

# CHALLENGES FACED BY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

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CHALLENGES



SOLUTIONS



# STATISTICS

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## International Student Statistics in UK 2023



Source: Higher Education Statistic Agency(2023)

# RESEARCH

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01

According to **2021/2022 statistics** from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), there are currently **679,970 international students** pursuing their degrees in the UK.

02

Compared to the **previous year (2020/2021)**, the number of international students in the UK has experienced significant growth. Specifically, an **increase of 12.3%**.

03

Most **Non-EU students** in the UK come from **China**, a total of **151,690 students**.

04

**India** is the second non-EU country with the most students studying abroad in the UK currently, with a total of **126,535 students**.

Source : Higher Education Statistic Agency(2021/2022)

# CHALLENGES OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- Difficulty in understanding and adapting to western cultures.
- Unfamiliar about the job market.
- No proper placement opportunities from universities.
- Cost of living.
- Limited Work Experience
- Competitive Job Market
- Lack of Professional Network
- High Employer Expectations
- Visa and Work Authorisation
- Lack of Guidance
- Limited Soft Skills



# Solutions

- Internships and Part-Time Work
- Networking
- Skill Development
- Resume and Cover Letter Enhancement
- Career Services
- Prepare for Interviews
- Be Persistent
- Seek Mentorship





# Different Languages

## LANGUAGE BARRIER

- Understanding lectures and readings
- Active Participation in class discussions
- Quality of Writing Essays
- Making Meaningful connections among staffs and students
- Negative impact on mental health

Olá!

مرحبا!

Γειά σας!

Hallo!

Zdravo!

Haló!

你好

# SOLUTIONS

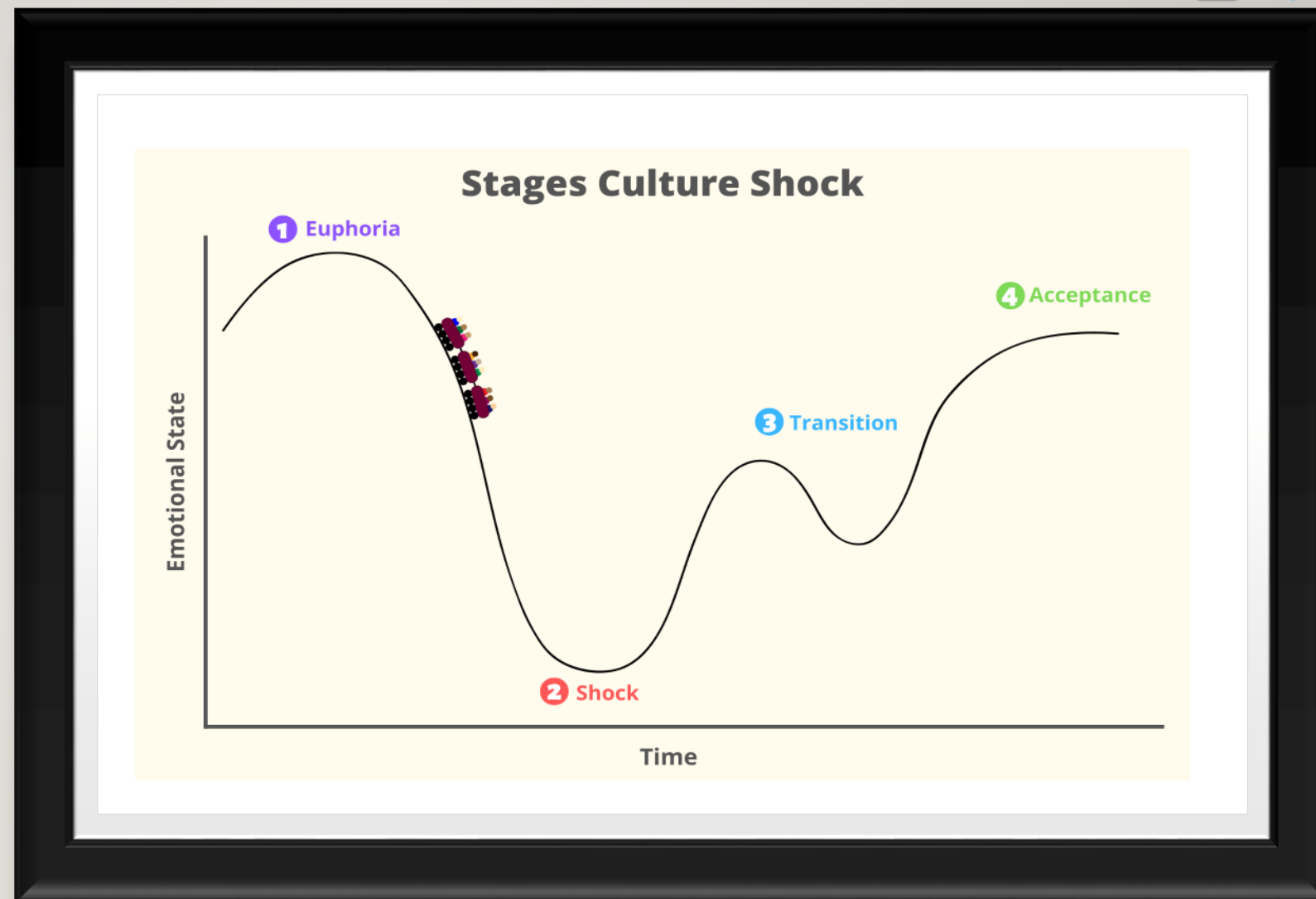
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- Make use of English language support services Like English Language Society (ELS)
- Make friends with native English speakers
- Immerse yourself in the English language
- Be aware of the different accents and dialects in the UK
- Join clubs such as English Conversation Exchange (ECE), English as a Foreign Language (EFL)



# Culture Shock

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# SOLUTIONS

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- Adaptability And Flexibility
- Learn from the experienced persons
- Awareness campaign of the Community and communication
- Don't forget your own culture

# FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

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- High tuition fees, living costs, and currency exchange rates can strain budgets.
- Many international students need to find part-time job to support themselves.





# Financial Issues Faced by International Students:

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- **Tuition Fees:** Tuition fees for international students can be considerably higher than those for local students.
- **Living Costs:** The cost of living, including accommodation, food, transportation, and other daily expenses, can be substantial.
- **Currency Exchange:** Fluctuations in currency exchange rates can impact the value of funds from home countries.
- **Limited Work Hours:** Visa restrictions may limit the number of hours international students can work part-time.



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# Managing Finances Effectively:

To overcome financial challenges and manage funds effectively, international students can consider the following tips:

- ✓ **Tuition Create a Budget:** Develop a monthly budget that outlines your income, expenses, and savings goals. Stick to the budget to avoid overspending.
- ✓ **Seek Scholarships and Financial Aid:** Explore scholarship opportunities and financial aid programs available to international students. These can help offset tuition costs.
- ✓ **Part-Time Employment:** Find part-time work within the limits of your student visa. It can provide additional income for living expenses.
- ✓ **Open a Local Bank Account:** Having a local bank account can save you money on currency conversion fees and make financial transactions more convenient.
- ✓ **Cook at Home:** Preparing your meals at home is often more cost-effective than dining out.
- ✓ **Use Student Discounts:** Take advantage of student discounts on transportation, entertainment, superstores and other expenses.
- ✓ **Explore Accommodation Options:** Look for affordable housing options, shared accommodations, to reduce living costs.
- ✓ **Track Expenses:** Keep a record of all your expenses to identify areas where you can cut costs.
- ✓ **Emergency Fund:** Set aside a small portion of your income as an emergency fund for unexpected expenses.





# PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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- Limited Exposure to Professional Environment
- Reduced Networking Opportunities
- Limited Skill Development
- Competitive Disadvantage During Job Search



## Legal and Visa Issues

- Navigating the complex visa process and staying compliant with visa regulations can be daunting.
- Legal concerns, such as working restrictions and post study options, are common challenges.

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NAVIGATING LEGAL AND VISA  
COMPLEXITIES



# WORK VISA RESTRICTIONS

- **Visa Applications:** The visa application process can be complex, and documentation requirements must be met.
- **Visa Extensions:** Students may need to apply for visa extensions to continue their studies.
- **Working Rights:** Understanding work restrictions and the conditions for part-time work is crucial.
- **Immigration Rules:** Staying compliant with immigration rules and regulations is a priority.



## HOW CAN WE OVERCOME?

- Networking - Linked in, alumni networks
- Get work experience from the field of study-volunteer work.
- Update the resume and cover letter
- Get engaged in non scholastic activities
- Remember to seek assistance from international student support team
- Skills enhancement
- Internships and work placements



# INTERNSHIPS AND WORK PLACEMENTS

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## Short term internships

Typically, 4-6 weeks long  
Flexible scheduling for students



## Up key platform

Offers short-term internships within a comprehensive program  
Provides professional development workshops and mentorship  
Facilitates valuable connections and hands-on experience



## Other platforms to consider

Parker Dewey- <https://www.parkerdewey.com>  
Handshake- <https://joinhandshake.com>  
Stunited : <https://stunited.org/>



# OVER QUALIFICATION

- 1. Limited entry level opportunities**
- 2. Employer Concerns**
- 3. Salary Expectations**
- 4. Fit with the Team**
- 5. Long-term Commitment**
- 6. Lack of local experience**



# AGE : Challenge or Opportunity?

**Ageism & Discrimination**

**Digital divide**

**Evolving Skill Set**



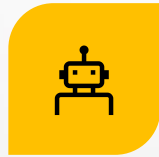
# Mitigating Strategies



**TARGETED JOB  
SEARCH**



**SKILL  
ENHANCEMENT**



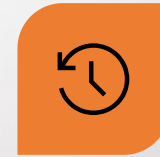
**TAILORED  
APPLICATIONS**



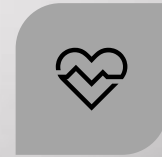
**SOFT SKILLS  
EMPHASIS**



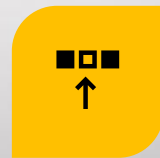
**PROFESSIONAL  
BRANDING**



**AGE POSITIVE  
APPROACH**



**PERSISTENCE**



**FLEXIBILITY**

**QUESTIONS?**







# THANK YOU!

## FOR PARTICIPATING

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