

UK Higher Education

Professor Sir Steve Smith

Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive
University of Exeter

UK higher education: Overview

- 2.3 million students
 - 125,000 EU
 - 310,000 Non-EU


- 161 Higher education institutions

- 396,000 staff of which 194,000 are academic

- £30.5 billion total income

- 13% of all international students choose the UK

Features of UK higher education

- Highly autonomous
 - Diverse
 - Underpinned by structures to ensure quality of teaching and learning
 - High quality and highly efficient research
 - International character
 - High levels of graduate employment, university-business interaction, student satisfaction
- 

Autonomy

UK higher education institutions have a high degree of autonomy...

- Organisation, structure, and strategy
- Finance
- Staffing
- Academic activity
- Student recruitment

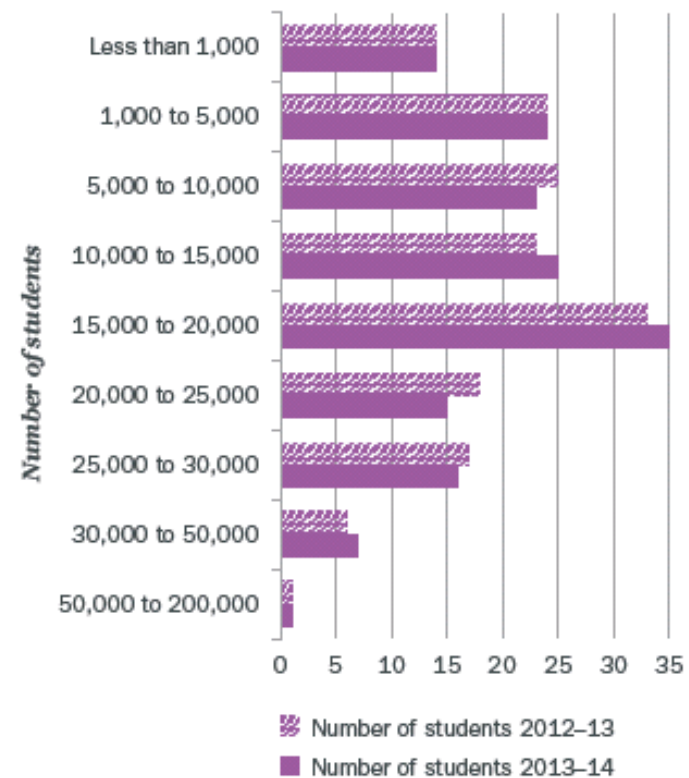
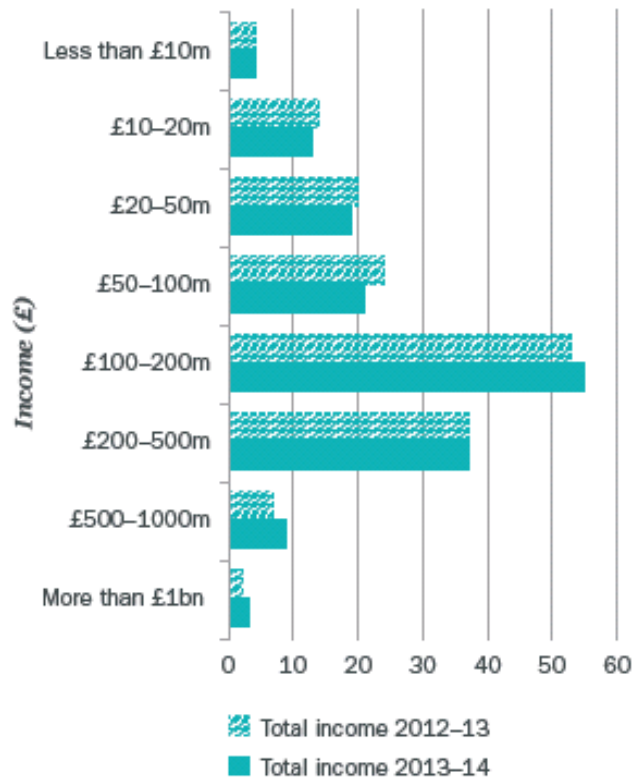
...balanced by regulation and oversight

- Financial accountability
- Quality assurance system
- Student complaints
- Fair access for students
- Charity law
- UK Visas and Immigration

Diversity

INCOME AND SIZE OF UK HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS, 2012-13 AND 2013-14

Nearly half of all UK higher education providers have an annual income of between £50 and £200 million. Less than a third had an annual income higher than £200 million.



Quality architecture

Quality Assurance Agency

- UK Quality Code: standards, quality and information
- Institutional audit
- Published reports with judgements at www.QAA.ac.uk

Higher Education Academy

- Enhancement of quality of teaching and learning
- Professional development and recognition

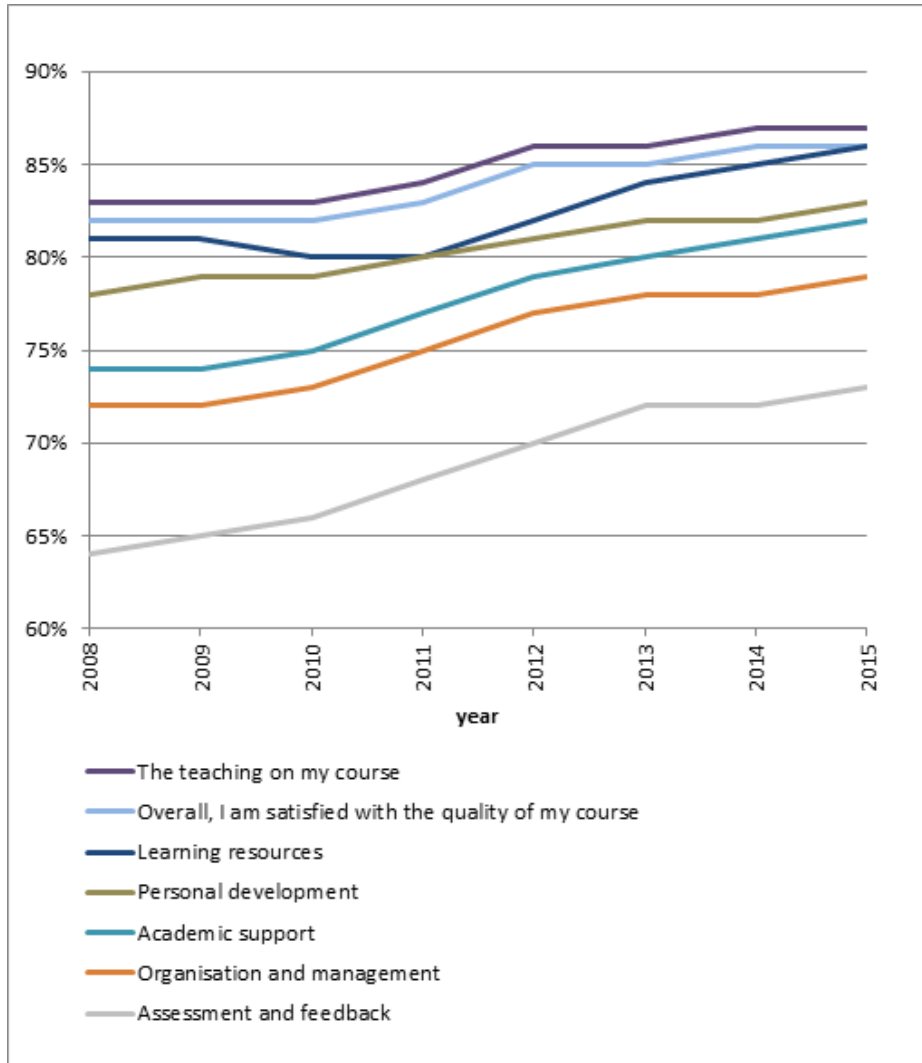
National Student Survey

- Students' views and satisfaction rates

Key Information Set

- To help students decide where to study

Student satisfaction



- Percentage of students expressing overall satisfaction with their course is at an all-time high (NSS)
- International student satisfaction has grown by 8-10% since 2005 (I-Grad Student Barometer)

Research system

Policy features

- Dual support system
- Research Excellence Framework
- Policy measures to encourage business interaction
- 10 year science and innovation framework
- 27% international staff, including 40% 'research only'

High quality research...

The UK represents...

- 0.9% of global population
- 3.2% of R&D expenditure, and
- 4.1% of researchers

It accounts for

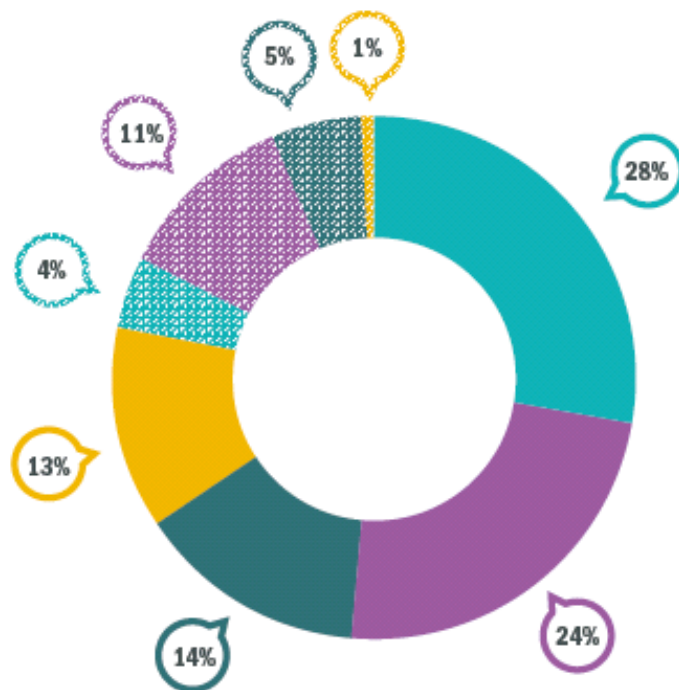
- 9.5% of downloads
- 11.6% of citations, and
- 15.9% of the world's most highly-cited articles

- The UK has overtaken the US to rank 1st by FWCI
- Estimated return on public investment between 20-50%

Research funding

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDING RECEIVED BY UK HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS, 2013-14

17% of research and development funding received by UK universities comes from overseas sources, the majority (68%) from within the EU.



Overall
research and
development
funding has
decreased by

2.3%

from 2012-13.


Research
funding from
international
sources
increased by

9.3%

in the same period.

- Higher education funding councils
- Research councils
- UK-based charities
- UK central government
- UK industry, commerce and public corporations
- EU sources
- International sources
- Other

International character

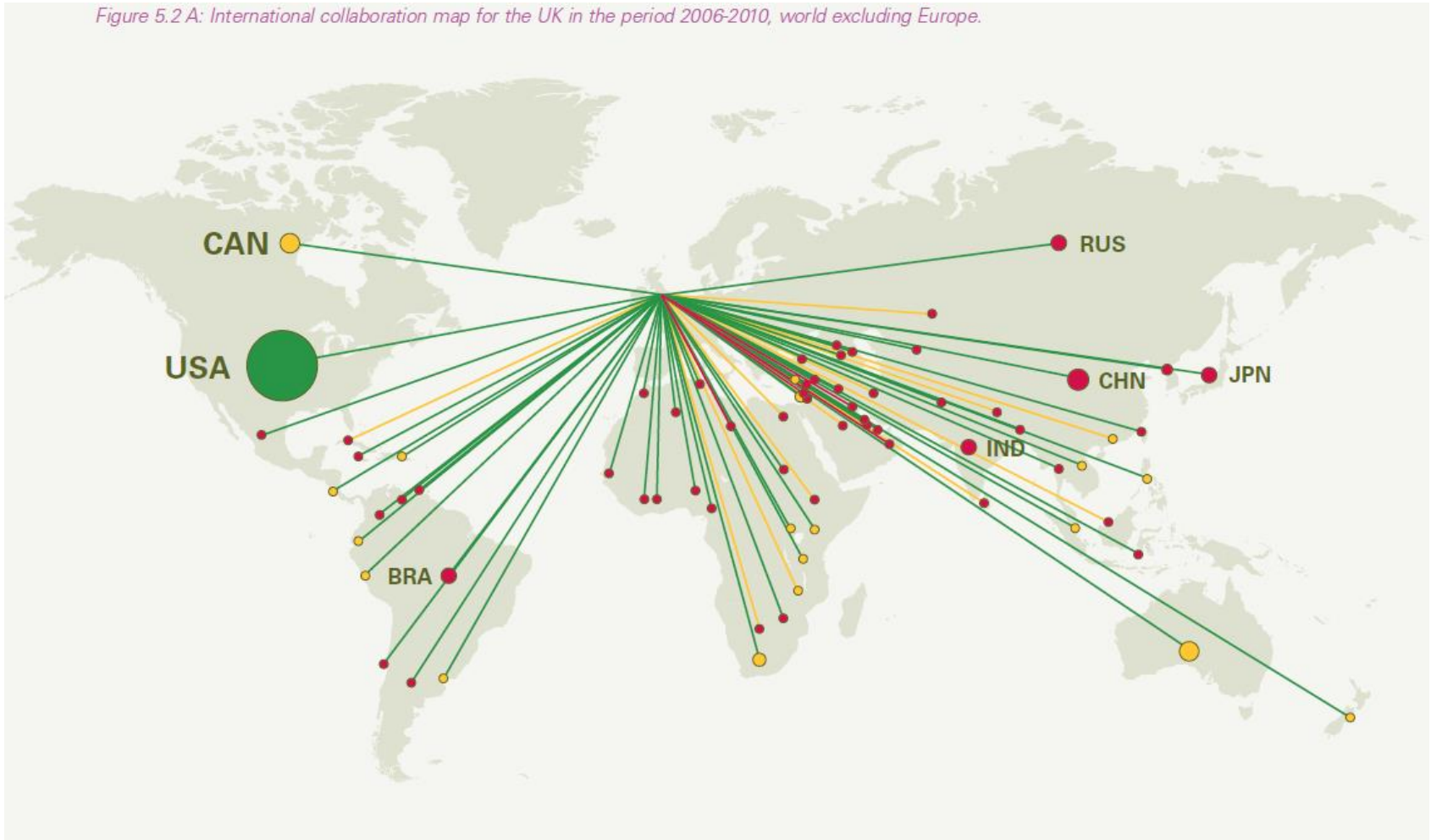
- 27% of all academic HE staff and 17% of students in the UK are international
 - Increasing international research collaboration: 48% of articles have an international co-author
 - 63% of UK researchers are affiliated to a non-UK institution
 - Second most popular destination for international students, including at PhD level
- 

Benefits of internationalisation

- Internationally co-authored work is more likely to achieve a higher citation impact
- internationally mobile researchers are more productive
- internationally mobile students are more employable
- Research profile attracts students, talent, and investment, which supports research
- Academic, cultural, prestige and financial benefits

The best researchers are internationally connected...

Figure 5.2 A: International collaboration map for the UK in the period 2006-2010, world excluding Europe.



Citation impact – UK-Brazil co-authorship

- UK-Brazil field-weighted citation impact (FWCI) of **2.84**, compared with overall international FWCI of 1.96 for UK and 1.47 for Brazil.
- Collaborative publications between the UK and Brazil generated:
 - **142% greater citation impact for the UK** than overall FWCI for internationally co-authored papers involving UK-based researchers
 - **193% greater citation impact for Brazil** than the overall FWCI for internationally co-authored papers involving Brazil-based researchers

UK AND BRAZIL

collaboration in numbers

Since 2009 the number of Brazilian articles that are co-authored with the UK has grown by 196%, making the UK Brazil's second most frequent collaborator.

6,579

UK-Brazil co-authored articles have been published between 2008-12.²

2.85

the average field weighted citation impact (FWCI) score for UK-Brazil research is higher than UK-US, UK-Germany, and UK-China research.³

18%

increase in academic staff of Brazilian nationality working in UK universities in 2013-14 compared to 2012-13.⁴

87

UK universities have welcomed Brazilian Science without Borders students.

93%

of SwB UK students said that their period of studies abroad had improved their intellectual skills.

131

Brazilian universities have sent Science without Borders students to the UK.

11,352

Science without Borders students in total have come to study in the UK (2012-2015).

9,253

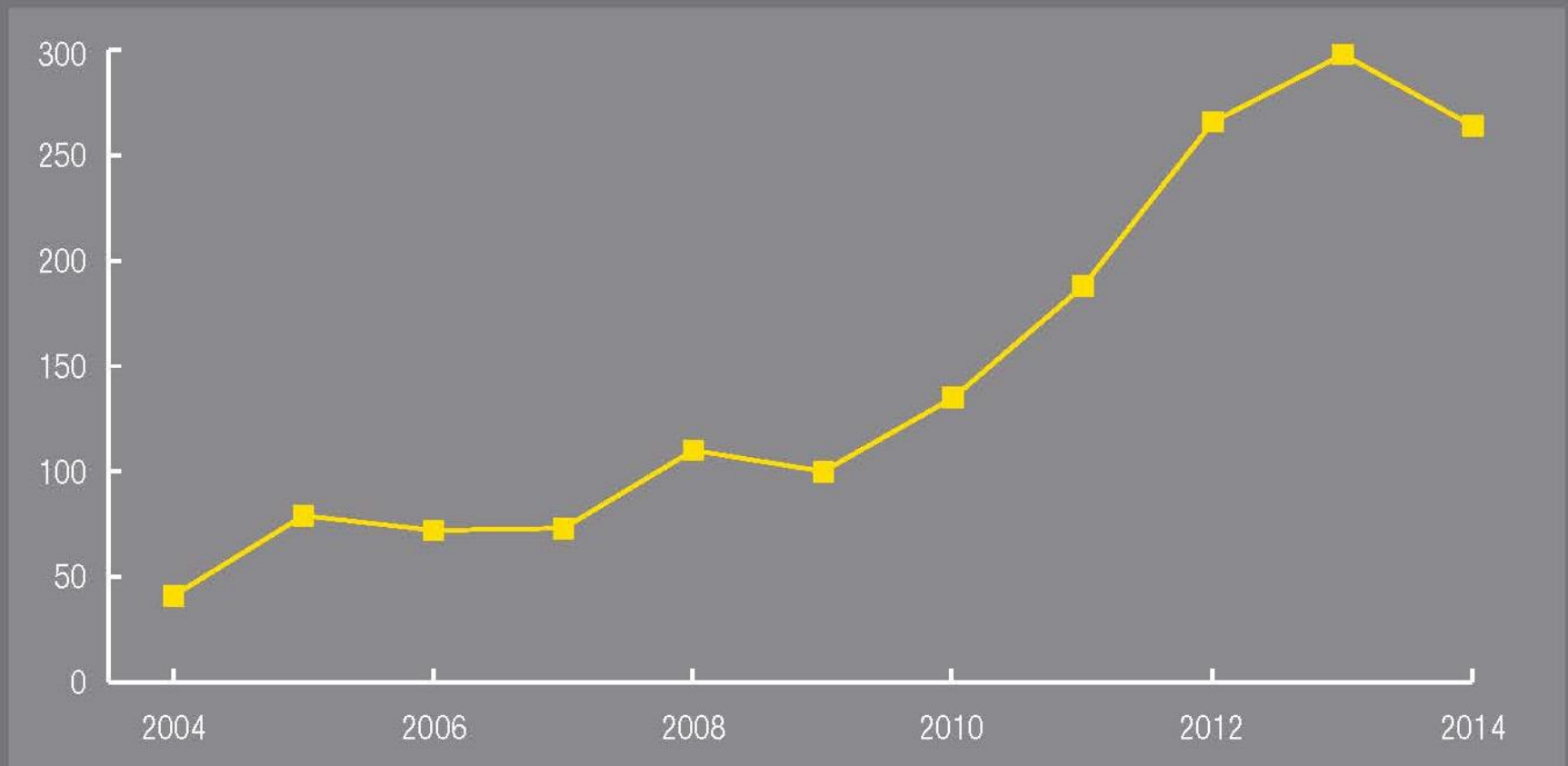
of the scholarships went to undergraduates, 754 were visiting PhDs, 583 were full PhDs, and 762 were Post-Docs.

£90 million

over five years in joint UK-Brazil Newton funding for research, innovation and researcher mobility

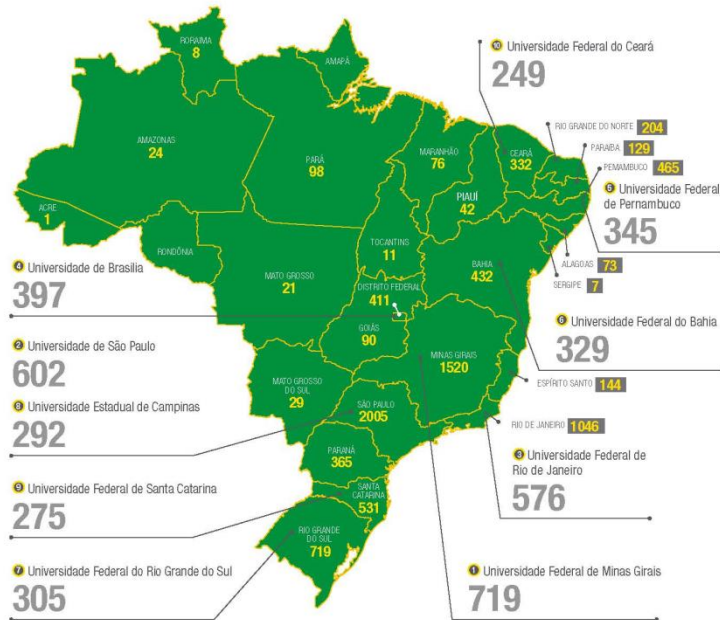
UK-Brazil joint publications 1980-2014

Figure 1: Joint publications with Brazil 1980-2014

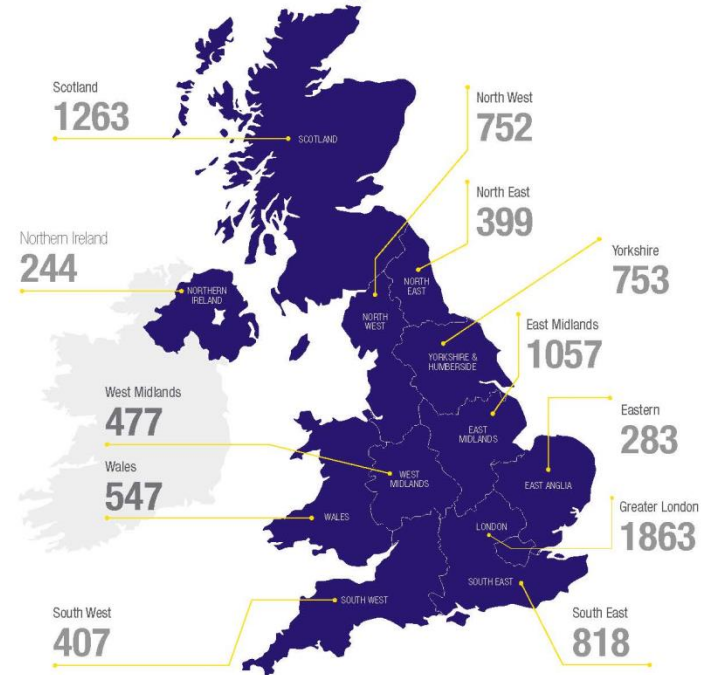


Distribution of CSF (SWB) UK students

Number of SwB UK students from each region and top 10 Brazilian sending universities



Total number of students with SwB scholarships coming to the UK by region





Thank you

For more information about the work of the
UK Higher Education International Unit visit
www.international.ac.uk