



# The University of China

How UK universities' financial objective is impacting their Chinese students' university experience

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**Isaine Blatry**

Isaine is a trilingual (French, Korean, English) journalist who has lived in Europe, Asia and Australia. Having achieved an MA TV journalism at City University of London, she was awarded BJTC Finalist 2021 for best TV report and is now a freelance broadcast and multimedia journalist at BBC, Sky News, PA and Reuters. In her spare time, Isaine enjoys writing, reading, photography and travelling.



**Liza Kaminov**

Liza is a quadrilingual (French, Russian, Mandarin, English) journalist currently working for France 24 and AFP news agency. After obtaining a TV Journalism MA from City University of London she has produced and reported in the People's Daily Online documentary series 'Our China Stories' and covered the beginning of the Ukrainian crisis for the AFP Moscow bureau. In her free time, Liza is a keen musician, enjoys writing poetry and developing more documentary ideas.



**Zi Wang**

Zi is a reporter covering media and advertising for Business Insider. He focuses on the intersection of new technologies and marketing, such as how marketers and advertisers approach the metaverse, web3, and NFTs. He previously graduated with a Master's degree in TV Journalism from City University, London and worked in media agencies and ad tech startups.



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### 'Dependency' of UK universities on China creates risks, report says

Bethan Station

Mar 4, 2021 - 4:24pm

### UK universities accused of overreliance on fees from Chinese students

Tory-backed thinktank is calling for increased funding for domestic students



A graduation ceremony. The Onward report claims the growth in international student numbers has crowded out domestic students at prestigious institutions. Photograph: Chris Radburn/PA

Britain's universities rely too heavily on tuition fees from Chinese students, according to a Conservative-backed thinktank that wants the government to replace them with increased funding for domestic students taking "high value" degrees.

# UK Universities' financial dependence on Chinese students

BBC NEWS Menu

## UK universities see boom in Chinese students

Branwen Jeffreys Education Editor @branwenjeffreys

21 January 2020



### Third of non-EU university students in UK come from China

More than 120,000 Chinese students enrolled at British universities in 2018-19



The figures underline the sector's reliance on tuition income from overseas students. Photograph: Alamy Stock Photo

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## 'Dependency' of UK universities on China creates risks, report says

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The future for the UK as host to East Asian students

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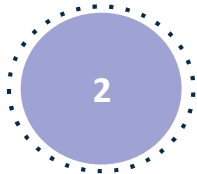
## UK looks to cash in on student influx



## 2019/2020 STATISTICS



**In 2019, 120,385 students coming from China**



**Chinese students account for 35% of UK international students**



**Chinese students contribute >25% of total tuition fee income of UK's top universities**





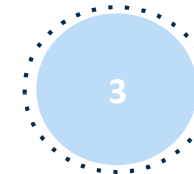
## 2021/2022 STATISTICS



**Number of Chinese students applying to university increased by 12% from 25,810 in 2021 to 28,930 in 2022**



**Chinese students make up 32% of all international students in the UK**



**China is the second-largest market of international students for UK universities after the European Union**

# The China question

*Managing risks and  
maximising benefits from  
partnership in higher  
education and research*

## The China Question

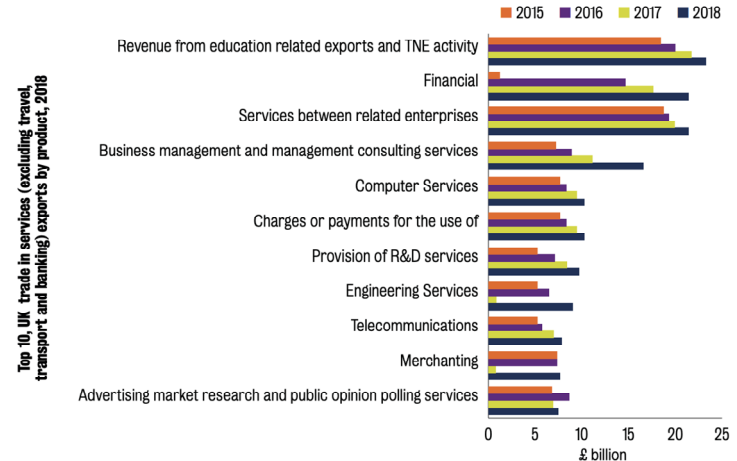


**Chinese students brought £3.7 billion in 2019 to the UK economy**



**In 2019 Higher Education was the UK's third largest export to China after crude petroleum and monetary gold.**

FIGURE 13: UK TRADE IN SERVICES (EXCLUDING TRAVEL, TRANSPORT AND BANKING) EXPORTS BY PRODUCT, 2018



# WHAT ARE THE CHINESE STUDENTS AND UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS SAYING?





# AGENCIES IN CHINA

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## China

### Beijing

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# AGENCIES IN CHINA



**Very popular amongst Chinese students as it makes the application process easier and leads to faster recruitment for the university**



**Teachers in different departments on the recruiting side question if the students are prepared for the courses as their application would be mostly done for them**



**Agencies partnering with universities, which causes speculation about whether students are being directed to certain universities more than others**



**Some universities have established their own recruiting offices in China which shows how actively they are recruiting students**



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## WHAT WE FOUND

1

Foundation courses' promise to improve English level to meet first year requirements not always fulfilled

2

Chinese students who did not pass the end of year exam were transferred onto a different course not related to the course they wanted to do

3

Is the foundation year financially worth it for Chinese students?

# INTEGRATION PROBLEM





# INTEGRATION PROBLEM



Chinese students' language level not high enough, so difficult to integrate with local students



Chinese-student only societies and extra-curriculars increase segregation



Accommodation website/advertisements targeting Chinese students leading to student accommodation blocks being 90% Chinese students



Integration problem for the local students too, especially those who are enrolled on courses with a majority of Chinese students and seminar group discussions are done in Chinese



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# SO WHAT NEXT?



**More transparency with student recruitment through agencies, student applications should be a true reflection of their abilities**



**Foundation courses should have higher language level requirements eg. IELTS score to avoid such language barriers at university and facilitate integration**



**Student accommodation should not target one group of students, the aim should be to diversify student accommodation and help students of different backgrounds integrate, and not turn it into a ghetto-like atmosphere**



**When designing courses which specifically attract Chinese students, universities should tailor the content/case studies used to all the students and not just to the majority.**



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Thank you for listening!