



MIGRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Call For Evidence

August 2017 MAC Students' Commission



3 October 2017

Migration Advisory Committee

2nd Floor

Peel Building

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/migration-advisory-committee>

1. Introduction

- 1.1. In August 2017, the Government commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to assess the impacts of international students in the UK¹.
- 1.2. This call for evidence sets out how the MAC will approach responding to this commission and how stakeholders can be involved in this process. It identifies the evidence that the MAC would find most helpful to receive.

2. The Commission

- 2.1. The commission to the MAC specifies the following questions on which the government would like advice:
 - What are the economic and social impacts of international students in the UK? As well as considering the overall impact, this should include advice on the following:
 - the impact of tuition fees and other spending by international students on the national, regional and local economy and on the education sector;
 - the economic and social impacts beyond education, including on the labour market, housing, transport and other services, in particular, the role they play contributing to local economic growth;
 - some breakdown of impacts by type and level of course and institution; and
 - the impact the recruitment of international students has on the provision and quality of education provided to domestic students.
- 2.2. The commission covers the whole of the UK including England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The government has asked the MAC to report by September 2018.

¹ The commissioning letter from the Home Secretary and the MAC's response can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/migration-advisory-committee>

3. Call for Evidence

- 3.1. This call for evidence seeks views and evidence from anyone with relevant knowledge, expertise or experience to help inform the MAC response. The MAC strongly welcome evidence from interested parties from all parts of the UK. Please respond to questions that are relevant to your expertise; we do not expect respondents to answer every single question.
- 3.2. The questions outlined below provide a general indication of the information the MAC would find most useful, but respondents may provide the MAC with other relevant information. Responses should be evidence-based and where possible should provide data and/or examples to support your answers.
- 3.3. The government's commissioning letter makes clear that the MAC's assessment should cover both EU and non-EU students at all levels of education (i.e. including students in both higher and further education and also those in primary and secondary education). Owing to the paucity of data regarding further education, the MAC are particularly keen to receive data regarding this level of education in order to understand whether there are specific issues. The MAC hope that as wide a range as possible of educational institutions and providers will respond to this call for evidence and contribute to developing the evidence base.
- 3.4. As can be seen, the commission goes beyond the direct impact of students in the form of tuition fees and spending, including consideration of their impact on the labour market and the provision and quality of education provided to domestic students. The intention is for the MAC's assessment to provide the government with an improved evidence base for any future decisions while the Office for National Statistics reviews the contribution students make to net migration.

4. Stakeholder evidence

- 4.1. To help frame the call for evidence, the MAC welcome evidence on the impact of students including:
 - What impact does the payment of migrant student fees to the educational provider have?
 - What are the fiscal impacts of migrant students, including student loan arrangements?

- Do migrant students help support employment in educational institutions?
- How much money do migrant students spend in the national, regional and local economy and what is the impact of this?
- How do migrant students affect the educational opportunities available to UK students?
- To what extent does the demand from migrant students for UK education dictate the supply of that education provision and the impact of this on UK students?
- What is the impact of migrant students on the demand for housing provision, on transport (particularly local transport) and on health provision?
- What impacts have migrant students had on changes to tourism and numbers of visitors to the UK?
- What role do migrant students play in extending UK soft power and influence abroad?
- If migrant students take paid employment while they are studying, what types of work do they do?
- What are the broader labour market impacts of students transferring from Tier 4 to Tier 2 including on net migration and on shortage occupations?
- Whether, and to what extent, migrant students enter the labour market, when they graduate and what types of post-study work do they do?

4.2. The MAC will value evidence from stakeholders addressing all or any of these points. In addition, the MAC would like to receive evidence about stakeholders think would happen in the event of there no longer being a demand from migrant students for a UK education.

4.3. As per the commission from the government set out above, the MAC would also like to have evidence about the impact of migrant students depending on the institution and/or subject being studied – do different subjects and different institutions generate different impacts?

5. Submitting Evidence to the MAC

5.1. Please send your responses to the MAC Secretariat at:

Email: MAC@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

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2 Marsham Street

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SW1P 4DF

Telephone: 020 7035 1764

Please submit your evidence by 26 January 2018.

Please note that we will publish your response on our website. We may also quote the evidence received, attributed to the individual or organisation that supplied it, in our published report. If you think your response contains confidential information, we would consider not publishing it. The MAC is, however, subject to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act and we would assess confidentiality accordingly to the FOI rules on exemptions.

- 5.2.** Clarification questions on the call for evidence can be sent to the MAC Secretariat by 31 October 2017. The MAC will publish answers to these by 17 November 2017.
- 5.3.** The MAC Secretariat will be arranging meetings and visits with stakeholders during the call for evidence period. If you would like to meet with the MAC, please get in touch using the contact details above.