i-graduate
INTERNATIONAL INSIGHT

Your finger on the pulse of international student and stakeholder opinion

Developing Global Citizens

Key findings and implications from the 2008 International Alumni Barometer™

Will Archer, Director, i-graduate

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- International Alumni Barometer 2008
- Key findings
- Implications and recommendations

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Context

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International Alumni Barometer 2008

- A tracking mechanism and comparative benchmark
- Understanding alumni outcomes, career progression, recommendations, contributions and reflections
- 2008 pilot ran in 11 UK universities with support from CIHE
- Responses from over **15,000** alumni
- Response from over **4100** alumni from 'marker' graduation years 2006, 2005 and 2003

Partner institutions

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International Alumni Barometer 2008

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
PRIFYSGOL CAERDYDD

Middlesex University

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

liverpool JMU

bucks new university

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

University of Hertfordshire UH

LONDON SOUTH BANK UNIVERSITY

University of BRISTOL

UCL

Coventry University

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Key finding #1

International graduates living in the UK more likely to hold a **senior/management position** within 5 years, compared with UK graduates

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Key finding #2

International alumni more likely to state that being an alumnus of a UK university means they can *'progress more quickly in their chosen career'*

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Key finding #3

International alumni returning overseas more likely to be earning '**well above average**' than those in UK

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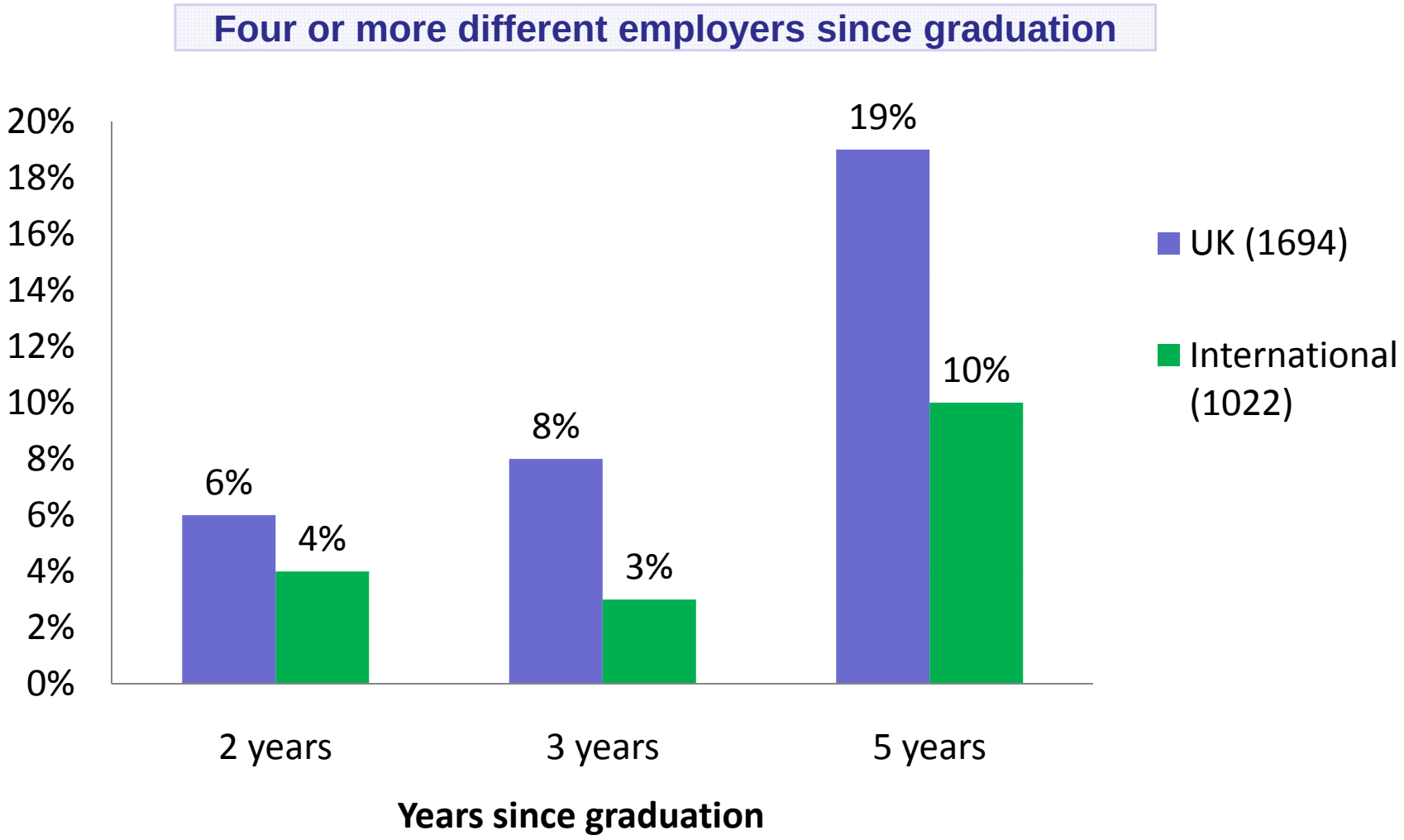
Key finding #4

UK graduates change jobs at a **faster rate** within first five years



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Key finding #5

International graduates perceive UK study as affecting employability

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Studying in the UK has highly affected my employability. I work for an international company and so it is important for them to hire people with an international perspective.

The UK learning experience as a whole has strengthened my self confidence, exposed me to different languages, cultures and traditions, and has opened my eyes to the world out there.

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Implications

Those who have studied in the UK and have experienced overseas study...

- **are more likely to get better jobs, with higher pay**
- **are more likely to be in senior management positions**
- **consider that international study experience has enhanced their personality and attractiveness to employers.**

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A wake up call...

- You'll get further in life if you travel overseas to study or gain work experience

- In today's turbulent times it is more important than ever for every graduate to demonstrate an international dimension to their thinking

- There is no better way to demonstrate this than to study or work for a period overseas

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A wake up call...

- Our research also shows how important it is for universities to engage with former students and to understand where they are in their careers

- Graduates of all ages can play a vital part in providing role models and careers connections for students… but only if their institution remains relevant and connected to them

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Recommendations

For Universities...

- **Reinforce the business messages** to students to better prepare them for global companies.

- **Partner more with overseas universities** to develop teaching links and facilitate student exchanges

- **Alumni career progression** should be **tracked** and broader alumni connections encouraged as part of a full “after sales” service.

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Recommendations

For Businesses...

- Convey clear messages that they increasingly value those who have had some international study experience

- Take more students on overseas work placements/ internships

- Recruit more international students from the UK for both their UK and global operations

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Recommendations

For Students...

- UK students must appreciate how the recruitment bar has been raised as global businesses recruit globally.

- They will be disadvantaged in the hunt for the best global jobs unless they can demonstrate a global mindset.

- International students should better appreciate the benefits of studying in the UK not only in terms of the quality of the learning experience but also the enhanced job opportunities that can result.

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Recommendations

For the Funding Councils...

- Developing strategic partnerships and exchanges is costly for universities; the funding councils should support such programmes e.g. through their strategic development funds

- Developing global citizens and global partnerships should be central to the missions of our university systems in the 21st century.

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Recommendations

For the UK Government...

- The Home Office should take account of the views of businesses in establishing policies on visas and work permits

- Signal willingness to welcome graduates who are recruited by businesses to study for professional qualifications.

- The UK Government, the British Council and universities should publicise the positive messages emerging from our survey of international alumni (IAB).

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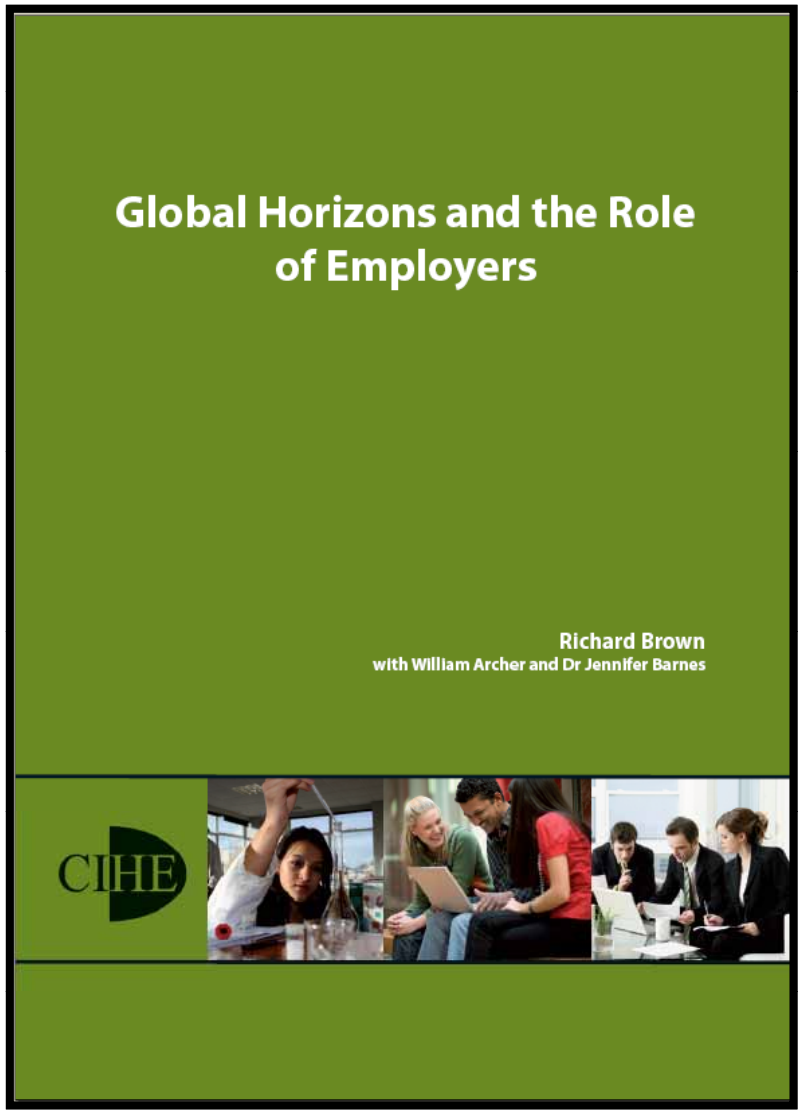
Report



CIHE publication:

Global Horizons and the Role of Employers

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International Graduate Insight Group
29 Harley Street
London W1G 9QR

t +44 (0)207 222 7890
f +44 (0)207 182 7152
info@i-graduate.org
www.i-graduate.org

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