

The Experience of International Students (and Staff) in EPS


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The Project

Aim: to investigate and improve the experience of international students (and staff) in EPS

Phase I: Speak to stakeholders around the university  phase I report, including initial observations

Phase II: Directly investigate the experience of international students and staff  phase II report, including detailed recommendations

A few fairly recent facts and figures (as of 1st December 2009)

- 3580 international students in EPS
- 124 countries
- Engineering dominates, but numbers are significant in all Schools.

School	No of International Students (2009)
MACE	937
E&EE	529
Materials	431
CEAS	396
Comp Sci.	377
Maths	363
Earth, Atmos. & Env. Sciences	173
Physics	162
Chemistry	114

Which programmes are the students taking across EPS?

Country	N° of Students	PGR	PGT	UG
China	825	15%	34%	51%
India	248	9%	53%	38%
Malaysia	239	20%	15%	65%
Nigeria	212	12%	69%	18%
Saudia Arabia	165	22%	24%	55%
Pakistan	157	39%	20%	41%
Cyprus	140	3%	24%	73%
Hong Kong	81	5%	15%	80%
Cyprus (EU)	73	12%	0%	88%
Greece	68	26%	46%	28%

Where students come from in **MACE**...

Country	N ^o of Students	PGR	PGT	UG
China	223	9%	73%	18%
India	73	4%	70%	26%
Malaysia	68	16%	22%	62%
Nigeria	42	10%	86%	5%
Saudia Arabia	30	20%	60%	20%
Pakistan	39	33%	21%	46%
Cyprus	25	0%	40%	60%
Hong Kong	19	11%	42%	47%
Cyprus (EU)	12	17%	0%	83%
Greece	15	13%	67%	20%

**EPS
Top
10
(2009)**

However, **the MACE 2009 top ten** were (1) China, (2) India, (3) Malaysia, (4) Nigeria, (5) Pakistan, (6) Saudia Arabia, (7) Iran, (8) Cyprus, (9) UAE, (10) Mexico

Where students come from in **Physics & Astronomy**...

Country	N ^o of Students	PGR	PGT	UG
China	27	33%	11%	56%
India	5	60%	0%	40%
Malaysia	8	0%	13%	88%
Nigeria	1	0%	100%	0%
Saudia Arabia	4	50%	25%	25%
Pakistan	2	100%	0%	0%
Cyprus	3	0%	0%	100%
Hong Kong	2	0%	0%	100%
Cyprus (EU)	1	0%	0%	100%
Greece	6	50%	0%	50%

**EPS
Top
10
(2009)**

However, **the P&A 2009 top ten** were (1) China, (2) Malaysia, (3) Germany, (4) Italy, (5) Greece, (6) Ireland, (7) India, (8) Thailand, (9) France, (10) Korea

Summary

- Considerable time and effort is put into making international students feel as welcomed and informed as possible. An excellent orientation programme is provided by the university.
- There are pockets of excellent practice across the Faculty addressing issues such as plagiarism and student mentoring. Good practice could be more widely promoted across the Faculty.
- Postgraduate students who arrive at times different to undergraduates are at risk of 'slipping through the net' in terms of their induction.
- Students on 1-year Masters programmes are a particularly vulnerable cohort. They have little time to 'catch-up' when things go wrong, they may not know any students from previous years (who could give informal support), and their international experience may be more mono-cultural than for students on longer programmes.
- To improve the support of international students we can make the biggest improvement by 'joining the dots' between existing services and pockets of good practice.
- We could be more consistent across the Faculty in using alumni as role-models for students on 1-year programmes.