INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY IS IMPORTANT FOR THE UK AND UK RESEARCHERS

Among EU member states, the UK has been the top receiving country for PhD candidates from both within and outside the EU.

The number of international students studying in UK research degree programmes tripled from 1994/5 to 2012/13.

During FP7 (2007–2013), the UK was the most popular destination for the European MCSA programme, which supports researchers’ career development.

The UK leads the EU in the number of prestigious ERC grants it hosts. In 2016:

- 117 grants were awarded to researchers who would work in the UK
- although only 45 grantees had UK nationality.

Increase in percentage of UK academic staff who are non-UK nationals:
- 19% in 2005/6
- 29% in 2015/16

Outflow of UK researchers to elsewhere in EU: 600
Inflow of researchers from elsewhere in EU to UK: 3,600

72% of active UK researchers have trained or worked as researchers abroad.

Adapted from International mobility of researchers: A review of the literature by Susan Guthrie, Catherine Lichten, Jennie Corbett and Steven Wooding, RR-1991/1-RS, 2017, available at www.rand.org/t/RR1991. RAND Europe is an independent not-for-profit research institute that helps to improve policy and decision making through research and analysis.
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