

You have 10 minutes to read the article. You can take brief notes that you may refer to in the interview. You MUST NOT read your notes as a prepared text. In the interview, you will be asked to do the following: summarize the content of the article; give your opinion on the article; relate the topic to your personal experience.

TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY

Britain Needs International Students

Students from abroad can improve the education experience for all those involved. International students bring much more than their money to the institutions that teach them. Of course, as Dr Tamson Pietsch writes: "Overseas¹ students have been a welcome source of income for British universities." When it comes to tuition fees², international students pay far more than home students.

This alone is a strong incentive for UK universities to recruit from abroad. The money they bring in can be used to provide³ new facilities or improve old ones to the benefit of all students.

There are further advantages: international students help sustain the UK's academic research, particularly when it comes to subjects like science, engineering and maths. With international students accounting for around 45% of the UK's postgraduate students, some research may not even be possible without international students wanting to undertake⁴ their studies in the UK.

International students also have a significant impact on both national and regional economies, with a Department for Business, Innovation and Skills research paper estimating that they account for a contribution of around £8 billion to the UK economy.

Glossary

¹overseas = not from the United Kingdom (UK)

²tuition fees = what you pay for your university studies

³provide: in this context = build/buy

⁴undertake: in this context = do/ follow

TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY

TEXT: Britain Needs International Students (185 words)

Summary:

The article brings out many of the positive impacts international students have both for the university (higher fees that can be used to improve materials, teachers and buildings) as well as the local economy. Apart from the financial advantages there is a very positive effect on academic standards and achievements. 45% of postgrads in the UK actually come from overseas and therefore have a huge impact on research.

Text-based questions:

1. According to the text, why are international students (overseas students) interesting for British universities?
2. What does the text say about international students in academic research / in post graduate studies?
3. According to the text, do international students only influence the finances of universities?

Follow-up questions:

1. If you could go and study at any university in the world, where would you go? Justify your answer.
2. What positive effects may it have for students to share a class/degree with students from other countries?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of working or studying abroad?
4. What do you think of the following statement: 'Studying abroad increases your employment opportunities'?
5. How could Catalan universities attract foreign students?
6. With high unemployment rates, how does it affect a country's economy when many people go abroad to look for work?

Source: The Guardian Online, 2012