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UK Council for International Student Affairs

UKCISA

ANNUAL REPORT 2025–26



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We serve **394** members

187 from Higher Education institutions

54 from Further Education institutions

126 from student unions

27 others

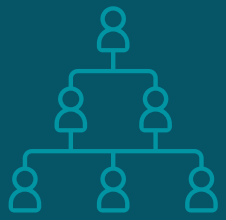


We are...

16.8 full-time equivalent staff members

14 trustees & directors (as at 31 March 2026)

50 #WeAreInternational Student Ambassadors in our global network



We deliver world-leading advice and training



32 courses



675 attendees



Over **392** attendees at our Annual Conference 2025

We provide trusted information and guidance

Over **2.7 million** views to our website with over 500 pages of information and guidance

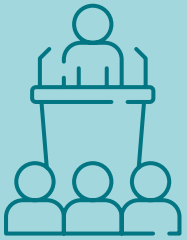




170 pages of specialised content in our UKCISA Manual

We amplify international student voices

Our ambassadors spoke at **22 events**



We celebrate the international student

420 nominations to the first ever #WeAreInternational Awards



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A few words from our President, Chair of Trustees and Chief Executive

Dear colleagues,

For UKCISA, and our vision for the international student experience, this year brought some major changes in the policy landscape that will impact our member organisations and the international students whom we support.

From the government's flagship Immigration White Paper in May 2025, setting out a clear intention on immigration for this parliament, we understood that the proposals would impose stringent restrictions on our student sponsor members, and that these restrictions would in turn have an impact on students themselves.

Consequently, our member engagement this year has been intensive and included several member consultations on the impact of the various policy proposals, ensuring informed and timely advocacy, on their behalf, with relevant government departments and policymakers. From the proposed changes to the Basic Compliance Assessment (BCA) metrics and the International Student Levy, to the changes to the student sponsor requirements for reporting agent data in the context of an unprecedented visa brake, we are proud to have introduced new and more effective mechanisms for generating essential member insights and sharing those with policymakers. This work has helped to ensure that our policy advocacy has been able to make a difference for members and students in a volatile policy environment.

Our new website and Member Forum have supported this deeper engagement. The improved navigation of our website means that students and advisers can find or signpost to the information they need more efficiently. Meanwhile, the new structure of the Member Forum means that our policy team can quickly collect information from members while providing timely updates on the outcomes of our policy engagement. Most of all, we are grateful to our members, who consistently take the time to share their insight and highlight the impact of policy on international students.

Our communications team has delivered other enhancements beyond the website, including a new newsletter for stakeholders outside our member community. We have lots more developments planned in 2026 to help ensure that we reach all our communities effectively in a way that meets their requirements.

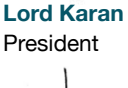
Our advice and training continue to inform professional development and knowledge across our membership, helping practitioners to better support international students from application to post-graduation. The pace at which the team has analysed multiple Statements of Changes has meant that members and students have remained able to take informed decisions.

When the policy environment is challenging, it's important to remember that the UK remains world-leading in our international student support and is unique in having an organisation like UKCISA. We were proud to launch our first #WeAreInternational Awards in 2025, to celebrate the outstanding work across the UK education sector in support of the international student experience. The winners and nominees continue to be exemplars of good practice, and our 2026 awards will undoubtedly attract even more outstanding student support from individuals and teams.

Across our activity this year, we have placed our members and students at the heart of service delivery. Despite the challenging financial circumstances across the sector, our membership remains incredibly resilient, and this is a testament to the importance and the value of our work for student sponsors. Thank you to our members for their continued support, helping us to help you.

The year ahead will bring new opportunities and fresh leadership, with the transition of four trustees and a change of Chief Executive. UKCISA is in a strong position to maximise these opportunities, with stable finances and exciting plans to develop our services. Together with our members and our partners, we will continue to represent the international students and those who work with them across the UK.

Signed by,



Lord Karan Bilimoria
President





Professor Koen Lamberts
Chair of the Board of Trustees





Anne Marie Graham
Chief Executive

(Anne Marie left UKCISA on 31 March 2026)



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A note from the Chair of our Student Advisory Group

For many reading this, I will not have to expand on the value that international students bring to the UK, or what it means when we all say #WeAreInternational. You know firsthand that we make the UK higher and further education experience an enriching prospect for everyone; that we co-create vivid language and cultural exchanges; that we help long-lasting learning experiences germinate. Through our presence, students in the UK do not have to travel the world in search of global perspectives – they find them on their very doorstep.

This year's prolonged period of policy uncertainty, constant changes in guidance and recent proposals such as the International Student Levy and reduction in the length of the Graduate route have left many international students feeling that their contributions are overlooked and insufficiently supported by policymakers. These regulatory signals risk constraining our agency, diminishing our drive for participation and engagement in the future, particularly within a national climate that feels more unwelcoming as the years go by.

In such periods of political unpredictability, universities, colleges and students' unions can become indispensable anchors of stability for international students: they provide support and advocacy, offer trusted information and create the conditions in which students can complete their studies successfully. I therefore want to recognise all the work that UKCISA's members and community do to welcome students to the UK.

As a steadfast confidant and advocate for students, promoting the #WeAreInternational Student Charter as a guide and celebrating best practice through the #WeAreInternational Awards, UKCISA's community is championing what a genuinely positive student experience ought to consist of. I am immensely grateful to have had the opportunity to study at the University of Warwick, which, thanks to the commitments of its students, staff and tight-knit community, won Institution of the Year at UKCISA's inaugural #WeAreInternational Awards in 2025.

I am proud to work with UKCISA in continuing to advocate for international students like me in the pursuit of positive changes across the UK. At a time when the ever-rising costs of immigration and study can leave international students feeling increasingly constrained, UKCISA reminds us that there are professionals, representatives and organisations that value and stand alongside us. UKCISA amplifies our voices and opens doors for us to be heard across the education sector, in Westminster and beyond. For true recognition extends beyond mere acknowledgement: it requires the conditions in which we, as international students, can participate in full, belong without question, and thrive without barriers.

Saida Alimdjanova, Chair of UKCISA's Student Advisory Group and UKCISA trustee



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We advocate for students and members at a national level

UKCISA supports the international student community through our ongoing policy and advocacy work across immigration and the international student experience.

We work with UK government departments, agencies, devolved administrations, and sector organisations to ensure that the UK remains an attractive and welcoming destination for prospective and current international students.

We are experts in our analysis and advice on policy, legislation and guidance relating to student immigration. This work has been particularly intensive in a year marked by the publication of an Immigration White Paper (IWP), the announcement of a future levy on international student tuition fees, global conflicts affecting student travel, experience and study opportunities, and an unprecedented visa brake for students applying from Afghanistan, Cameroon, Myanmar and Sudan.



We provide evidence-based representation

Our ongoing engagement with, and advice to, international students and those who work with them in educational institutions across the UK's diverse education sector gives us unique insights into the impact of policy and guidance changes.

We track emerging trends and live issues across our online Member Forum, advice lines, advisory committees, and practitioner networks. UKCISA regularly engages with our expert practitioner networks in student advice and immigration sponsor compliance.

The insights we receive from members and students complement UKCISA's expert knowledge of the legislation and guidance, enabling us to provide strong, informed and evidence-based representation of the impact on international students and those who work with them. We liaise with government teams to seek resolution of live issues, from errors in visa application forms to misapplication and inconsistencies in the application of guidance to student cases. We make strategic recommendations on proposed policy and legislation, identifying to government the impact on our wide and diverse membership and their students.

Our #WeAreInternational Student Ambassadors play a vital role in highlighting the contributions of international students to the UK, the challenges they face, and the need for change. They sit on our Student Advisory Group, which provides insight for our strategic direction. By listening to and being informed by them, we ensure that our advocacy is focused on areas that most impact their experience and provide prospective and current students with the support and advice they need to succeed in their studies in the UK.



Researching the international student experience

In May 2025, UKCISA and Russell Group Students' Unions launched Globally Competitive: A report on the international student experience at an event in parliament sponsored by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Students. Drawing on responses from nearly 5,000 international students across Russell Group universities and insights from a dozen focus groups, the research provided a significant new evidence base on the international student experience in the UK.

The findings highlighted both the strengths of studying in the UK and the barriers that students face, including high living and immigration costs, restrictions on work, mental health challenges and experiences of racism. The report made recommendations to government and institutions and strengthened the evidence base for our advocacy, helping to ensure that students' lived experiences are reflected in policy and practice.

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We work with government and sector partners

Working with and representing students and members to government

This year we have continued to work with government departments and agencies, including the Home Office, UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), the Department for Education, the Department for Business and Trade, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, and the Scottish government.

We met monthly with both the Home Office's Student Policy Team and separately with the UKVI. With the Policy Team, we seek clarity on the rationale and evidence supporting recent and upcoming policy proposals and changes, we highlight impacts and unintended consequences, and we represent the diverse experiences of the sector. Our experience in immigration law and legislation ensures our credible advocacy. We also press for realistic implementation timelines for any changes to Rules or policy, so members can prepare themselves and students effectively for any changes that are coming soon.

Our regular meetings with UKVI provide a direct channel for raising members' operational challenges. This engagement has already enabled us to convey (with compelling anonymised evidence from members) what is happening on the ground and the impact it is having. We have worked closely with UKVI to explain the effects of operational issues, such as visa processing delays and concerns about the conduct of credibility interviews. Throughout, we have consistently outlined the consequences for students and institutions, pressed for practical solutions, and sought to address practices that risk being unfair.

Sector engagement

We have participated in several key engagement forums with the Home Office and the Department for Education, and other sector stakeholders and mission groups. This includes, the Education Sector Group (ESG), the weekly UKVI surge meetings held during peak periods for Student route applications, and the Education Advisory Group (EAG).

At the ESG, we have raised ongoing operational challenges and drawn attention to issues that require consideration from an implementation and operational perspective - for example, matters relating to administrative reviews (information about them, the length of time they take, and the process). The surge meetings have provided the opportunity to flag any immediate or emerging concerns during high-volume periods.

The EAG is more strategically focused centring on policy themes. For these discussions, we have represented the views of our members and articulated the potential impact on our members as well as on current and prospective students.



Our areas of focus in 2025-26

Responding to the Immigration White Paper

Our response to the IWP, published in May 2025 by the government, made clear that the White Paper implied distrust, imposed disproportionate scrutiny, and signalled an intention to reduce student mobility.

We suggested that the proposed measures risk causing long-term damage to the international student experience while unfairly penalising the sector, and we advocated that a more balanced, evidence-based approach is essential. In response to queries received from members and students as to how the IWP may affect them, we produced a Q&A article.

It was important that student perspectives on the headline proposals from the IWP were collected and reflected to policymakers. Our regular student pulse survey at the start of the 2025-26 academic year was able to capture reactions to the Education Secretary's announcement in September of the International Student Levy, which highlighted concerns about the potential impact on the cost of study and investment in the international student experience. As well as highlighting these concerns through our regular engagement with government departments, we shared these data formally with the change to All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Students in December, and in our formal response to the government's technical consultation on the student levy.

We presented evidence to the APPG for International Students on the impact of the tuition fee levy and responded to the government's consultation on the Fairer Path to Settlement and on the technical detail of the International Student Levy.

Basic Compliance Assessment (BCA) thresholds changes

The IWP announced the government's intention to tighten the BCA thresholds by 5%. This demonstrated a significant shift in the compliance expectations of, and repercussions for, educational institutions that sponsor student visas. UKCISA has consulted our members three times since the paper was published, making representations to the Home Office each time in light of the findings. Our first member consultation concluded in July 2025 and focused on our members' concerns about the potential impacts of this proposal.

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In November 2025, after receiving draft guidance from the Home Office, we consulted our members again to understand how specifics of the proposed policy would impact member institutions and international students. Finally, in February 2026, we consulted members to gauge how the policy might impact member institutions operationally. UKCISA has worked tirelessly to represent the views of our members by continuously pushing back on issues highlighted by our member consultations including the proposed Red-Amber-Green (RAG) rating system and the lack of sufficient data-sharing mechanisms.

International student employability

We have continued our work on international student employability this year, principally through providing urgent clarification on the changes proposed to the Graduate route in the IWP in May 2025. Concerns about the timing of the implementation were addressed through clear FAQs for students and guidance for members as information became available. We have also continued to work with Jisc (originally the Joint Information Systems Committee) on international graduate outcomes, to help support work across the sector to improve response rates from international alumni and inform our evidence base. We have done this through advising on survey design, communications to students and a blog by our Chief Executive.

Credibility interviews

We noted the ongoing concern from our members around credibility interviews for international student applicants and UKVI practice in conducting credibility interviews. To build a more robust evidence base, we gathered evidence from our member institutions of poor practice in relation to undertaking the interviews and the decision-making impacting visa refusals. UKCISA highlighted examples of unfairness or inconsistencies in the process of these interviews and put forward our findings to the UKVI in a detailed report. This became the starting point for ongoing engagement with UKVI and the sector on this issue.

Monitoring government communications to student sponsors

UKCISA has been monitoring the growing use of immediate 'clarifications' from UKVI issued through sponsor communications, which can amount to de facto policy changes without warning or consideration of their implications. UKCISA continues to challenge the contents of UKVI's FAQs, particularly where these go beyond or have a restrictive interpretation of the law or published guidance. Our insights from members and students enable us to represent sector views and the adverse impacts on both members and students.

The Visa Brake

We challenged the Home Office's decision to impose a Visa Brake on four countries, arguing that it is unjust, sets a dangerous precedent, and was introduced without consultation or adequate notice. As such, we have advocated that this should not be considered as a policy option in the future, and the current brake should be lifted at the earliest opportunity.

In addition, we highlighted the unworkable timelines of the brake, the harsh use of an eligibility requirement (as opposed to a validity requirement) that also penalises students with an existing confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS), and the significant, adverse impact on continuing students who must apply for entry clearance in order to complete their studies. Across all representations, we emphasised the serious adverse consequences for students and our members, and pressed for more proportionate, transparent, and fair policymaking.

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Mobility of Palestinian students from Gaza

UKCISA has continued to work with external partners to support the mobility of Palestinian students from Gaza. Guidance was introduced for Gaza scholarship students beginning courses up to and including 31 December 2025. We have continued to press for this guidance to be extended to cover the new cohort of students seeking to study in the UK, as the situation in Gaza remains challenging.

The impact of wars in the Middle East

UKCISA has continued to monitor the impact of the situation in the Middle East and has been working closely with members to understand the scale of students affected. We have proactively requested early concessions for students who are unable to travel to the UK or return home, particularly in relation to sponsorship obligations.

We have demonstrated to UKVI how students are being impacted and have drawn on our knowledge of previous concession frameworks to show how similar measures could support affected students in the current circumstances.

English language assessment

Following the Home Office's report on research that it conducted into English language assessment, UKCISA has continued to engage with the Home Office Student Policy Team to highlight that, in our view, the findings reinforce that the sector applies robust due diligence when selecting appropriate assessment methods and in evaluating students' English language ability for their courses.

We are now working with the Home Office to understand the next steps.

The Agent Quality Framework

This year saw significant progress on the Agent Quality Framework (AQF). We worked with partners on the AQF advisory group to clarify changes to the sponsor guidance on reporting agent data on the CAS, and to help ensure that the guidance would be relevant to all student sponsors, regardless of the scope and scale of their work with agents. We also supported sector colleagues in developing a new website to signpost to key information on the AQF for sponsors, students and agencies, and communicated it to our members.



> The work UKCISA does to lobby on behalf of both students and the sector is of great value to all members, especially in light of the ever-evolving immigration landscape which seems to increase in complexity each and every year.
>
> **Gemma Harris**
> Senior International Services Adviser,
> University of Essex

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We deliver world-leading advice and training

Our team of experts provides high-quality advice and guidance and delivers a national training programme that is relevant and responsive to the external policy context. We support our members through changes to the immigration system and fee regulations and encourage career progression in international support.

In addition to numerous guidance releases, there were seven Statements of Changes to the Immigration Rules in 2025-2026, which our advice team analysed and communicated to our members and students through our website, newsletters, and social media. We also evaluated the implications of the major high-level policy announcements in the IWP.



The UKCISA Manual

The past year has been significant for our most comprehensive and unique resource, the *UKCISA Manual*. The *Manual* was a major part of our new website development and launch in April 2025, and it took a herculean effort from across the organisation not only ensure that the *Manual* remained easily accessible and navigable, but that it could provide new features and developments. The *Manual* has a new interface and is now integrated into the wider website's user environment for ease of access and improved searchability.

As part of the new *Manual*, we now have integrated Resource Libraries for our immigration and fees content. These resources are now hosted in central sections of the *Manual*, making them more accessible than ever before. These resources are kept up to date with every change, providing a historic repository of relevant government guidance, immigration rules, fees resources, and select UKCISA publications.

Among these changes and improvements, the Advice and Training team has worked hard to ensure that the content remains contemporaneous, thorough, and accurate. This year has seen the team respond to seven Statements of Changes to the Immigration Rules that have affected 24 pages across a range of immigration subjects. The *Manual* has also seen overall growth over the past year, increasing in page numbers by around 40%, now with 170 pages of specialised content.

UKCISA advice lines for students and members

This year we continued our advice line services for UKCISA members and the public, offering access to a specialist team of Immigration Advice Authority (IAA)-registered advisers who have extensive experience in student immigration and international student affairs.



Total calls
4169

Calls to **member** advice line:
1396

Calls to free **public** advice line:
2773

Enquiries by topic

Student immigration: **1542** (37%)

Fees assessments and funding: **1662** (40%)

Working during and after studies, including the Graduate route: **675** (16%)

Other calls related to life in the UK: **290** (7%)

(all % rounded to nearest percentage point)

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Information and advice on eligibility for 'home' fees

This year, we launched a whole new layout for our information about 'home' fees on our website, to make it easier for students and members to choose the level of detail appropriate to their needs. We kept it updated throughout the year to reflect the regular amendments to regulations that occurred.

We analysed important new regulations from the Scottish government about ordinary residence, and new guidance from it about the 'rest of UK' (rUK) tuition fee status. We explained the effect of both policies to students and provided new commentary for members about the rUK guidance in the *UKCISA Manual*, alongside updated consolidated regulations for Scotland.

We liaised with the Welsh government about problems that an amendment to their regulations inadvertently created for Republic of Ireland citizens and liaised with England's Department for Education about how their regulations affected people with residence in the British Overseas Territories. The liaison led to policy clarifications, and we kept students and members informed of developments as matters progressed.

This work enabled students to feel secure when planning their journeys to the UK, and helped our members in their fee assessment work, to assess and advise international students more confidently.



Our ever-expanding training

Our training programme supports professionals working with international students and is delivered by our expert staff and consultants. It focuses on UKCISA's core areas of expertise, including immigration advice, student fee assessments across all the devolved nations, the international student experience, staff development and the principles of the #WeAreInternational Student Charter.

In 2025-2026, we continued to strengthen our commitment to accessible, high-quality member support through a predominantly online training offer, enabling participation from institutions across the UK. Affordable pricing enables multiple team members to participate, supporting shared learning and strengthening institutional capacity.

To ensure that our training remains relevant and impactful, we actively gather participant feedback after each session and through regular surveys. This ongoing evaluation informs programme development, allowing us to respond to member needs, emerging sector challenges, and UKCISA's strategic priorities.

This past year has seen our IAA-registered team work to expand our training offer to respond to member needs, with the introduction of new courses and developments to existing ones. After a rebrand from the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner to the IAA, we delivered a new course solely focused on the IAA and its importance in immigration work. Our 'Spotlight on ordinary residence in fee assessments' course was extended to four hours to reflect demand and provide even greater opportunity to engage in the topic.

We also introduced two new webinars seeking to provide a more ad-hoc chance to engage in relevant issues and concerns, 'SU Sabbatical Officers: Navigating the Immigration Rules and guidance' and 'Fees revisited: England (a practical update)' both of which were very well attended by an engaged audience. We broadened our reach with a new public webinar for staff at global schools, with the aim of supporting international students at the earliest opportunity in their study journey.

32
training sessions

675
attendees

"We received in-depth training from UKCISA, and it was an excellent experience for our team. The sessions were well structured, informative, and highly relevant to our work. The trainers demonstrated strong expertise and delivered the content in a clear and engaging way, ensuring that everyone was able to follow and benefit. They also shared a wealth of valuable and practical information that we can confidently apply in our day-to-day roles.

Annette Deazle
Student Services Manager,
Leicester College

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We empower our membership

UKCISA's members underpin all our work, from policy and advocacy to training and events. Our membership comprises institutions from across the education and training sector, all committed to the highest standards of international student support. They form a diverse and supportive community, learning from each other in our practitioner networks, on our online Member Forum, and at our training and events.

The diversity and scope of our membership ensures that we provide a unique voice to policymakers, able to capture not just the widest possible range of publicly funded universities across the UK, but private providers, colleges, students' unions and sector organisations. By engaging our members to share their insights through our many channels, we enable them to guide our advocacy and policy work on their behalf and ensure that our strategic decisions are informed and representative.



About our membership

Our membership on 31 March 2026

Higher Education Institutions

187

Public sector **160** / Private sector **27**

Further Education Institutions

54

Public sector **41** / Private sector **13**

Students' Unions

126

Corporate/Education sector organisation/Other

27

Total members

394

> I have been making regular use of the UKCISA website and helpline to ensure that our organisation remains on track, especially in view of the incoming changes to BCA metrics. The resources are invaluable, giving me confidence in my decision making and dissemination of guidance across the wider organisation. The benefits of membership are multiple; I particularly appreciate the members' forum where frank and mutually supportive discussions take place.
>
> **Helen Mair** International Compliance Lead at SRUC, Scotland's Rural College

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Member benefits

Our members benefit from access to our expert advice and training team, peer support, and exclusive online guidance. They also play a crucial role in shaping UKCISA's advocacy efforts to enhance the experience of international students in the UK.

Advice line
The advice line allows members to speak to expert advisers for specialist advice, support and information on international student rules and regulations.

Forum
The Members' Forum connects members with their peers from across the UK.

Manual
Our unique *Manual* is a comprehensive knowledge base offering up-to-date information on immigration and student support.

Networks
Our specialist practitioner groups allow members to tap into focused support and peer networks. The Association for International Student Advisers (AISA) and the Immigration Compliance Network (ICN) meet regionally and nationally both online and in-person.

News
All the latest news delivered promptly to member inboxes every week.

Training and events
Our online training courses keep members up to date on the latest in immigration, fees assessments and student advice, and develop their skills and connect with peers.

Influencing change
Our members guide our advocacy efforts, enabling us to drive meaningful change for international students and those who support them.

#WeAreInternational Campaign
Our members champion the #WeAreInternational campaign.

"UKCISA has been an essential and trustworthy source of support for staff at the university. We highly encourage our staff to use the site and regularly signpost students to the UKCISA website. The UKCISA forums are a valuable resource for staff, providing a supportive platform to share knowledge, discuss complex cases, and seek advice from peers across the sector.

Nazia Shamahoon
Interim Head of International Students Team (IST), University of Birmingham



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UKCISA Annual Conference 2025

The UKCISA Annual Conference 2025 took place in June at the University of Manchester, bringing together 392 colleagues from across the UK to connect, share expertise, and engage with key developments affecting international education. The conference remains a central feature of UKCISA's work, supporting professional development, collaboration, and informed sector dialogue.

At a time of significant policy change and financial pressure across the sector, the conference provided a trusted space for members to interpret developments, learn from one another and strengthen the relationships that underpin support for international students.

The conference opened with the plenary, Defining Our Future: Immigration White Paper, student experience, and the UK's global competitiveness, which set the strategic context for the event. The session explored the implications of recent and anticipated immigration policy developments, their impact on the international student experience, and the role of global competitiveness in shaping the UK's approach to international education.

Across the programme, delegates engaged with a wide range of plenary sessions, workshops, and discussions addressing both policy and practice. #WeAreInternational Student Ambassadors played a central role throughout the conference, sharing lived experiences and reinforcing the importance of student-centred approaches across institutions and the wider sector.

The conference concluded with the plenary, Celebrating Partnerships: student advocacy and community impact beyond campus, which highlighted the value of collaboration, advocacy, and community engagement in supporting international students. The session reflected on how partnerships within institutions and beyond can strengthen outcomes for students and contribute positively to local communities.

Throughout the three-day event, experienced practitioners, policymakers, and sector experts shared insight and best practice, fostering knowledge exchange and reinforcing the strength and diversity of the UKCISA community at a pivotal moment for international education.

> As a first-time attendee, I was delighted by how informative and enjoyable the conference was. The programme offered an excellent balance of sessions and networking opportunities. Spending time with peers and stakeholders in person was incredibly valuable, and everyone I met was welcoming, supportive, and deeply committed to enhancing the experience of international students in the UK. I would highly recommend the conference to others.

UKCISA Conference 2025 attendee
University of Leicester



> It was an excellent conference, expertly managed and chaired by UKCISA. As a conference veteran and speaker, I found the sessions engaging and the networking opportunities invaluable. Our two first-time attendees also found the experience incredibly useful, inspiring, and rewarding.

UKCISA Conference 2025 attendee
University of Exeter

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We disseminate our knowledge

Our communications deliver our trusted information and guidance to our members, international students and their families. Using the three key digital channels of our website, email newsletters and social media, we share timely information on issues that affect our audiences, along with consistent messaging about who we are, and our values as a charitable company and membership organisation.

This year, we've discussed how the changing way that students access information, including their increasing use of artificial intelligence (AI) to generate summaries and answers, will affect the ways in which we disseminate our knowledge. We continue to monitor these changes and their implications for how we communicate with our audiences.

Our website

After the relaunch of our website last year and the increasing uptake of AI, we've been monitoring how all users interact with the updated content and design. Website engagement has remained strong over the past year, with pageviews increasing by 3%, and users viewing more pages per user than in the previous year. While the number of users is down by 12%, this was anticipated with the rise of AI overviews and changing behaviour in the way we find information online.

Most visitors reached the website by visiting directly, following links from partner and sector websites or through search engines. There has been a 353% increase in traffic referred from ChatGPT and a 63% increase from Microsoft/ Teams - likely to be coming from internal colleagues across institutions. Most of the landing pages are news items.

International reach grew across several regions, including the United States (up 9%), China (up 127%) and Nigeria (up 4%), while referrals from sector and member institutions increased substantially.

The UKCISA website

Views
2,771,454
(vs 2,680,533 +3.39%)

Users
948,942
(vs 1,078,258 -11.99%)

Views per user
2.92
(vs 2.49 +17.48%)

Avg engagement time
1m 12
(vs 1m 23 -13.16%)

Top ten countries from which users visited our website

1. **UK: 462,759** users (vs 502,009 -7.81%)
2. **India: 62,986** users (vs 72,271 -12.85%)
3. **United States: 58,310** users (vs 53,618 +8.75%)
4. **Nigeria: 36,337** users (vs 34,830 +4.33%)
5. **China: 26,650** users (vs 11,690 +127.97%)



6. **Pakistan: 24,117** users (vs 31,431 -23.27%)
7. **Ireland: 19,384** users (vs 21,464 -9.69%)
8. **Germany: 13,284** users (vs 14,468 -8.18%)
9. **France: 10,844** users (vs 13,019 -16.71%)
10. **Singapore: 9,619** users (vs 11,278 -14.71%)

Top three news stories

STUDENT UPDATES: CHANGES TO THE STUDENT AND GRADUATE RULES	IMMIGRATION WHITE PAPER: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED	STUDENT UPDATE: CHANGES TO THE IMMIGRATION RULES, JUNE AND JULY 25
41,220 views / 28,019 users	**33,631 views** / 29,015 users	**16,010 views** / 13,012 users

(statistics listed for 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 vs. 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025)

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Our newsletters

We use email marketing to connect with our members, students and wider stakeholder audiences. Our weekly Member Newsletter is a core part of our strategy to stay in touch with our member community and is supported by a regular Chief Executive member update. It continues to receive good readership, though open and click-through rates fluctuate, indicating a strong preference for content related to our advice and information.

This year we launched our new Community and partners newsletter, enabling us for the first time to directly connect with and target messages to our wider network of stakeholders, including partner and sector organisations, sponsors, journalists and policymakers. The newsletter has been well received, supporting ticket sales for our webinar for school counsellors and promoting UKCISA projects and policy asks.

The Student Newsletter has continued to thrive, including new content driven by our #WeAreInternational Student Ambassadors. This has included blogs on mental health, grief support and International Students Day. We've worked with partners to share important information, including how to access NHS support during the holiday period and grief support networks.

Social media

Our social media channels support our mission to deliver accurate and timely information to our members and to prospective and current students. The channels we use help us to get the right message to the right audience, promoting our work, events, and training, building on the #WeAreInternational campaign, and bringing together the UKCISA community.

In 2025-2026, we continued to focus our communications on LinkedIn and Instagram, where our followers counts increased significantly. We continue to monitor Facebook and X.

On LinkedIn, popular topics included policy updates, UKCISA Conference 2025 and the #WeAreInternational Awards.

On Instagram, our top topics were content from and about our ambassadors and government policy updates.

Events

In 2025-26 our staff team attended over 30 conferences, roundtables and speaking events to discuss the issues most relevant to international students, share our knowledge and expertise, and promote UKCISA's work.





LinkedIn
12,918 followers
16.2% increase from 11,114

Instagram
5,565 followers
9.9% increase from 5,065

(figures as of 31 March 2026 compared to 31 March 2025)

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We amplify international student voices

The #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Programme

The #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Programme is UKCISA's network of emerging global leaders. It supports international students to help shape an excellent student experience, drawing on their insights and lived experience of studying in the UK to inform policy and foster an inclusive international community.

During 2025-2026, we welcomed six new #WeAreInternational Student Ambassadors, selected from 267 applications representing 74 countries and regions and 60 institutions across all four nations of the UK. We also continued working with the 2024-2025 cohort, who returned for their second year.

Our Student Ambassadors strengthened their policy understanding and leadership capabilities to drive positive change by:

- sharing their international student experience at annual sector conferences, such as UK ENIC, Duolingo English Test, and the PIE Live
- engaging with UKCISA members by sharing their experiences at the UKCISA Annual Conference through panels, roundtables, and focus groups
- speaking directly to policy makers in round-table meetings, panels, and discussions with the Department for Education, the Department for Business and Trade, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, and the APPG for International Students
- sharing their insights about the international student experience and policy through blogs and podcasts for Wonkhe and the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

International student voices also reached national policy discussions. The UK government's 2026 International Education Strategy included reflections from former #WeAreInternational Student Ambassador Nebu George, reflecting the importance of ensuring that students' lived experiences are represented in the UK's international education ambitions.





"I came to UKCISA with the goal of refining my voice as an advocate, inspired by a desire to improve the international student experience as a result of that of my own. However, besides my journey as an ambassador, which has taken me all around the UK to champion for a cause I believe in wholeheartedly, what especially exceeded my expectations was the amount of support and care that I received from fellow UKCISA ambassadors and staff. It is a privilege to work alongside a team that is so effortlessly inspiring through their dedication towards the wellbeing of international students. I am incredibly proud of the work that UKCISA does and to be an ever-so-small part of it.

Arya Nur Güneş
#WeAreInternational Student Ambassador

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I joined UKCISA with a small goal in mind: make the journey at least 1% better for the next person who faced similar challenges that I had. What I did not expect was to see the results of that small goal within a year. UKCISA connected me to the Student Grief Network and supported my mission through their blogs and communication channels.

They have also given me opportunities to share my story at various conferences and mediums to ensure that a holistic perspective is taken into account when navigating student wellbeing and bereavement.

Joining the Student Ambassador Programme has also been an eye-opening experience to the inner workings of policy, stakeholder management, and university relations. I am grateful that the meetings unify a group of like-minded students who are seeking to improve the international student climate, and we are given the space to discuss opportunities and challenges, with problems and issues welcomed into the discussion.

I am incredibly grateful to be part of the cohort and to meet amazing people. A massive thank you to UKCISA for listening and taking action on behalf of the Ambassador team.



Lauren Bouvier
#WeAreInternational
Student Ambassador

In 2025-2026, #WeAreInternational Student Ambassadors contributed their perspectives through:

22 events

23 sessions

16 government and sector agencies in the UK and from around the world



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We celebrate the international student experience



Taking part in the #WeAreInternational Awards was incredibly rewarding. It really helped to raise the profile of our team's work among both staff and students.

Seeing students publicly congratulate us on our win made it feel even more special and reinforced just how important these awards are in recognising international work across the sector.

Martyn Steward Head of Student Experience, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

Winner of #WeAreInternational Outstanding Student Support (Physical and mental wellbeing) Award 2025

The #WeAreInternational Awards 2025

This year, we launched the inaugural #WeAreInternational Awards, creating a new platform to recognise and celebrate the individuals, teams and institutions making a positive impact on the international student experience across the UK.

The Awards were established to showcase the outstanding contributions of international students, staff, institutions and initiatives, highlighting the innovation, dedication and collaboration that foster a stronger and more inclusive international education sector.

The response to the awards demonstrated the dedication and commitment that exists across the sector. In 2025, we received more than 420 nominations from more than 120 institutions, illustrating the breadth of excellent practice, partnership working and student success.

As well as recognising achievement, the Awards support UKCISA's wider mission by amplifying positive stories, sharing effective practice and creating opportunities for learning across the sector. The stories of winners and finalists demonstrated the transformative impact of international education on students, institutions and communities, helped inform the government's International Education Strategy, and shared insights and best practice with colleagues across the sector.

Looking ahead, we continue to use #WeAreInternational Awards to shine a light on excellence across the sector, championing the people and initiatives that make the UK a welcoming and supportive destination for international students.



Winning the Student of the Year Award has been incredibly meaningful. It has encouraged me to keep speaking up, being empathetic, compassionate and supporting other students.

Ramitha Nittore Ramnath

Winner of #WeAreInternational Student of the Year Award 2025



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We develop excellence

Our strategy commits us to promote a culture of continuous improvement, to support our staff to remain engaged and motivated, to maintain excellence in service delivery, and to ensure financial sustainability and good governance.

Staff pay equity

During the year, we initiated a formal staff consultation to review our pay award mechanism. This step was taken in recognition that the previous approach had become increasingly inequitable and no longer aligned with our values or operational realities. We continue to face significant financial pressures, with rising costs and the need to ensure long-term financial sustainability. Following the consultation, a new pay award policy was approved, providing a transparent, consistent and financially sustainable framework for future pay decisions.

Staff also shared wider feedback on additional areas they would like UKCISA to consider. Work is continuing to review these themes and to ensure that our approach to reward and recognition remains responsive, equitable, and aligned with long-term financial sustainability. We remain committed to ongoing engagement with colleagues to ensure that we have a system that supports our staff.

Facilitating staff collaboration

This year, we also embarked on a major SharePoint implementation project to strengthen how staff collaborate and manage information across UKCISA. The new platform provides a central, structured space for teams to work together on documents, share resources, and maintain clearer version control. The project has helped to streamline day-to-day operations and support more efficient, joined-up working.

As part of this work, we also launched a new intranet, giving all staff a single, easy to navigate hub for key information, policies, updates, and shared resources. This has ensured that staff are working from the same, up-to-date information, supporting consistency across teams. Together, the SharePoint platform and intranet are supporting better communication, improved collaboration, and a more connected working environment.

partners outside UKCISA, strengthening engagement and the way we work together. Enhancements will continue as we refine both systems based on staff and stakeholder feedback.

We are supported by a dedicated staff team averaging a full-time equivalent of 16.8, strengthened by the invaluable contribution of our trustees and committee members and our Student Ambassadors, to whom we extend our sincere thanks for their commitment throughout the year.



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Financial Report

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The trustees (who are also directors of UKCISA for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK accounting standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going-concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement of disclosure to our auditor

Insofar as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees' Annual Report:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware.
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.
- The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the requirements of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Financial review

UKCISA's total annual income to 31 March 2026 was £1,493k. This is a 16% increase from the previous financial year. Income from our members through subscriptions have remained resilient, increasing by 11% and income from our training and events increasing by 28%. This year we launched the #WeAreInternational Awards and reviewed our HE membership bandings for 2026 which have both contributed to the increased income from last year.

UKCISA's total annual expenditure this year was £1,653k, an increase of 8.7% from the previous year. During the financial year, UKCISA staff costs, including employers' national insurance and pensions, stood at £1,200k (2024-2025: £1,168k). Staff are employed to carry out activities that directly contribute to the fulfilment of UKCISA's charitable activities in the form of delivering training, providing advice, organising our conference, maintaining online learning resources, lobbying, influencing policy, communicating with our members, and engaging with international students. Despite these challenges, our net deficit fell by 32.1% to £159k (2024 - 2025: deficit £235k).

Looking ahead, we are commencing the development of our new strategy which will address the need to increase and diversify revenue as well as developing a financial strategy to more accurately identify direct and indirect expenditure and forecasting revenue on a monthly basis as well as tracking monthly levels of expenditure

We will continue to support our members and international students via our advice line and our comprehensive online guidance, and we aim to strengthen our training programme even further. We will continue to engage regularly across government departments to advocate for the international student experience in policy development and high-level strategic planning, including with the Home Office and the devolved administrations of the UK. We are collaborating closely with our expert practitioner networks: the Association of International Student Advisers (AISA) and the Immigration Compliance Network (ICN), and with our influential Student Ambassadors, to ensure that we capture timely insight to inform our conversations with government.

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As at 31 March 2026, the reserves held were:

	2026	2025
General funds	£632,363	£792,667
Designated funds	£14,045	£14,045
Restricted funds	£20,020	£19,151
Total funds	**£666,428**	**£825,863**

General funds are the general reserves not immediately required for any specific purpose.

They are used by UKCISA in order to:

- provide working capital
- allow UKCISA to provide continuity of service if income levels were to fluctuate, thereby giving time to seek new sources of revenue or to reduce costs
- allow UKCISA to provide continuity of service if it had to cope with increases in expenditure that could not be accurately forecast
- provide funds to cover any shortfalls in the share of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) liability
- ensure that, in the worst possible circumstances, it would be possible to pay all creditors and wind up the organisation

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been set aside from general funds for specific purposes. The current designated fund consists of £14,045 and is for the UKCISA research fund, to support research in areas of the international student experience.

Restricted funds are funds that can only be used for purposes specified by the fund donor. In this case, the funds relate to the AISA and the ICN. Both these groups are special interest groups and are legally part of UKCISA.

The Finance, Audit & Risk Committee review the reserves policy bi-annually and aim to keep a dynamic 3 months of operating expenditure based on cashflow forecasts. This model of reviewing reserves provides clarity for the purposes of organisational investment if reserves are above the ceiling level and corrective action if reserves are below the minimum level. This would provide a sufficient buffer to fulfil the aims above and give enough time for UKCISA to adapt its business model, should unforeseen circumstances impair financial performance.

As at March 2026, general funds stood at £632k and free reserves at £478k, meeting our reserves policy. However, reserves are being utilised to fund deficits and the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee maintain a close eye on our cash forecasts.

Risk management

The trustees have a risk management strategy that comprises:

- regular review of the key risks and uncertainties that the charity faces
- the establishment of policies, systems, and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the review
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity, should those risks materialise

This work has identified that the ability to maintain core funding streams and cope with foreseeable cost increases are the major financial risks for the charity. Key elements in the management of these financial risks are:

- maintenance of UKCISA's membership base to ensure that subscriptions, training and conference income is secure and continues to provide good value for money
- the establishment of an Income Generation Group, comprised of both trustees and staff, to explore alternative income streams, and which reports directly to the Board
- an effective annual budgeting process that takes account of actual and potential fluctuations in both revenue streams and cost elements to ensure that charges are adequate and in line with longer-term strategy
- close monitoring of financial performance by the senior management team on a regular basis

Management and administration:

Banker:
Bank of Scotland, 33 Old Broad Street, London, BX2 1LB

Auditor:
Moore Kingston Smith LLP, Chartered Accountants, 6th Floor, 9 Appold Street, London EC2A 2AP

Solicitors:
Bates Wells, 10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1BE

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Objectives, Activities, Governance and Structure

Constitution

UKCISA is a company limited by guarantee and is also registered as a charity operating under the working name of the 'UK Council for International Student Affairs'. The company's former name, until a change in the Articles in 2007, was UKCOSA: The Council for International Education. UKCOSA was first established as an unincorporated body in 1968 and as a company limited by guarantee on 1 April 2003.

Objects and activities

Consistent with its constitutional objects of advancing education and learning with particular reference to international students, UKCISA aims to:

- increase support for international education and raise awareness of its values and benefits
- encourage best practice, professional development and the highest quality of institutional support for international students throughout the education sector
- promote opportunities for – and identify and work to reduce obstacles and barriers to – greater student mobility

It achieves its aims by:

- monitoring and influencing government and education sector policy through close contact with senior officials, policy makers, members of national parliaments and assemblies, partner organisations, and sector bodies throughout the UK
- producing regular publications that keep members and students up to date with current legislation, regulations and resources
- delivering high-quality advice for both UKCISA members and student members of the public
- delivering training to UKCISA members and others working with international students to assist with immediate areas of difficulty and to enhance professional expertise for new and experienced practitioners
- supporting, sustaining and expanding a network of members committed to the ideals of international education and the highest standards of international student support
- initiating and encouraging research which helps to identify key issues and areas for future investigation and development
- working indirectly and in partnership with others to encourage greater mobility from, as well as to, the UK
- ensuring, through support from trustees, its specialist staff and effectively managed resources, that it delivers highly valued services for UKCISA members and other stakeholders

Governance

President: Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea, CBE, DL

Board of Trustees

In line with our Articles of Association UKCISA can have up to 18 individuals who serve as directors and trustees and members of the company. In this time period there are ten elected and three co-opted members of the Board of Trustees (plus the Chair and Honorary Treasurer) These individuals are responsible for managing UKCISA's affairs.

The co-opted members are chosen for their particular skills and experience. All newly appointed trustees receive an induction and are given access to appropriate training relevant to their Board position. The Board met four times during the year 2025-2026.

The UKCISA Board is supported by five committees.

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

This committee meets three times a year. The purpose of the committee is to support the trustees to efficiently discharge their responsibilities in exercising financial control and managing the charity's finances. The remit of the committee includes oversight of financial strategy, accounting matters, budgetary control, risk management and external financial reporting. The committee recommends the annual budget, report, and accounts to the Board for approval.

Nominations Committee

This committee meets one or two times a year. The purpose of the committee is to assist the Board in fulfilling its obligations in respect of succession planning and selecting candidates for the Board, honorary officers and senior executive positions.

People and Organisational Development Committee

This committee meets one or two times a year. The purpose of the committee is to advise the Board on organisational people-related matters and to support UKCISA's senior management team to implement appropriate policies as part of a wider human resources (HR) strategy.

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Strategic Advisory Committee (including UKCISA's practitioner networks)

This committee meets three times a year. The purpose of the committee is to support trustees by informing UKCISA's strategic priorities, providing a forum for cross-sector engagement, and overseeing key aspects of the international student experience. This includes guiding the #WeAreInternational brand and #WeAreInternational Student Charter and advising UKCISA's work in advocacy and influencing policy.

Student Advisory Committee

This committee meets four times a year. The purpose of the committee is to provide UKCISA with the student voice and advise the Board on major strategic decisions, projects and policies.

UKCISA maintains Trustees' indemnity insurance. During the course of the year, and up to the date of approval of this report, the trustees and key management personnel were:

Board members

Professor Koen Lamberts (Chair)
University of Sheffield

Ross Porter (Vice Chair from 1 April 2025 to 19 February 2026 and recommenced as Vice Chair 3 September 2026)
London Business School

Peter Barnes (Honorary Treasurer)
Studyportals

Mervyn Adams
City of Glasgow College

Lynsey Bendon (Resigned June 2025)
University of Sunderland

Charlotte Corrish (Appointed June 2025)
Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA)

Emma Gwynett-Davies
Swansea University

Elizabeth Wright (née Huckle) (Resigned June 2025)

Maria Loray
Manchester Metropolitan University

Heather McNeill (Appointed June 2025)
University of St. Andrews

Sally Saca
Oxford Brookes University

Laura Rose-Troup (Resigned July 2026)
Newcastle College

Cathryn Turhan
Imperial College Union

Hamish Walker (Resigned Dec 2025)
University of Edinburgh

Jonny Exon
University of York

Chris Chang
University of Portsmouth

Pedram Bani Asadi (Resigned Jan 2026)
University of Law

Saida Alimdjanova (Appointed Jan 2026)

Charity Secretary

Shreena Dholakia
Head of Finance and Resources

Key Management Personnel

Anne Marie Graham (Resigned March 2026)
Chief Executive Officer

Tina Renshaw (Appointed July 2026)
Chief Executive Officer

Shreena Dholakia
Head of Finance and Resources

Heather Knight (Interim CEO April - July 2026)
Head of Advice and Training

Yinbo Yu
Head of Engagement and Partnerships

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, including Public Benefit: running a charity (PB2). In particular:

- The advice and training services have enabled university and college staff to advise international students on immigration-related rules and procedures, including those that are and are not yet changing.
- The advice line for students and the public has provided a free and impartial service, open to all who need relevant guidance – especially at a time of considerable concern about UK immigration policy.
- UKCISA's website, with its comprehensive information items, provides open access advice and guidance on all aspects of living and studying in the UK.
- The work in support of good practice in international student welfare is informed by its international Student Ambassador Programme and contributes to an improved quality of experience for international students studying in UK further and higher education.
- UKCISA's practical and specialist knowledge has enabled representations to government, which have benefitted all international students wishing to study or studying in the UK.

The financial statements that follow have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

DocuSigned by:
Koen Lamberts
581C8C129E6D476...
Professor Koen Lamberts Chair

DocuSigned by:
Peter Barnes
1753D541136F43B...
Peter Barnes Honorary Treasurer

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Independent auditor's report to members of UKCISA

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of UKCISA for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2026 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing UK (ISAs UK) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work under taken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' annual report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made;
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the trustees' annual report and from preparing a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 20, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.

Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

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Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been under taken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charitable company and charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed by:

Jonathan Aikens

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Jonathan Aikens (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP
Statutory Auditor

6th Floor, 9 Appold Street, EC2A 2AP

Date: 30/9/2026

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UKCISA

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds: General Funds £	Unrestricted Funds: Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Income and expenditure account						
Income						
Charitable activities						
International student services	3	1,461,010	-	18,902	**1,479,912**	**1,280,586**
Investment income	4	13,415	-	-	**13,415**	**5,645**
Total income		1,474,424	-	18,902	**1,493,327**	**1,286,231**
Expenditure						
Charitable activities						
International student services	5	1,634,729	-	18,033	**1,652,762**	**1,521,175**
Total expenditure		1,634,729	-	18,033	**1,652,762**	**1,521,175**
Net (expenditure) / income before transfers and pension provision		(160,304)	-	869	**(159,435)**	**(234,944)**
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension scheme	21	-	-	-	**-**	**-**
Transfers between funds	17	-	-	-	**-**	**-**
Net movement in funds		(160,304)	-	869	**(159,435)**	**(234,944)**
Funds at 1 April 2025		792,667	14,045	19,151	**825,863**	**1,060,807**
Funds at 31 March 2026		632,363	14,045	20,020	**666,428**	**825,863**

All gains and losses arising in the year are included in the Statement of Financial Activities and relate to continuing activities.

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UKCISA

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2026

	Note	2026	2026	2025	2025
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Intangible fixed assets	11		154,838		193,547
Tangible fixed assets	12		-		430
			154,838		193,977
Current assets					
Debtors and prepayments	13	124,633		143,034	
Cash at bank and in hand	14	1,364,357		1,390,197	
		1,488,990		1,533,232	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(977,400)		(901,347)	
Net current assets			511,590		631,885
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15				
Provision of Pension Liability			-		-
Total assets			**666,428**		**825,863**
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds					
General funds			632,363		792,667
Designated funds	17		14,045		14,045
Restricted funds	18		20,020		19,151
Total funds			**666,428**		**825,863**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 2nd September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Koen Lamberts ..... Chair

Peter Barnes ..... Honorary Treasurer

02/09/2026

Company number: 4507287 Charity number: 1095294

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UKCISA

Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
Cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**(39,257)**	**8,846**
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest income	13,415	5,645
Intangible asset additions	-	(105,504)
Cash provided by investing activities	**13,415**	**(99,859)**
(Decrease) / Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(25,841)	(91,013)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,390,197	1,481,212
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**1,364,357**	**1,390,197**

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2026 £	2025 £
Net movement in funds	(159,435)	(234,944)
Add back depreciation charge	430	878
Add back amortisation charge	38,709	-
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	(13,415)	(5,645)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	18,401	187,127
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	76,053	61,430
(Decrease)/Increase in Pension Provision	-	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	**(39,257)**	**8,847**

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UKCISA
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2026

1 Constitution

UKCISA is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no. 4507287), and a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (no. 1095294). UKCISA operates under the working name of "UK Council for International Student Affairs". The liability of each member of the company is limited to £1 in the event that the company is wound up. The registered office is 20-24 Woburn House, Tavistock Square, London, England, WC1H 9HQ.

2 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. UKCISA meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. These accounts are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Going concern

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of going concern is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that may impair UKCISA's ability to continue to operate as a going concern. The Trustees have made this assessment for a period of one year from the date of approval in the financial statements. In making this assessment, the Trustees have reviewed the diversity of UKCISA's income streams and the financial viability of UKCISA. Whilst our membership income remains strong as well as income from our training, we are developing a new strategy which will address our need to diversify our revenue. UKCISA closely monitors reserves balances and receives membership subscriptions in advance of the subscription period. It is for these reasons that the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern principle when preparing these financial statements.

Fixed Assets

Apart from purchases of individual items costing less than £1,000 and computer software, which are written off in full in the year of purchase, all fixed assets are depreciated / amortised over their anticipated useful lives on a straight line basis as follows:

computers and other office equipment	3 years
furniture	5 years
leasehold improvements	over the unexpired period of the lease
intangibles : website	5 years

Grants receivable

Grants receivable are accounted for on an accruals basis and where received for specific purposes are treated as restricted funds. Grant income is recognised when the following conditions are met:
- Entitlement: UKCISA has control over the rights or access to the economic benefits of the grants
- Probable: is more likely than not that the grant will be received
- Measurement: The amount of the income can be reliably measured

Membership, affiliation and subscriptions

Fees in respect of membership, affiliation and subscriptions are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

With the exceptions of prepayments and deferred income all other debtor and creditor balances are considered to be basic financial instruments under FRS 102. See notes 13 and 15 for the debtor and creditor notes.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The most significant estimates and assumptions which affect the carrying amount of assets and liabilities in the accounts relate to:

Useful Economic Lives - The annual depreciation charge for tangible and intangible assets is sensitive to change in the estimated useful economic lives and residual value of assets. These are reassessed annually and amended where necessary to reflect current circumstances.

Treatment of USS as a multi-employer scheme - FRS 102 makes the distinction between a group plan and a multi-employer scheme. A group plan consists of a collection of entities under common control typically with a sponsoring employer. A multi-employer scheme is a scheme for entities not under common control and represents (typically) an industry-wide scheme such as Universities Superannuation Scheme. The accounting for a multi-employer scheme where the employer has entered into an agreement with the scheme that determines how the employer will fund a deficit results in the recognition of a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) and the resulting expense in the SOFA in accordance with section 28 of FRS 102. The directors are satisfied that Universities Superannuation Scheme meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme and has therefore recognised the discounted fair value of the contractual contributions under the recovery plan in existence at the date of approving these financial statements.

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Pension benefits

The institution participates in Universities Superannuation Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The institution is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. As required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the institution therefore accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the profit and loss account represents the contributions payable to the scheme.

Leased assets

Rentals payable under operating leases are written off in the year to which they relate.

Grants payable

Grants payable are accounted for when there is a commitment to make the payment.

Expenditure

Expenditure is allocated directly to the relevant activity wherever possible. Support costs comprise the costs of central management and administration. Costs common to a number of activities are apportioned in relation to the cost of staff time spent on that activity. Governance costs relate to compliance with charity and company regulations and the strategic direction of the organisation.

VAT

The proportion of input VAT that is not recoverable is written off in the year in which it is incurred (note 20).

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are those which are not subject to restrictions and any surpluses arising may be applied in furtherance of any of the organisation's objectives. Designated funds form part of unrestricted funds and represent amounts set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. These funds may be returned to the general unrestricted funds at the trustees' discretion.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or which have been raised by the charity for a particular purpose. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specifc fund. The aim and use of each fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments, accessible within less than 100 days.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

3 Income from charitable activities

	General Funds £	**Designated Funds £**	**Restricted funds £**	**Total 2026 £**	Total 2025 £
International student services					
Membership subscriptions	1,042,429	-	-	**1,042,429**	940,774
Training and conferences	418,581	-	-	**418,581**	327,702
AISA / ICN income	-	-	18,902	**18,902**	12,110
	1,461,010	-	18,902	**1,479,912**	**1,280,586**

4 Investment income

All of the company's investment income of £13,415 (2025: £5,645) arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts.

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
International student services		
Direct charitable costs	**1,387,824**	1,287,331
Support costs (note 7)	**226,594**	208,553
Governance costs (note 7)	**38,344**	35,291
	1,652,762	1,521,175

6 Grants made during the year

Research grants of £0 were made to other institutions during the year (2025: £1,667).

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7 Analysis of Support & Governance costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Staff costs	143,719	24,320	**168,039**	167,106
Office and administration	82,875	14,024	**96,899**	76,738
	226,594	**38,344**	**264,937**	243,844

Governance Costs of £38,344 (2025: £35,291) comprise the audit fee £14,000 (2025: £13,745) and a proportion of general overheads attributed to governance activities.

8 Staff costs

	2026 £	2025 £
Salaries	**841,590**	836,643
Social Security costs	**94,275**	91,726
Pensions costs	**112,413**	114,089
	1,048,277	1,042,458
Other staff costs, including temporary staff, consultants, recruitment and training	**151,516**	125,925
	1,199,793	1,168,383

	2026	2025
Number of employees who received remuneration between:		
£60,000 - £69,999	**2**	**0**
£70,000 - £79,999	**1**	**0**
£80,000 - £89,999	**1**	**1**

Pension contributions for the above employees amounted to £41,658 (2025: £12,635)

The company's Memorandum of Association explicitly authorises payments to Trustees for work carried out for the company other than in fulfilling the functions of a Trustee. Such payments may include, but are not limited to: writing publications and facilitating training courses. This year there were no such payments made to any Trustees (2025, none). No other remuneration was paid to any Trustee (2025, none). Out of pocket expenses claimed by and refunded to 8 trustees amounting to £1,445 (2025: £647) relating to travel for meetings and attendance to our Annual Conference.

There were no other related party transactions (2025 : Nil).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, the Chief Executive, Head of Advice & Training, Head & interim Head of Finance & Resources and Head of Engagement and Partnerships. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £384,490 (2025: £346,553).

Included in staff costs above is £8,115 relating to redundancy payments (2025: £3,500)

9 Staff Numbers

The average monthly head count was 20 staff (2025 : 20.3 staff), which is equivalent to 16.8 FTE (2025: 19 FTE)

10 Net income for the year

	2026 £	2025 £
Net income is stated after charging:		
Audit fee - current year	**14,000**	13,745
Depreciation and amortisation	**39,139**	878
Operating lease - property	**8,983**	15,399

11 Intangible fixed assets

All fixed assets are held for use in connection with charitable activities.

	Website development	Total
Cost	**£**	**£**
Total at 1 April 2025	193,547	193,547
Additions	-	-
Total at 31 March 2026	**193,547**	**193,547**
Amortisation		
Total at 1 April 2025		
Amortisation	38,709	38,709
Total at 31 March 2026	**38,709**	**38,709**
Net Book Value		
at 31 March 2026	**154,838**	**154,838**
at 31 March 2025	**193,547**	**193,547**

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12 Tangible fixed assets

All fixed assets are held for use in connection with charitable activities.

	Furniture and office equipment	Leasehold improvements	Total
Cost	**£**	**£**	**£**
Total at 1 April 2025	35,166	2,400	37,566
Additions		-	-
Total at 31 March 2026	**35,166**	**2,400**	**37,566**
Depreciation			
Total at 1 April 2025	34,736	2,400	37,136
Depreciation	430	-	430
Total at 31 March 2026	**35,166**	**2,400**	**37,566**
Net book value			
at 31 March 2025	**430**	**-**	**430**
at 31 March 2026	**(0)**	**-**	**0**

13 Debtors and prepayments

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade debtors	**21,623**	37,145
Other debtors	**-**	1,816
Accrued income	**-**	3,598
VAT debtor	**54,379**	45,290
Prepayments	**48,631**	55,183
	124,633	143,034

Included within other debtors is an amount of £nil that is due after 1 year (2025: £nil)

14 Cash at bank and in hand

	2026	2025
	£	£
Cash at bank	**547,270**	986,449
Cash on deposit < 95 days	**817,072**	403,733
Cash in hand	**15**	15
	1,364,357	1,390,197

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026	2025
	£	£
Taxation and Social Security	**2,683**	31,851
Other creditors	**3,119**	1,915
Deferred income	**900,575**	789,114
Accruals and provisions	**39,103**	41,399
Trade Creditors	**31,920**	37,068
	977,400	901,347

Deferred income relates to amounts received during 2025/26 for services to be carried out in 2026/27. The income deferred in 2024/25 has been fully reversed into 2025/26.

Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2026	2025
	£	£
Brought forward Pension Provision	**-**	-
Movement	**-**	-
Carried forward Pension Provision	**-**	-

16 Financial commitments

a) At the reporting end date the charity had the following future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases which fall due as follows:

	2026		2025	
	Land and Buildings	Other	Land and Buildings	Other
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**
Within 1 year	8,983	-	15,399	-
2 to 5 years	-	-	8,983	-
	8,983	**-**	**24,382**	**-**

b) No capital expenditure had been authorised and contracted but not made at 31 March 2026 (2025: nil).

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17 Designated funds

	Total at 1 April 2025	Expenditure	transfers from / (to) general funds	transfers between funds	Total at 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
UKCISA Research	14,045	-	-	-	14,045
	14,045	-	-	-	**14,045**

	Total at 1 April 2024	Expenditure	transfers from / (to) general funds	transfers between funds	Total at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
UKCISA Research	15,712	(1,667)	-	-	14,045
	15,712	(1,667)	-	-	14,045

UKCISA research fund has been designated to support research in areas of the international student experience, this will be in partnership or for commissioning its own research, funds have been designated for 2 years.

18 Restricted funds

	Total at 1 April 2025	Income	Expenditure	transfers from / (to) general funds	Total at 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
AISA Restricted Balances	7,348	8,810	(8,648)	-	**7,510**
ICN Restricted Balances	11,804	10,093	(9,385)	-	**12,511**
	19,151	18,902	(18,033)	-	**20,020**

Restricted funds represent:
AISA: Association for International Student Advisors a specialised practitioner group managed as a restricted fund.
ICN: Immigration Compliance Network is a specialised practitioner group managed as a restricted fund.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds			
	Designated funds	General funds	Restricted funds	Total
As at 31 March 2026	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	**-**
Intangible fixed assets	-	154,838	-	**154,838**
Net current assets	14,045	477,525	20,020	**511,590**
	14,045	632,363	20,020	**666,428**

	Unrestricted funds			
	Designated funds	General funds	Restricted funds	Total
As at 31 March 2025	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	430	-	-	**430**
Intangible fixed assets	-	193,547		**193,547**
Net current assets	13,615	599,120	19,151	**631,886**
	14,045	792,667	19,151	**825,863**

20 Irrecoverable VAT

VAT paid during the year which could not be recovered totalled £15,538 (2025: £33,629).

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21 Pension costs

The total cost released to the profit and loss account is nil (prior year: £nil).

A deficit recovery plan was put in place as part of the 2020 valuation, which required payment of 6.2% of salaries over the period 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2024, at which point the rate would increase to 6.3%. As set out above, no deficit recovery plan was required under the 2023 valuation because the scheme was in surplus on a technical provisions basis. The institution is no longer required to make deficit recovery contributions from 1 January 2024 and accordingly released the outstanding provision to the profit and loss account.

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is as at 31 March 2023 (the valuation date), which was carried out using the projected unit method.

Since the institution cannot identify its share of USS Retirement Income Builder (defined benefit) assets and liabilities, the following disclosures reflect those relevant for those assets and liabilities as a whole.

The 2023 valuation was the seventh valuation for the scheme under the scheme-specific funding regime introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, which requires schemes to have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover their technical provisions (the statutory funding objective). At the valuation date, the value of the assets of the scheme was £73.1 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £65.7 billion indicating a surplus of £7.4 billion and a funding ration of 111%.

The key financial assumptions used in the 2023 valuation are described below. More detail is set out in the Statement of Funding Principles (uss.co.uk/about-us/valuation-and-funding/statement-of-funding-principles).

Price inflation - Consumer Prices Index (CPI)	3.0% p.a (based on a long-term average expected level of CPI, broadly consistent with long-term market expectations)
RPI/CPI gap	1.0% p.a to 2030, reducing to 0.1% p.a from 2030
Discount rate	Fixed interest gilt yield curve plus: Pre-retirement: 2.5% p.a, Post-retirement: 0.9% p.a.
Pension increases (subject to a floor of 0%)	Benefits with no cap: CPI assumption plus 3bps Benefits subject to a “soft cap” of 5% (providing inflationary increases up to 5%, and half of any excess inflation over 5% up to a maximum of 10%): CPI assumption minus 3bps

The main demographic assumptions used relate to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme’s experience carried out as part of the 2023 actuarial valuation. The mortality assumptions used in these figures are as follows:

	2023 valuation
Mortality base table	101% of S2PMA “light” for males and 95% of S3PFA for females
Future improvements to mortality	CMI 2021 with a smoothing parameter of 7.5, an initial addition of 0.4% p.a., 10% w2020 and w2021 parameters, and a long-term improvement rate of 1.8% pa for males and 1.6% pa for females

The current life expectancies on retirement at age 65 are:

	2024	**2023**
Males currently aged 65 (years)	23.7	24.0
Females currently aged 65 (years)	25.6	25.6
Males currently aged 45 (years)	25.4	26.0
Females currently aged 45 (years)	27.2	27.4

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UK Council
for International
Student Affairs

UKCISA

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UKCISA is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Company Number: 4507287) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Charity Number: 1095294). Its registered office is at Woburn House, 20–24 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HQ. UKCISA is registered with the Immigration Advice Authority (IAA) for its provision of immigration advice (ref: N200100017).

