

12 August 2015

**Comments on CaSE consultation on
*Immigration and its impact on UK science and engineering***

A big issue facing many UK universities is the decline of Taught Masters Courses due to the low numbers of international students now enrolling on them. These courses were kept alive, for UK/EU students, by the tuition fees paid by international students, especially from the Indian market.

The international students paid off their study loans by working in the UK after they graduated, as part of the now defunct post-study work visa scheme. The abolition of this scheme has substantially affected recruitment of international students to study in the UK, at undergraduate and postgraduate (MSc, PhD) level.

These students no longer come to the UK and as a result MSc courses are closing, as they are not financially viable with just UK/EU students' tuition fees. This means that Post Graduate courses covering specialised areas of the molecular biosciences are now becoming less accessible to UK/EU graduates who want to study in the UK.

This may lead to a skills shortage in these areas, which is directly applicable to the members of the Biochemical Society, RSB and employers.

It has also made it more difficult for UK academics to recruit non-UK/EU Post-Doctoral Research Assistants. As recruiters are put off selecting highly qualified overseas applicants to these positions due to the high hurdles put in place by the governments immigration policy

There are benefits to universities, from international student recruitment, in terms of cultural diversity of campuses and classrooms. Loss of income to universities is significant as is the risk of losing long term economic links between the UK and the student's home nation.

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