

International Students and Employment

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International Students

Zenia Chopra, Access Tier 5

Employment versus Employability:

**It can often be easier to
make someone
employable than find
them a job which uses
those skills.**

Workshop Aims

- Explore the results of the 2014 NUS Survey on International Students' Perceptions of Employment and Entrepreneurship
- Understand Tier 5 and how international students can use this route to gain work experience
- Share experiences and discussion

About the research

- NUS undertook a survey of international students' experiences of employment and Entrepreneurship, first in 2012 and again in 2014.
- The first research was undertaken in the aftermath of the Tier 1 Post Study Work visa closing in 2012 and a 10 per cent drop in international student numbers between 2010 and 2012. The second research was undertaken ahead of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Migration's inquiry into post-study work for international students.
- The 2014 research had 1599 valid responses.

Who answered the survey?

- The highest proportions of respondents were from China (17 per cent), India (13 per cent) and USA (13 per cent)
- The majority of respondents (31 per cent) were studying in institutions in London, while 15 per cent were studying in Yorkshire and the Humber. 8 per cent were studying in Scotland, 4 per cent in Wales and less than 1 per cent in Northern Ireland
- The most common area of study was business and administrative studies (22 per cent), followed by creative courses (13 per cent).
- The most common level of study was Postgraduate Taught (41 per cent), followed by undergraduate (37 per cent), and postgraduate research (15 per cent). Less than 4 per cent studied at FE level.

Incentives and Intentions

- Similar to 2012, Three of the top five reasons international students come to the UK to study were based around finding future employment
- There has been a significant drop in the number of international students seeking to gain work experience in the UK but not to stay permanently. In 2012 72 per cent wanted to stay between 1 and 2 years, in 2014 that dropped to 49 per cent. The number of students seeking to work in the UK permanently rose slightly from 17 per cent to 22 per cent.
- 70 per cent of international students want to work while studying reinforcing the potential to gain employment skills as a reason to the study in the UK
- Unfortunately 65 per cent are either not at all confident or only somewhat confident they will be able to find legal employment after they study. Only 4 per cent were extremely confident they would find work.

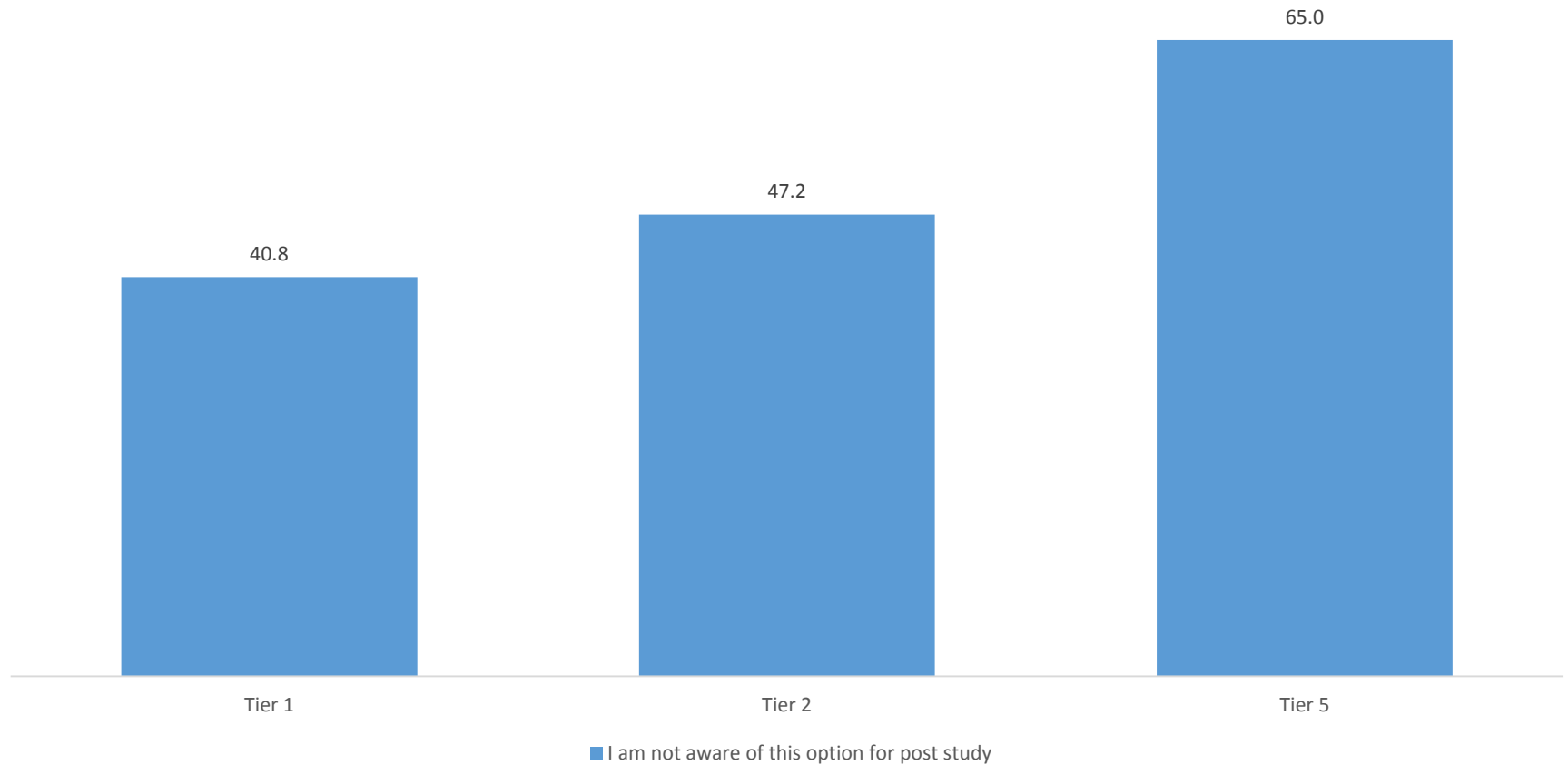
Volunteering (from 2012 Survey)

- Only a minority of international students (36 per cent) have accessed volunteering opportunities
- Some 80 per cent of international students find their volunteering opportunities through their students' union or institution, only 37 per cent access volunteering opportunities through their local communities

Meeting Tier 2 requirements

- 32 per cent of students felt they would make less than £20,000 in their first graduate job. Less than the required amount for Tier 2
- 42 per cent of students felt they would find a job within 4 months of graduation.
- 51 per cent of students did not think it would be easy to find work in the UK that is relevant to my chosen career.
- 24 per cent did not feel they were aware and understood all the regulations to work after study.

Understanding the options



I am not aware of this option for post-study work

Entrepreneurs

- 42 per cent of students were interested in starting their own business. Only 14 per cent would choose the UK to start their business.
- While 20 per cent of those who are keen to start a business have considered Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur), only 2 per cent have applied.
- 20 per cent of students want to meet and network with others in their industry.

Overall

- 32 per cent of students think the UK process for post study work is worse than other countries. 18 per cent think it is better.
- Thinking about the work experience and employment opportunities available to them, per cent would not advice a friend or relative to study in the UK.

Access Tier 5

Zenia Chopra, Head of Marketing and Sales

“Powered by the world's largest youth led organisation, AIESEC, "Access Tier 5" allows UK based employers to offer work experience to highly skilled non-EEA nationals by providing them with Certificates of Sponsorship. ”

<https://accesstier5.com/>

Group Discussion

Top 3 areas of focus for:

- Institutions
- Government

Thank-you and Questions



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