



CIBUK - PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGO: Immediate release

Monday, 18 July 2022

The future's bright – the future's the UK

**The world's young people give massive
vote of confidence in Brexit Britain**



Who said the EU was the future?

Attempts by the EU commission to 'woo the young vote' have fallen on stony ground as the UK continues to attract rising numbers of both international and European students.

CIBUK (<https://cibuk.org/>) – the longest-established organisation for independence, freedom and democracy in the UK – highlights the UK's enduring appeal as the destination of choice for European and international students. The summary is below and the [full report is now available here](#).

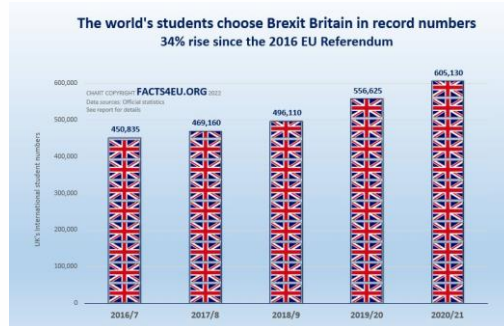
The report below has been produced in association with our affiliated organisation and research think tank, [Facts4EU.Org](#).

So much for the malign effects of Brexit on international student numbers: in 2020/21, the numbers coming to Britain to study **exceeded 600,000 for the first time ever:**

Total international students studying in the UK - 2016-2021

Latest official figures for academic year 2020/21

- 2016/7 : 450,835
- 2017/8 : 469,160
- 2018/9 : 496,110
- 2019/20 : 556,625
- 2020/21 : 605,130



[Source: Official data - See bottom of the article.]

The UK is twice as popular as the EU

- The 2020/21 total for all first-year students at UK universities was 36% of total student numbers.
- 64,300 were from the EU and 254,100 from outside the EU.
- In the last 10 years the numbers of new students from Italy and Spain increased by 41% and 62% respectively.
- In 2019, the UK took 12% of the world's international students. This was more than double the EU average.
- According to the latest numbers for 2020/21 for the top 10 most common countries from which the UK's international students have come since 2016, five EU countries are on the list. These are Italy, France, Romania, Poland and Portugal.

Academic staff numbers from the EU have also increased since 2016:

- In 2019/20, there were 70,195 academic staff from overseas at UK universities.
- This was 31% of all academic staff and **20% more than in 2015/16.**
- 38,410 were from the EU and 31,785 from other countries
- **In other words more than half are from the EU.**

OBSERVATIONS

So much for leaving a sinking vessel. Britain, it appears, is more popular than ever as a destination for international students and academics, increasing by more than a third since we voted to leave the European Union.

[Sources: Official UK facts – politicians and journalists can contact us for details, as ever.]

For editors and journalists

[The full report is now available here.](#)

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To contact one of CIBUK's Officers the email is admin.office@cibuk.org. We are happy to provide more information.

About CIBUK: The Campaign for an Independent Britain ([CIBUK](#)) is a non-party political campaigning organisation of people from all walks of life. It is the UK's longest-running membership organisation for freedom, democracy and independence.

Founded in 1969, for over 50 years the CIBUK has made a significant contribution in campaigning on issues important to the majority of our population and in securing our exit from the European Union. Now it's time for the next chapter.