1	13.1	9.3	4.8	6.1
Canada	12.2	51.4		8.5	8.5	5.2	4.9	4.9
France	14.4	25.2	6		15.4	4.3	2.6	2.6
Germany	13.8	30	4.4	11.3		5.1	3	3.7
Japan	8.6	40.3	5.1	6	9.7		3.8	11.2
Australia	20.6	34.4	7.9	5.9	9.4	6.4		7.9
China	10.1	37.7	6.8	5.1	9.9	15.8	6.1	
Average	13.2	35.6	6.9	8	11.4	7.2	4.6	5.7

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Reform of the system is a critical element in international success

"Two assets are crucial [in the international success of UK and American universities]: autonomy and resources. … From this point of view, most European universities possess a limited autonomy as very few governments and academics are ready to face the price to be paid for freedom, i.e. the possibility of failure. Too many university actors tend to prefer the wish of Alice in Wonderland that "all should have prizes". Unfortunately, autonomy and competition are less benevolent but this is the price for attaining excellence."

- Professor Yves Meny at the HEPI Annual Lecture, November 2007

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International Student income is terrific – but it carries risks

		Income from non EU fees	Total income	Percent from non-EU fees
1	LSE	43259	129124	33.5
2	SOAS	12779	40047	31.9
4	Essex	14783	82867	17.8
5	Luton	9082	51246	17.7
6	City	20477	118340	17.3
8	Westminster	20589	124505	16.5
9	University of the Arts	19318	118402	16.3
10	Middlesex	20486	128263	16.0
11	Hertfordshire	20739	131769	15.7
12	Bradford	12763	84533	15.1
13	Goldsmiths	7516	50614	14.9
14	Oxford Brookes	15739	111072	14.2
17	Kent at Canterbury	12397	93174	13.3
19	Greenwich	14870	117102	12.7
20	Portsmouth	14412	113520	12.7

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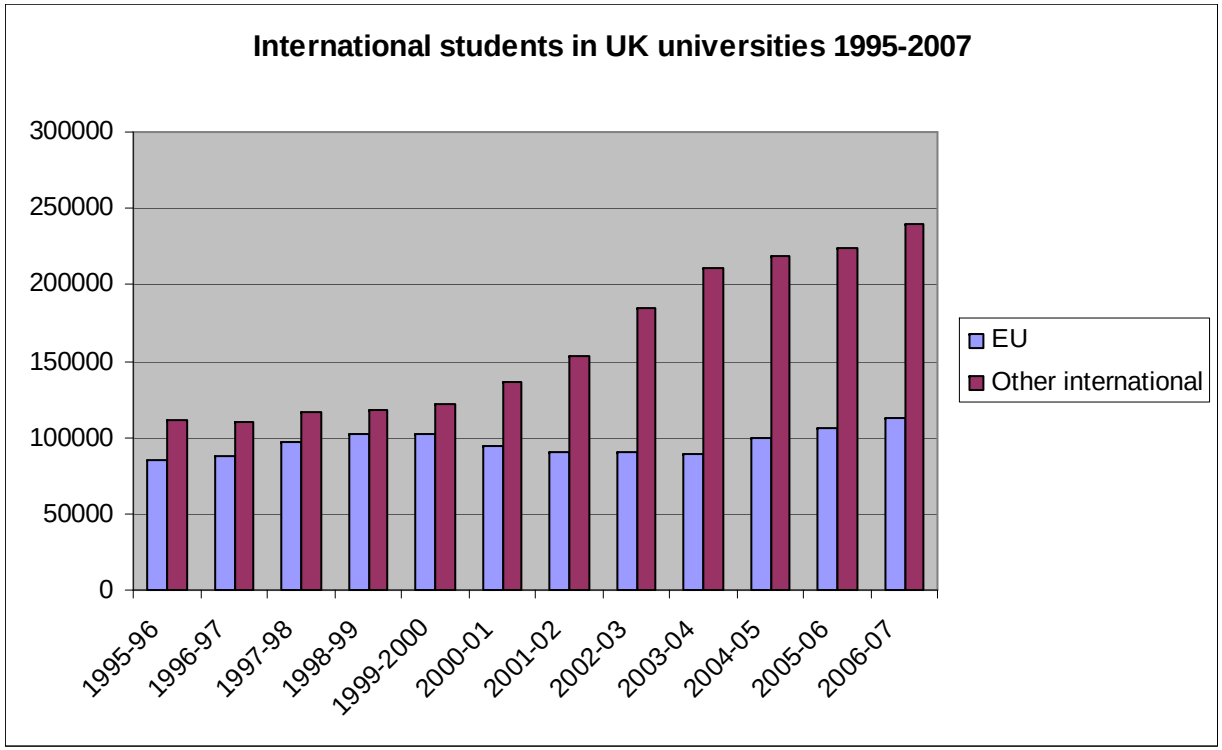
Growth in international student numbers



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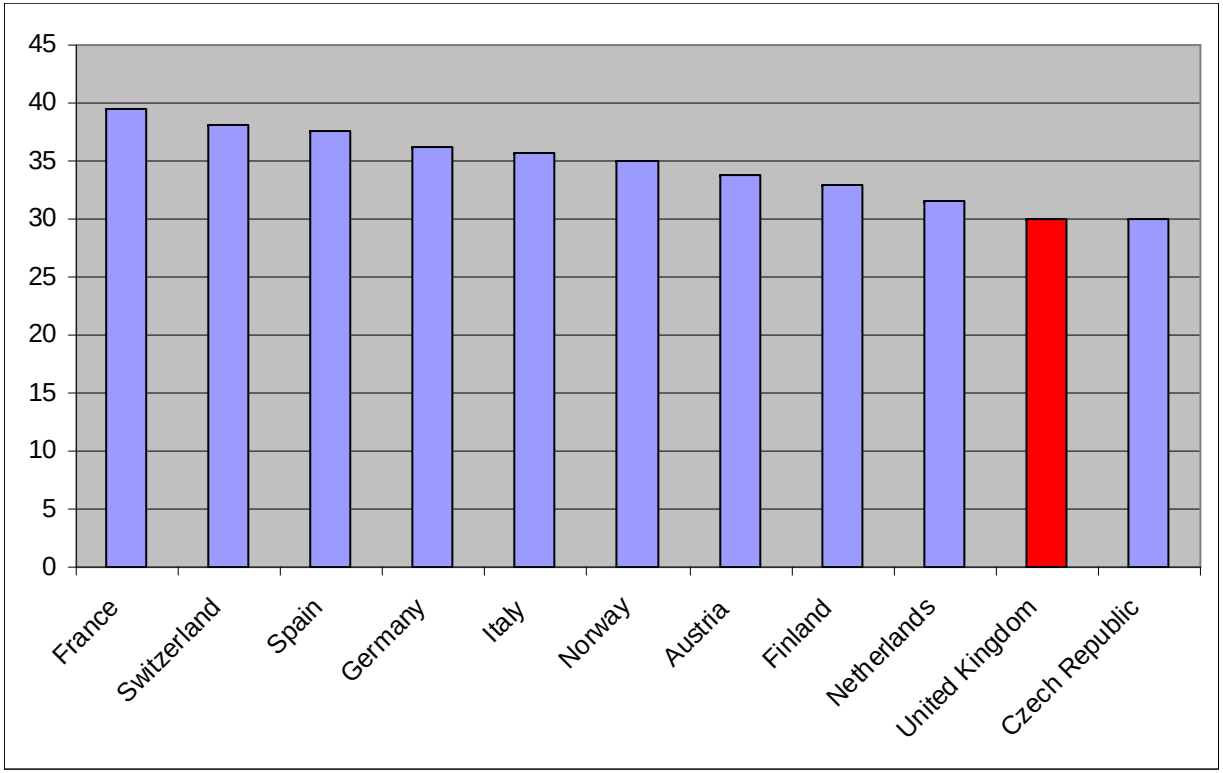
Hours of study by UG students in selected European countries



Source: CHERI - EC Framework project - The Flexible Professional in the Knowledge Society (Data are <2000)

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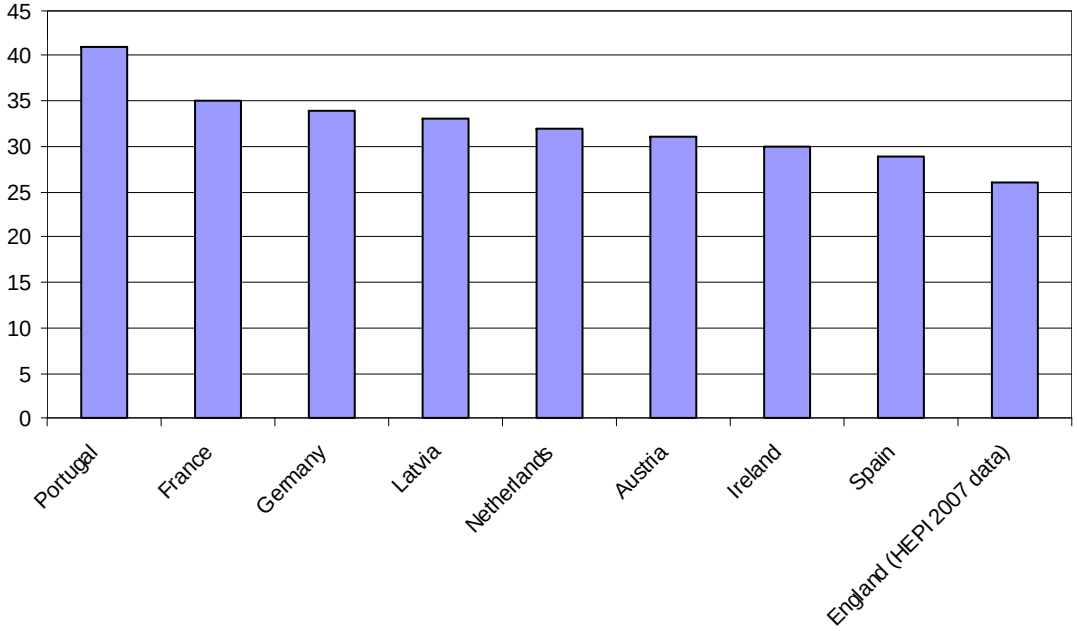

Source: Eurostudent 2005, with England data from HEPI 2007

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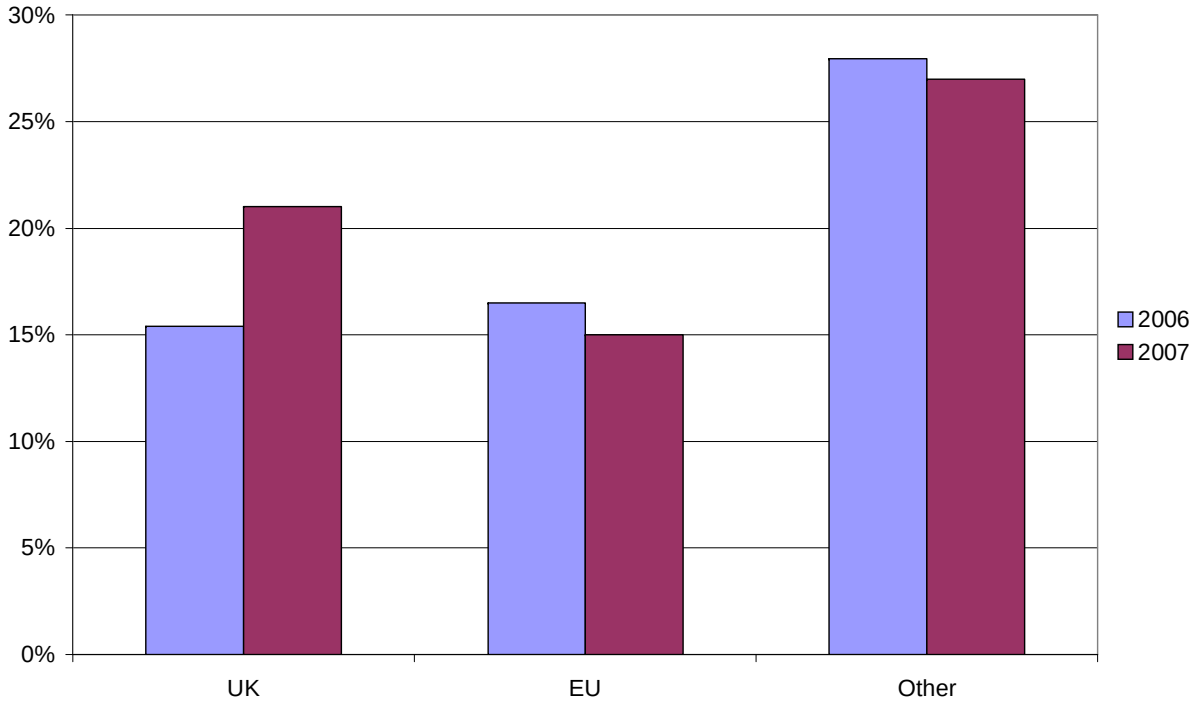
A worrying proportion of international students are dissatisfied with the VfM of what they get

Percentage of students reporting very poor or poor value for money by nationality (2006 and 2007)



HEPI 2007: "The academic experience of students in English universities"

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The cost of study may become an important issue

- ‘Possibly the largest single factor likely to undermine the UK’s global market share is cost – both fees and living related’

Source: UK HE International Unit – The UK’s Competitive Advantage: The Market for International Research Students

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Cost of study in the UK compared to other countries

Table 4: The total cost of a degree (in US$), including tuition, living costs and other expenses

	PhD	Masters	Bachelors
USA Private	116,902	81,501	161,257
United Kingdom	95,306	53,257	93,382
USA Public	80,621	79,613	82,986
Japan	94,824	41,756	76,885
Australia	81,132	45,131	67,789
Germany	59,507	31,632	66,623
Malaysia	19,929	14,428	36,014

Source: Australian Education International, 2006

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UK HE International Unit on scholarships for PGR students

"The funding of international PGR students in the UK is complex, lacks coherence [and] is less generous than in competitor countries"

Source: UK HE International Unit – The UK's Competitive Advantage: The Market for International Research Students

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