Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

British Council

Personal Safety & International Students

Helen Clews

British Council

The United Kingdom's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations.

Purpose statement:-

- **To build mutually beneficial relationships between people in the UK and other countries and to increase appreciation of the UK's creative ideas and achievements.**

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

UK Border Agency

Mission statement:-

- Our goals are to bring communities together and improve Britain's competitiveness as a destination for travel, trade, migration, and investment through programmes which prevent immigration abuse, deliver value for money and earn public confidence

- **Building a safe, just and tolerant society.**

British Council

- **External Relations and Immigration**

Maintain close working relationships with:

UK Border Agency

Home Office

DIUS (Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills)

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

UKCISA

Work Permits UK

Institutions (universities/Further Education Colleges & English Lang Schools)

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

Number of international students in the UK

Higher Education

- Total 344,335 (04/05) 356,080 (05/06)
- 115,230 came from the EU 121,730 from the EU
- 1 million international students studying in the UK by 2025?

Further Education & English Language

- Total 73,610 (04/05) 87,845 (05/06)
  - **Non-EU- 50,380** **45,850 (05/06)**
  - **EU - 23,225** **41,995 (05/06)**

  - **English Language Accredited students - 256,010 2003/4**

  Top 5 student posts: Islamabad, Lagos, Mumbai, Beijing, Moscow

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

The PMI2 for International Education

The first PMI was highly successful and targets met.

The PMI2 for International Education is a new 5yr strategy:-

•UK positioning: marketing and communications to position the UK as a leader in international education and to increase the numbers of students engaged in UK education

•**Ensuring the quality of the student experience**

•Building strategic partnerships and alliances

•Priority countries: diversification and consolidation**.**

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

PMI2 Targets

Target year: 2011

- An additional 70,000 international students in UK higher education; and 30,000 in further education
- Double the number of countries sending more than 10,000 students pa to the UK
- Achieve demonstrable improvements to student satisfaction ratings in the UK
- Achieve significant growth in the number of partnerships between the UK and other countries

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

International Student Safety Campaign

- **Initial questionnaire**
- **Safety First**
- **More detailed questionnaire 2007**
- **Published Report**
- **Script for DVD**
- **Script for Police and security staff.**

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

International student safety results

580 replies – Questionnaire results 2006

- Police registration – 162 registered 6 did not
- Police registration – 43 ORO, 82 local station, 39 university
- Victim of crime – 54 victims - 19 on 1st visit and 35 2nd visit
- Reporting – 29 Police, 11 staff, 6 other, 12 did not report it
- Police briefing at University – 89 yes, 439 no.

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

International student safety results

Immigration (Registration with the Police) Regulations 1972 & Para 325 & 326 of part 10 Immigration Rules HC 395)

- History – 1918 – 1983 (EC Nationals no longer required to register with the Police). May 1998 reviewed to reflect the needs of the Police and Security Service for information about foreign nationals. Large number of countries removed.
- 106 Visa Nationals
- 36 Register with the Police
- 3 Non-Visa Nationals required to register (Argentina, Brazil and Israel)

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

International student safety results 2007

Safety First – A personal safety guide for international students

- over 800,000 copies have been sold
- Booklet available on websites

www.educationuk.org
www.ukvisas.co.uk

Voice of International Students June 2007
International Students, Racial Abuse and HE in Britain

(Study - 143 young international students East West Midlands Region)

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

Safety First

- **A personal safety guide for international students:**
  - **About the police**
  - **Arriving in the UK**
  - **Taking out insurance**
  - **Looking after your belongings**
  - **Finding private accommodation**
  - **Safety at home**
  - **Safety on the streets**
  - **Using public transport**
  - **Using taxis**
  - **Driving in the UK**
  - **The laws in the UK**
  - **Racial discrimination and harassment**
  - **Useful help lines and websites**

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

Safety First

- British Council website and staff overseas
- Home Office websites
- UKvisas website overseas
- UKCISA website and members

Copies also distributed to:

- Association for International Student Advisers (AISA)
- Police Association of Higher Education Liaison Officers
- Security
- British Transport Police
- All Educational institutions

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

British Council Safety Survey 2007

Methodology – entirely by questionnaire

Factual information
Police Registration
Personal safety
Accommodation
Institution and Location
Crime
British Council Safety First Publication
What else can be done.

British Council Safety Survey 2007 – Factual Information

British Council Administered Scholars

662 returned from 112 countries.

50.8% Male –

Age Range (26-30) and high numbers in (19-25) and (31-35) Post grad study

Family – 18.4% accompanied

Accommodation – city centre and out of town campus

Self Funded Students

1044 returned from 103 countries – inc EU.

47.9% Male –

Age Range (19-25) followed by (26-30)

Family – 17.6% accompanied

Accommodation – Wider range of institutions

British Council Safety Survey 2007 – Factual Information

British Council Administered Scholars - many on 1 year Masters

63% were visiting the UK for the first time

80% had spent 6-12 months at the time of the survey

Self Funded Students - Undergraduate

48% were visiting the UK for the first time

50% had spent over 12 months at the time of the survey

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

British Council Safety Survey 2007 – Police Registration

Students Comments

Overwhelmingly favourable

Three quarters indicated little difficulty – on campus registration.

Criticism

Waiting time, long queues, uncomfortable surroundings, lack of organisation, distance to travel when out of town. Staff helpful, friendly and courteous although a few incidences of rudeness.

Institutions

Need to provide information about the need for, and procedures of registration, especially from a small group who failed to register.

British Council Safety Survey 2007 – Police Registration

Students Comments

Feelings about having to register

Similar processes were in place in their own country

Felt relieved and safer.

Many expressed concern about the need for registration

‘Discriminatory’, ‘racism’, ‘second class citizen’, ‘criminal suspect’, ‘distrusted’, ‘insulting’, ‘potential offender’, ‘humiliated’, ‘under suspicion’, ‘intimidation’, ‘prejudice’.

Several students questioned the ‘high cost’ and the ‘reasons behind registration’.

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

British Council Safety Survey 2007 – Victims of crime

Out of a total of 1550 respondents

- Just 221 claimed to have been the victim of crime – just 14%
  This proportion is halved for British Council administered scholars.
- There is some evidence of susceptibility to crime along national or racial lines
- Theft compromises some 64% of reported incidents – mobile phones, bicycles, wallets and lesser incidences of bags, jewellery, clothing and cameras.
- 10 instances of serious fraud (credit card or bank account details)

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

British Council Safety Survey 2007 – Victims of crime

Out of a total of 1550 respondents

- Only 22 reported incidents of personal verbal abuse – concerns about racial abuse in the UK, which exists in many parts of the world, appear to be largely unfounded.
- More serious reports – 26 cases of assault (although none of these resulted in serious injury or hospitalisation)
- Of the 30 crimes involving violence only 4 were experienced by British Council administered scholars – less than 2% of 1700 in total who answered this
- UK must be seen as a safe destination for international students compared with most countries across the world.

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

British Council Safety Survey 2007 – Victims of crime

Victims of crime come from all age Groups

- Peaking at 16% of 26 to 30 year olds
- Reducing to below 10% of the age group extremes of under 18 and over 35
- In all age groups the proportions of British Council Administered Scholars is significantly lower
- British Council Administered Scholars relatively few (12%) experienced crime within the first six months
- Greatest danger is after six months
- For other students the greatest proportion (645) occurs after 12 months

Reporting crime

- Of 221 occurrences 58 or 26% went unreported
- Hypothetical question was answered positively by a huge majority
- Reasons given: loss too trivial, mistrust of police, nothing would result from the report.

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

British Council Safety Survey 2007 – Victims of crime

Addressing Personal Safety Issues

- Invitation for comments produced a huge response
- British Council Administered Scholars indicated a high level of satisfaction (over two thirds) of the way in which staff prepared them for life and study in the UK, including personal safety advice
- Recognition that Scholars should also take on personal responsibility and some comments that being a mature group common sense should also prevail

- **Suggested improvements included**: focus on personal safety overseas including non-partnership countries, regular reminders in the UK – newsletter when ‘guards are down’ and complacencies set in, where to get help quickly, advice on safe areas within cities (especially those with families), several students were unprepared for the alcohol culture, anti social behaviour of youths. Concern about verbal and racial abuse and being looked upon as a terrorist – how best to deal with them were requested, more information on banking fraud and landlords.

British Council Safety Survey 2007 – Victims of crime

Addressing Personal Safety Issues

- **Suggested improvements included**: Traffic appeared in several replies – particularly the dangers of cycling and theft, difficulties with NHS registration and needs in an emergency such as assault, female students wanted advice on where to get personal alarms and elementary self defence training and via newsletters information regarding on campus crime and need to be cautious of fellow students – perhaps briefing from existing students would help.

- An emphasis on security matters by staff and regular reminders might improve an already satisfactory situation

British Council Safety Survey 2007 – Victims of crime

Addressing Personal Safety Issues
Self funded students (as previous slides) but in addition:

Suggested improvements included:

advice about unsafe areas in cities for those without University accommodation. More concerns were expressed about binge drinking and the drug culture, pre-departure briefings, many were not aware of the Safety First publication and requested copies, newsletters made available to all international students, information regarding their rights and statutory protection from crime, insufficient police on patrol in city centres, uselessness of CCTV and impolite immigration staff at airports.

There seemed a greater level of dissatisfaction with security issues amongst self funded students.

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

Personal Safety Presentations

Police briefing

British Council Administered Scholars – 640 replied

Yes 84 13.1% No 556 86.9%

Self Funded Students – 894 replied

Yes 126 14.1% No 768 85.9%

Presentations usually concentrate on the negatives: if they are arrested, stop & search, drugs, police carrying guns, if they are victims of crime, spiking drinks, attack alarms, taking drugs, carrying a pen knife.

The talks too long, use complicated language, not very interactive, and do not always take into account immigration or cultural differences.

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

The Future

- Greater use of overseas information provision
- Safety presentation DVD on websites overseas
- Safety first – updated and link to crime prevention websites
- Universities – partnerships with police and security staff
- Training DVD for police/security - working with international students.