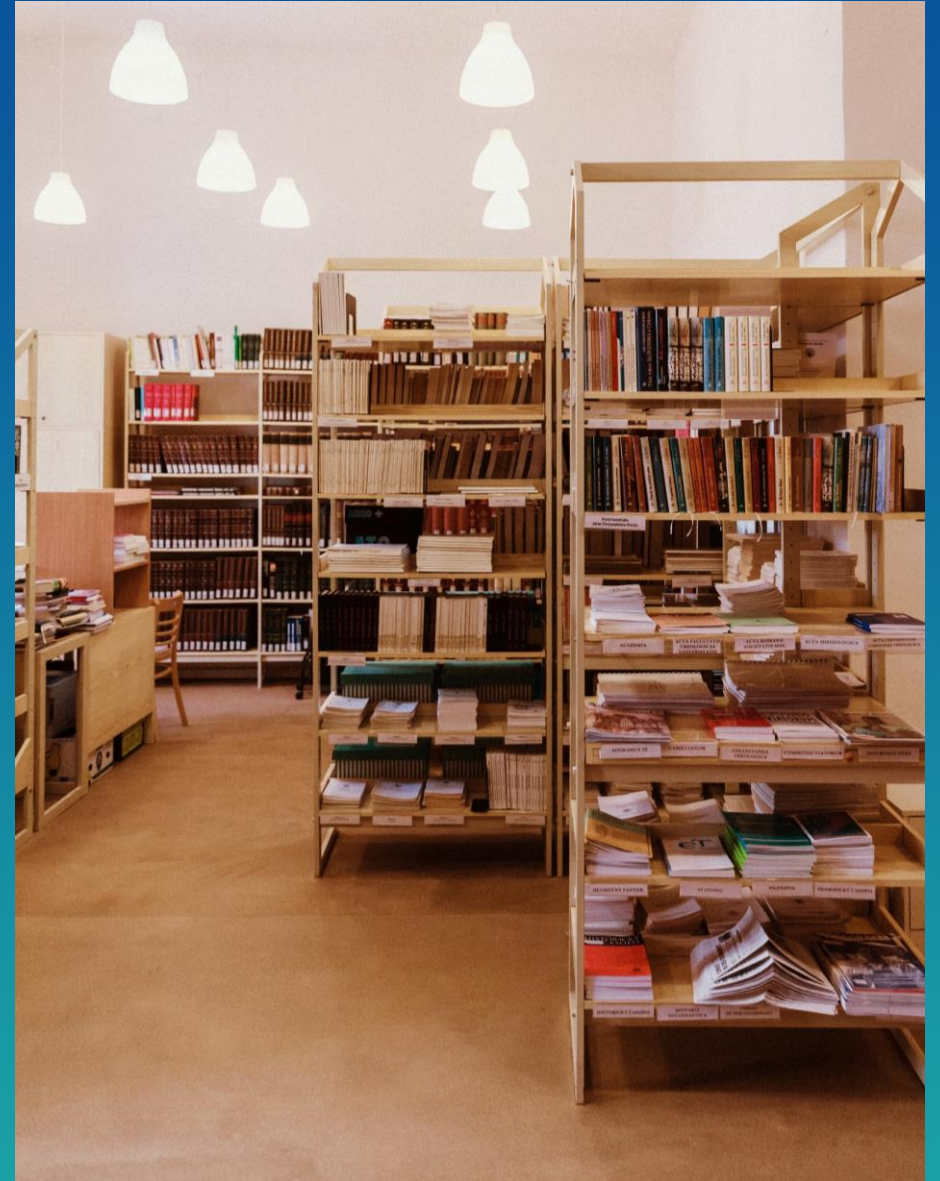# An Introduction to Universities UK International (UUKi)

- Yusuf Ali-Hassan
- Policy Officer, East Asia and Americas
- Universities UK International (UUKi)
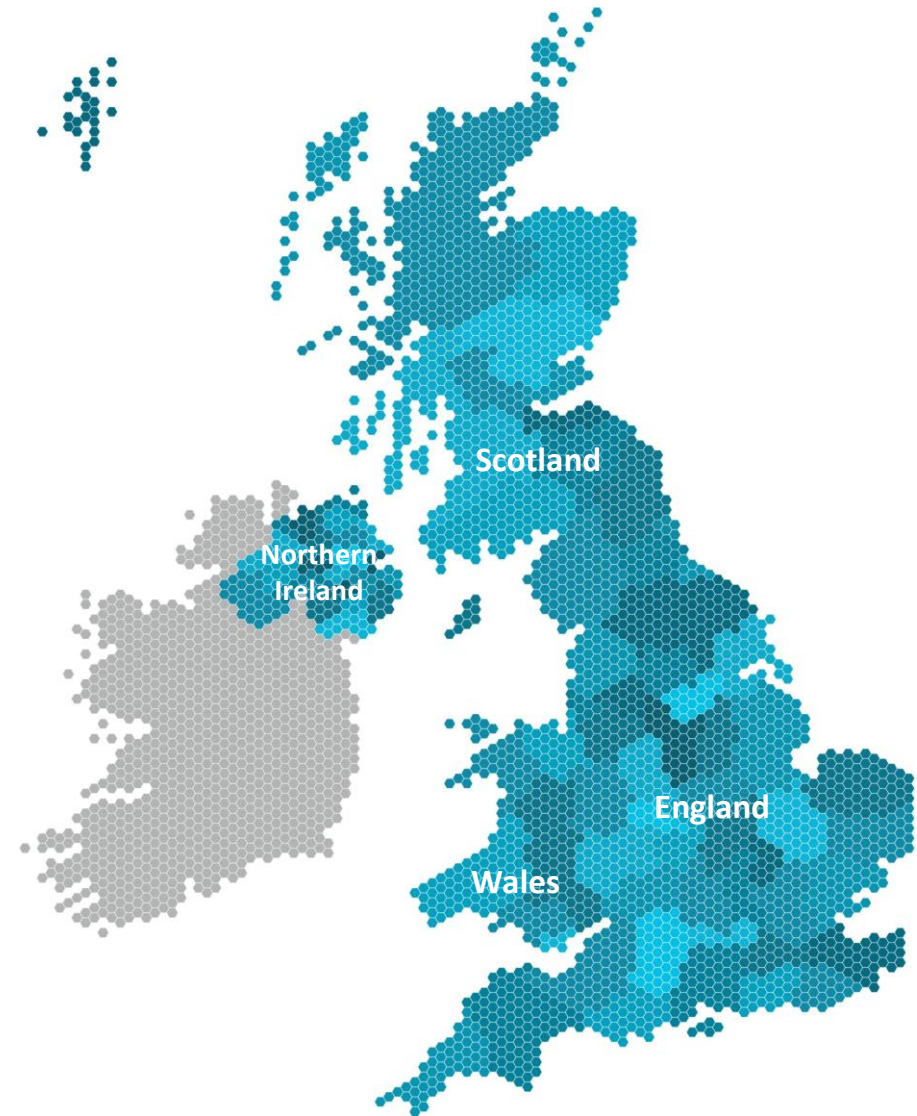
Universities UK

Universities UK International is part of Universities UK, the voice of **142 universities** across all four UK nations.

Our mission is to support our members by campaigning for conditions that help increase their impact locally, nationally and globally.

Our members are the Vice-Chancellors or Principals of universities in the UK. Our President is Professor Dame Sally Mapstone, Principal of the University of St Andrews (2023-25).

Universities Wales and Universities Scotland work autonomously to represent the interests of Welsh and Scottish institutions in the devolved nations.

Scotland

Northern Ireland

England

Wales

Image Source: Vecteezy.com

Universities UK International (UUKi)

UUKi represents the full membership of Universities UK plus six non-UUK members institutions. We have three objectives:

1. Supporting our members to develop international strategies and activities
2. Creating opportunities for members to develop new links
3. Influencing policy to support university internationalisation

- **Aims**

- Grow and diversify onshore recruitment of international students.

- Enhance the scale and impact of international research collaboration.

- Support the development of sustainable, scalable transnational education.

- Increase the proportion of students with international experience.

- Help UK universities develop the capabilities, understanding and resilience to meet new challenges.

Our work

International activity is a cornerstone in the UK higher education sector. Our work helps UK universities build secure, sustainable relationships with international institutions, researchers, students and partners.

We work closely with HE institutions, sector organisations and government departments to protect and build upon the UK higher education sector's world-leading position.

Our core activities

- Regional and thematic **Networks**

- Insights and publications

- Events and conferences for members and non-members

- Advocacy and representation

Governance

- As part of UUK, UUKi is accountable the UUK Board, which comprises 21 member vice-chancellors and principals. There is a Board lead for international policy, Professor Sir Gerry McCormac, Principal of the University of Stirling, who chairs our International Policy Network, to provide strategic oversight for UUKi's work.

Funding

UUKi is funded through UUK member subscriptions and grant funding from:

- Department for the Economy (Northern Ireland)

- Medr – Wales Commission for Tertiary Education and Research

- GuildHE

- Research England

- Scottish Funding Council

UK policy context

- UK universities play a critical role in the UK Government's ambition to drive exports and inward investment to make the UK a hub of world-leading research and innovation.

The Integrated Review (refreshed in 2023)

- Support development across the world through education, incl. gender equality, democracy, economic development

International Education Strategy

- Support the development of TNE partnerships through working with countries to maximize opportunities and remove barriers

Our approach

→ **ENABLE UK universities to develop and realise their international ambitions**

- Inform university decisions through access to intelligence, analysis and shared experience.

- Provide an outstanding service in alerting universities and our funders to opportunities, challenges and policy developments.

- Convene the UK sector through thematic and regional networks as a route to consult, learn from each other and provide access to opportunities.

- Coordinate targeted capacity building programmes in a small number of areas where universities face common challenges in internationalisation.

- Use our networks and expertise to identify barriers to internationalisation and develop a focused programme of activity to influence and overcome them.

→ **INFLUENCE the framework conditions that enable our members to thrive internationally**

- Influence UK government policy and policy in the devolved administrations to secure favourable conditions for UK universities' international activities to increase their comparative advantage.

- Influence international policy in a small number of priority countries to encourage conditions favourable for UK universities to work in or with that country, including through collaboration.

- Develop and maintain strong relationships with decision makers and university leaders in priority countries to increase opportunities for collaboration with the UK.

→ **CREATE new opportunities that deliver clear benefits to our members**

- Promote the UK university sector overseas to communicate the strengths of the UK in higher education and research.

- Use our unique convening power and relationships to create opportunities for UK universities to extend the range of partnerships in education and research.

- Secure new opportunities for UK universities through our influence with the UK government, and act as a trusted delivery partner in shaping and implementing them.

- Use our unique ability to act on behalf of the UK sector to offer efficient routes for international partners to work with UK universities and access its expertise.

Regulation of UK higher education

Each UK nation controls its own policies and systems for quality and regulation and has its **own funding/regulatory oversight body**.

Each framework sets out expectations for quality and standards for all UK higher education courses, **including TNE**.

There is collective sector-led oversight of quality at UK level via the **UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment**. The committee draws on academic, student and regulatory expertise from across the sector, and supports a collaborative approach to quality and standards.

Source: UKSCQA

UUKi Latin America
Network meeting

University of Essex

13:00 – 16:00

19 November 2024

Presentation by ABMES

ABMES®
Associação Brasileira de
Mantenedoras de Ensino Superior

UK Transnational Education (TNE)

Dr Suzanna Tomassi
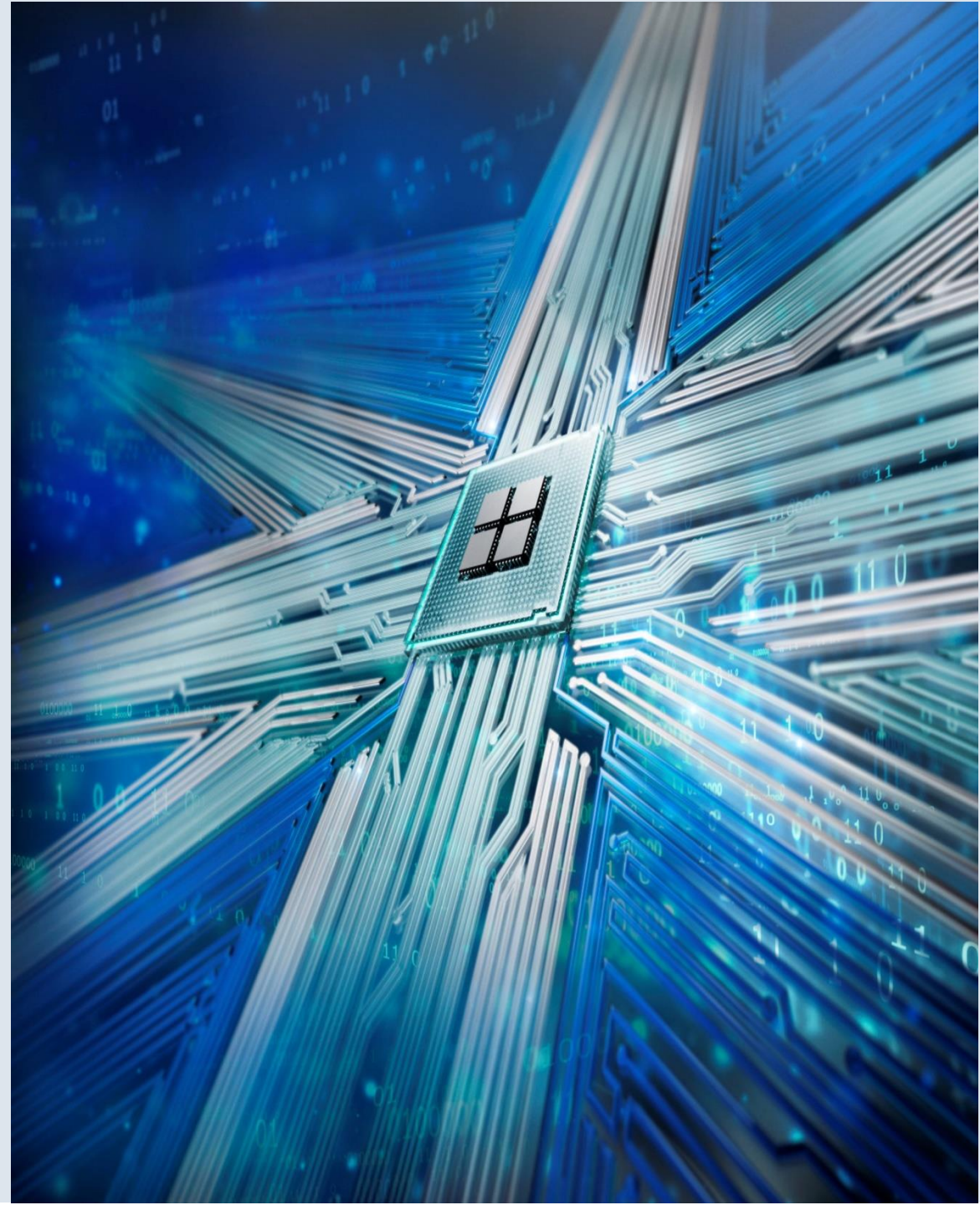
Higher Education Specialist, DBT

Department for Business & Trade

GREAT
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

Department for Business and Trade

1. Secure world-class free trade agreements and reduce market access barriers, ensuring that consumers and businesses can benefit from both.

2. Deliver economic growth to all the nations and regions of the UK through attracting and retaining inward investment.

3. Support UK business to take full advantage of trade opportunities, including those arising from delivering free trade agreements, facilitating UK exports.

4. Champion the rules-based international trading system and operate the UK's new trading system, including protecting UK businesses from unfair trade practices

UK HE – International Context

To increase education exports to £35 billion per year.

To increase the numbers of international higher education students studying in the UK to 600,000 per year.

Both by **2030**.

International Education Strategy: 2021 update
Supporting recovery, driving growth

Department for Education

Department for International Trade

EDUCATION IS GREAT
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

Size of UK TNE

£27.9bn – value of education exports and TNE activities to the UK economy in 2021.

9.3% – increase in the total number of UK TNE students since 2020/21.

77.9% – share of the total revenue coming from HE.

558.215 – number of TNE students in 2021/22.

162 – number of UK providers engaged in TNE activities in 2021/22.

230 – number of countries and territories hosting UK TNE in 2021/22.

Asia accounts for approx. 50% of all TNE student numbers.

TNE Models*

👉 40.8% of TNE students were studying through collaborative provision,

👉 27.5% of TNE students were studying though distance, flexible or distributed learning,

👉 27.4% of TNE students were registered at an overseas partner organisation,

👉 6.9% of TNE students were registered at an overseas campus

*2021/22

Why TNE?

- ✓ Enriched teaching and increased employability.

- ✓ Widening access to English curriculum or English quals for those who are unable to travel overseas.

- ✓ Studying in a home country tends to be more affordable.

- ✓ Opportunities for multilevel engagement.

- ✓ Economic and reputational value to both partners, incl. brand enrichment.

- ✓ Upskilling.

- ✓ Knowledge exchange, research and development opportunities.

- ✓ Increased internationalisation.

- ✓ Significant contribution to the education, research and cultural environment of the host countries and regions.

Thank you!

Dr Suzanna Tomassi,
Higher Education Specialist,
Suzanna.Tomassi@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Department for
Business & Trade

GREAT
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND