

Postgraduate  
Degrees in the  
UK: Growing  
Demand or  
Dependency

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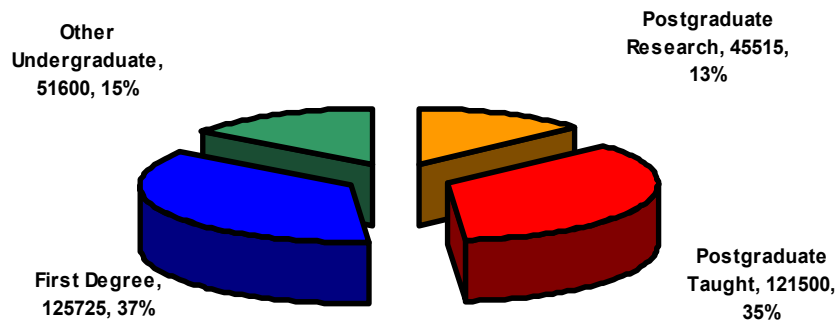
Outline

1. Trends in the postgraduate education in the UK
2. UK Vs International Students: increasing demand or dependency?
3. Patterns in some key subject areas
4. What happens next

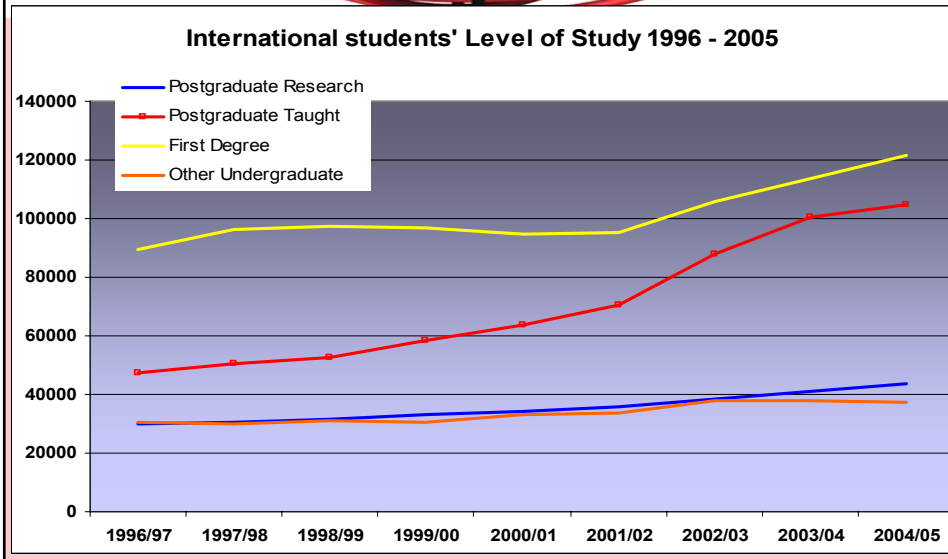
### Postgraduate trend overview

- Postgraduate education marked the fastest growth since 1996:
    - » Postgraduate taught degrees increased by 120% since 1996
    - » Postgraduate research degrees increased by 44%
- The growth marked by undergraduate degrees was 36% for First degrees students and 22% for other undergraduate.
- The ratio between PG and UG changed from 39% and 61% respectively in 1996 to 49% PG students and 51% UG students.

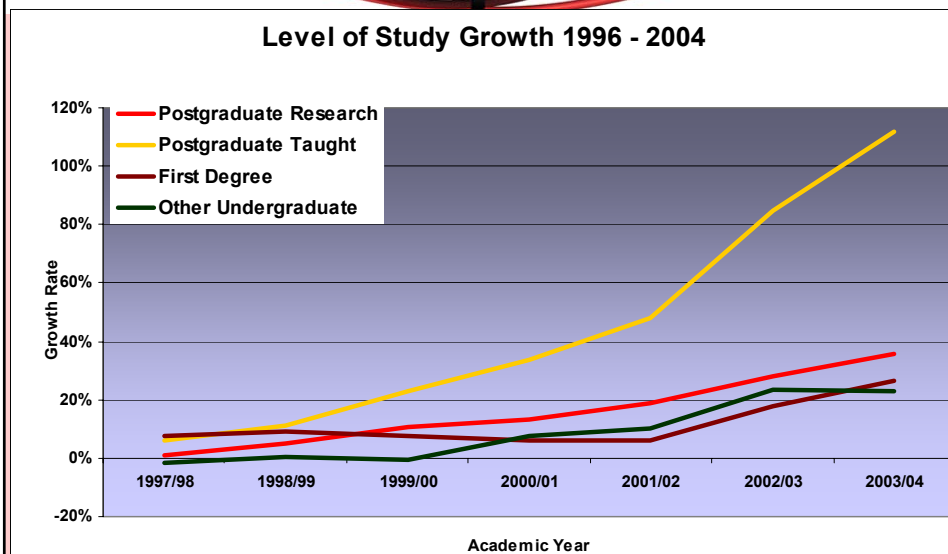
### Level of Study Demographics 2004/05



International Students' Level of Study Trends 1996 - 2004



International Students' Level of Study Annual Growth Patterns



Internationalisation of UK Higher Education

**International students in proportion of the total students (UK + non UK)**

Postgraduate Research	41%
Postgraduate Taught	29%
First Degree	10%
Other Undergraduate	10%
Total	15%

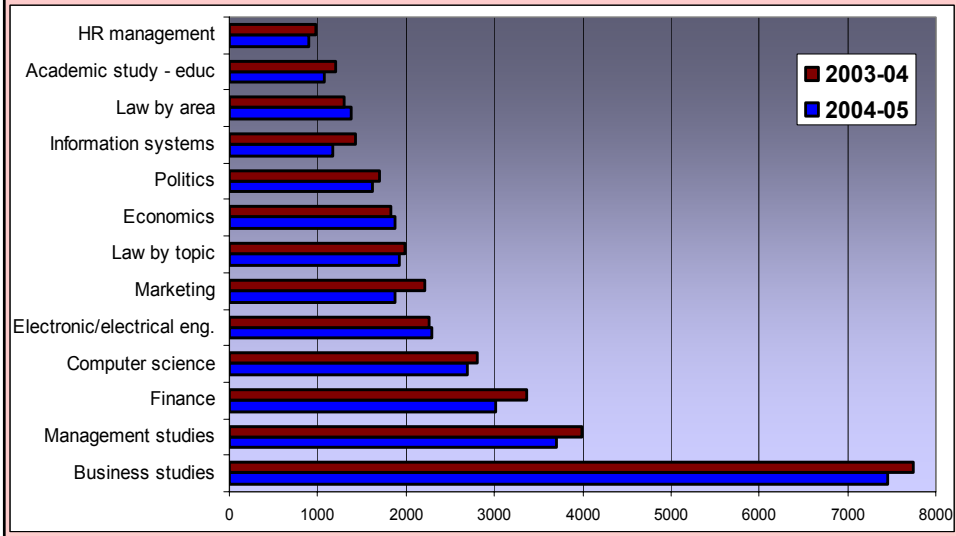
UK/US Comparisons

**International students as % of the total student population**

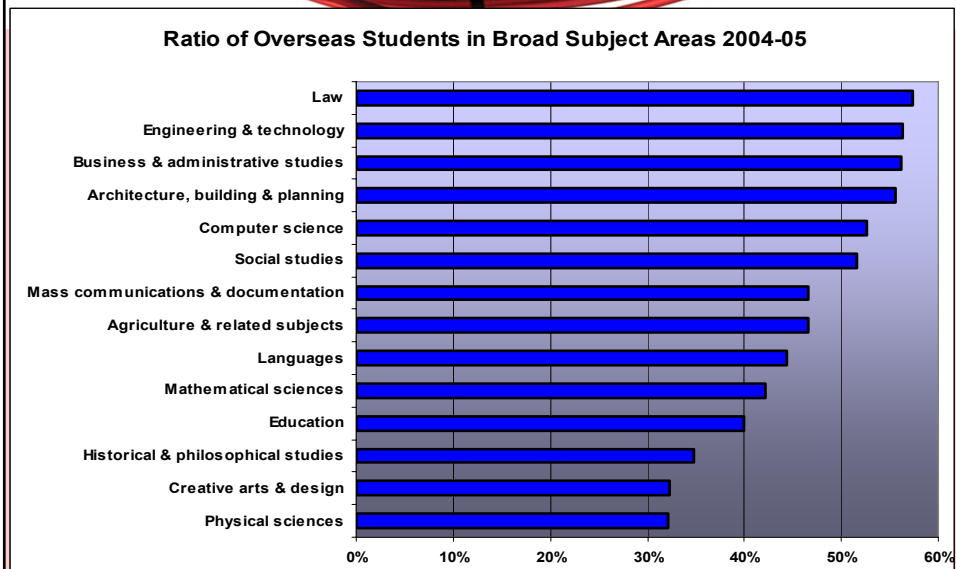
Level of Study	UK	US
Postgraduate	31%	13%
Undergraduate	10%	2%
Total	15%	4%

Source: HESA, IIE; authors' analysis

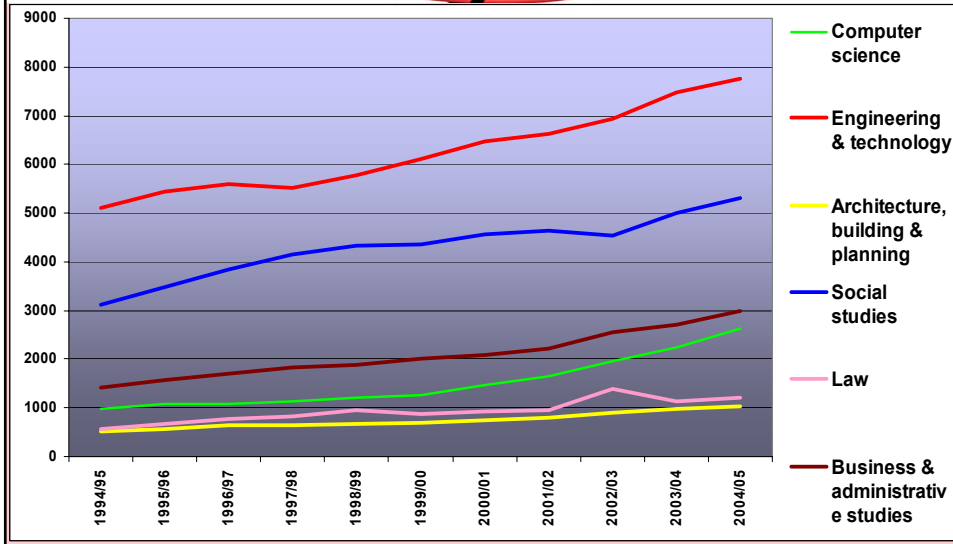
Most Popular Subjects: PG Taught



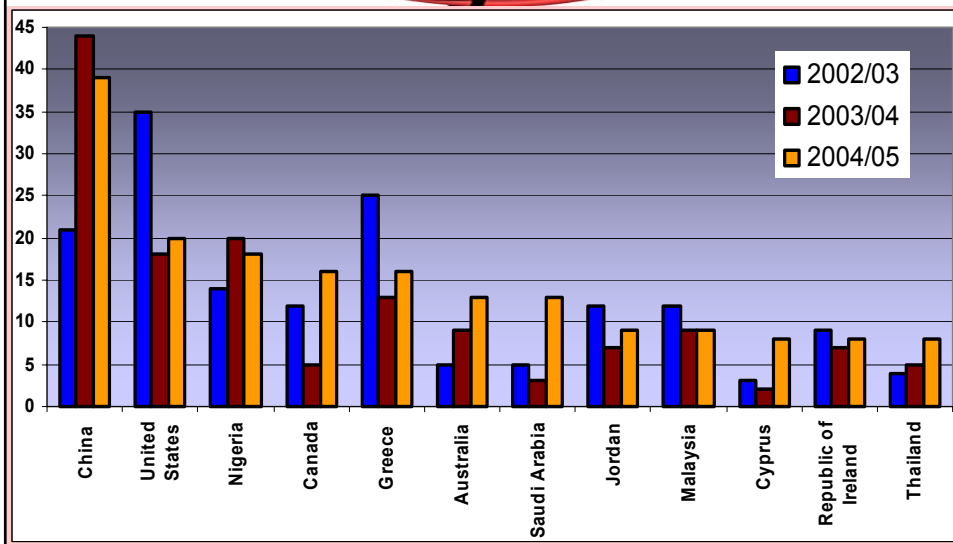
Subject Areas (Research) under Greatest Pressure to Recruit



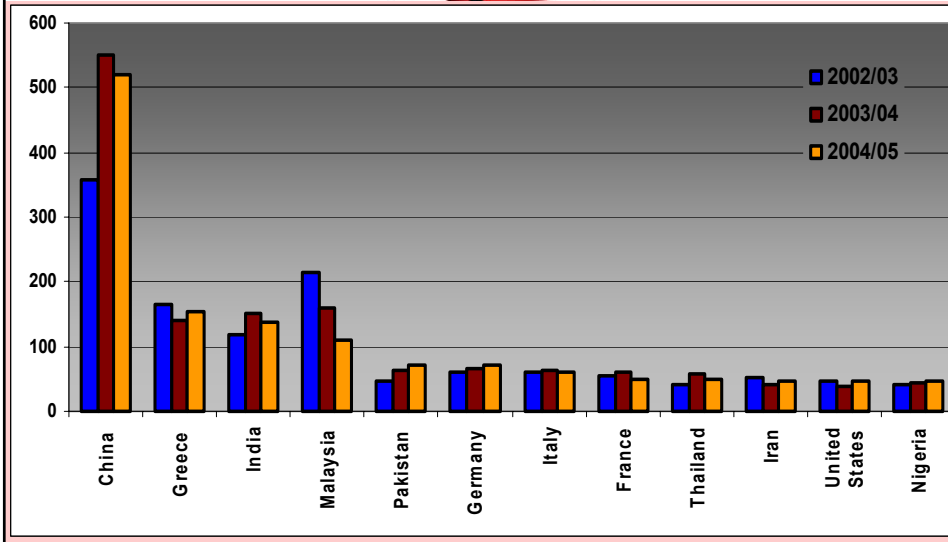
Absolute Growth in Key PGR Subjects Areas 1994 - 2004



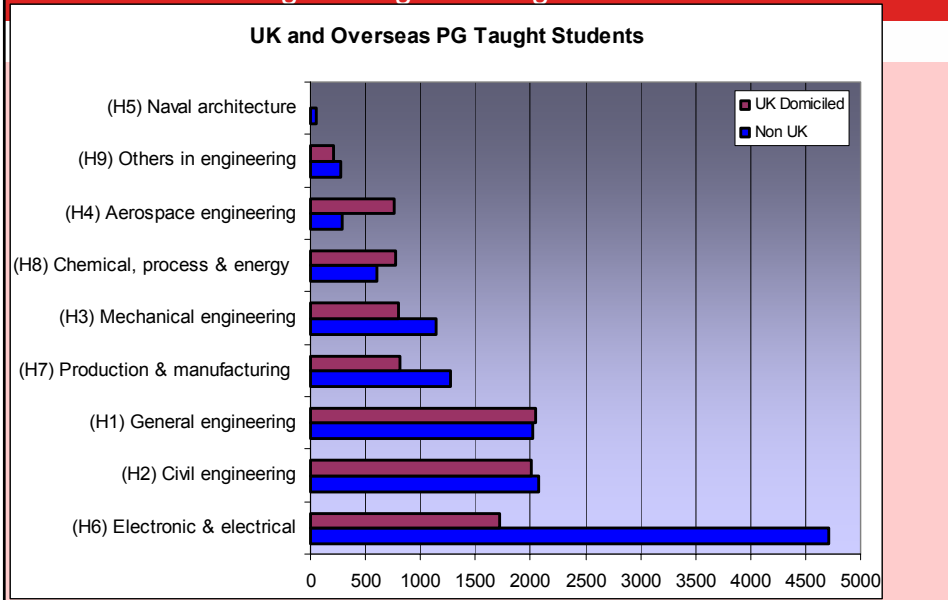
First year research students in Law



First year research students in key sending countries: Engineering

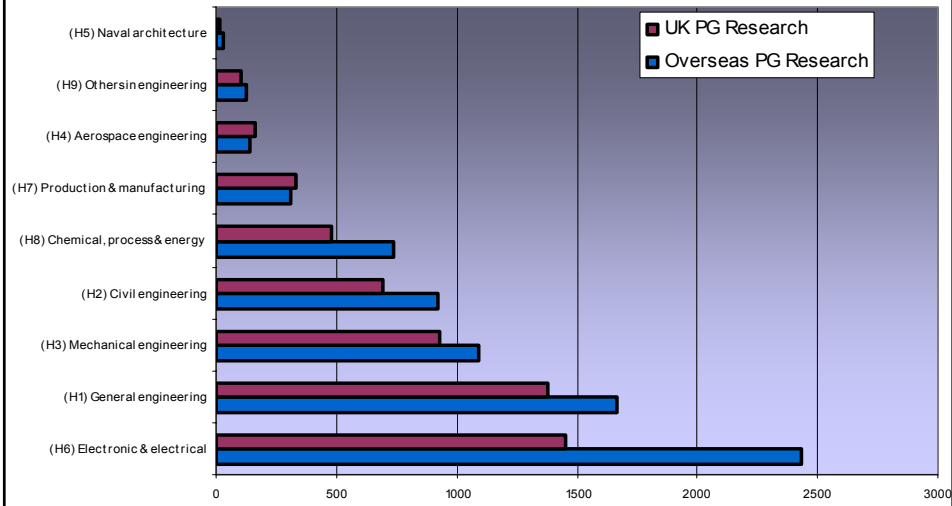


Students in Engineering PG Taught

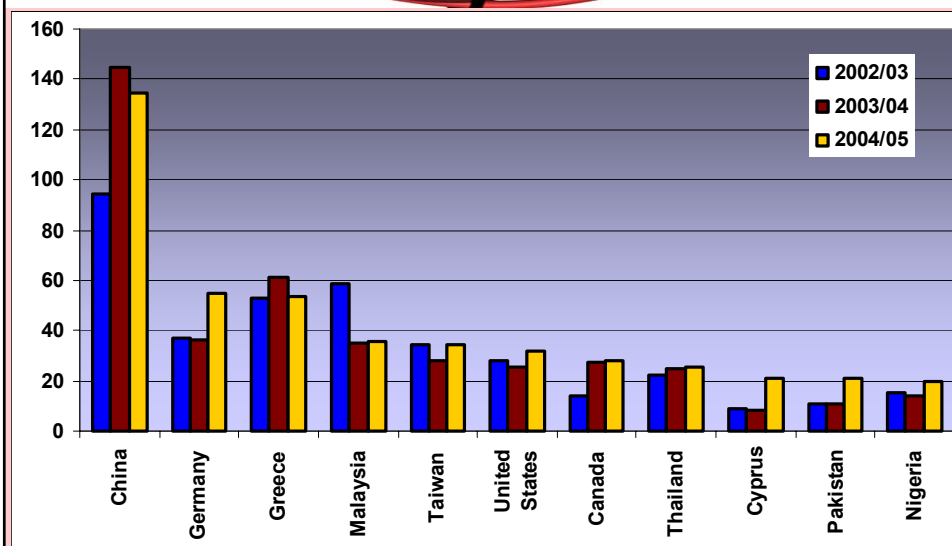


Research Students in Engineering

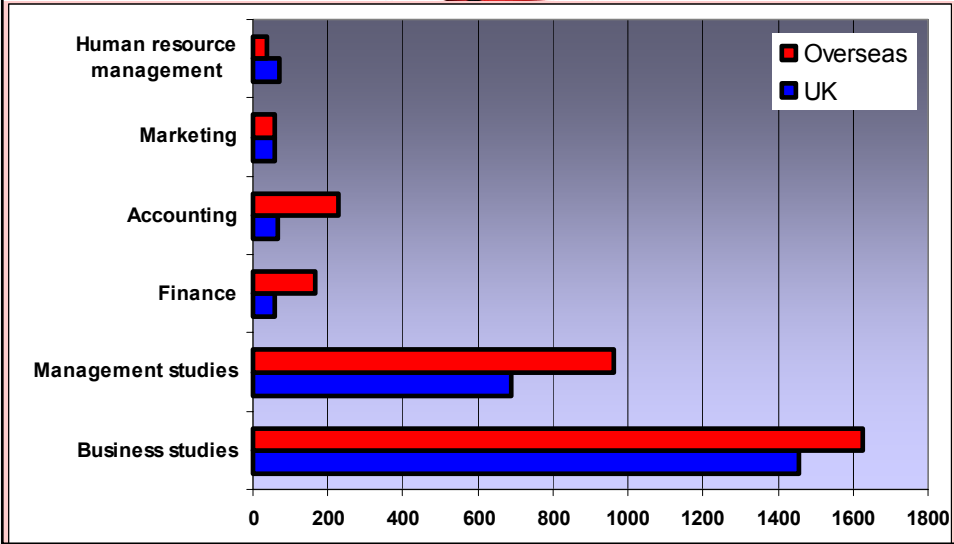
Postgraduate Research: UK vs. Non UK Students



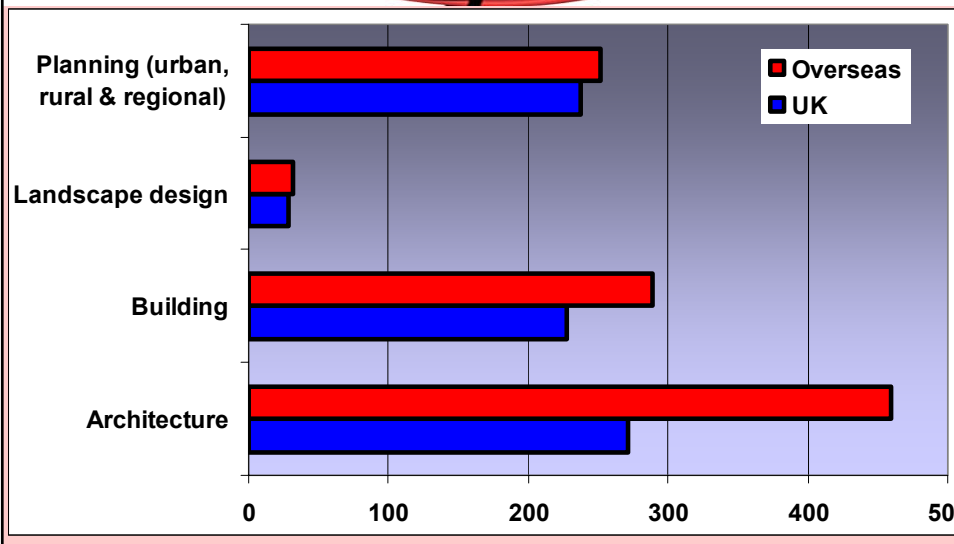
First Year Research students in Business and management studies

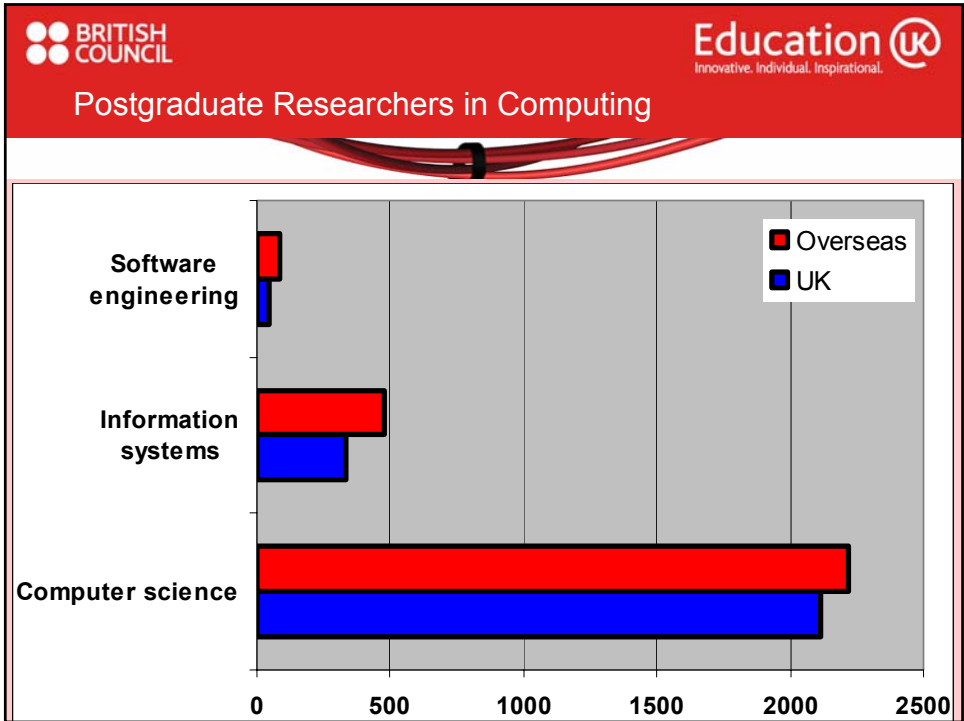
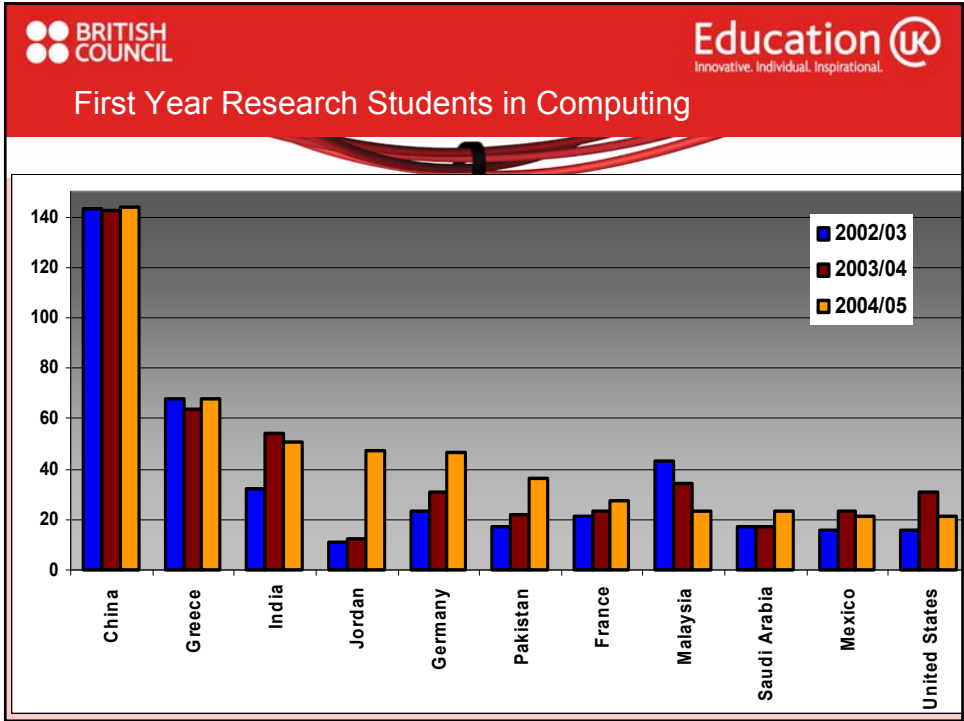


Postgraduate Research Students in Business and Management

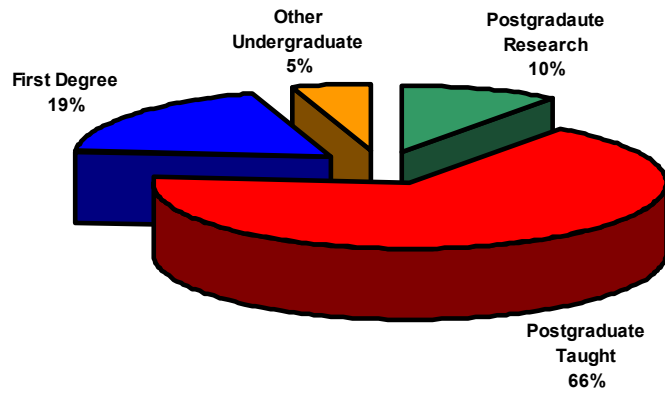


Postgraduate Research Students in Architecture

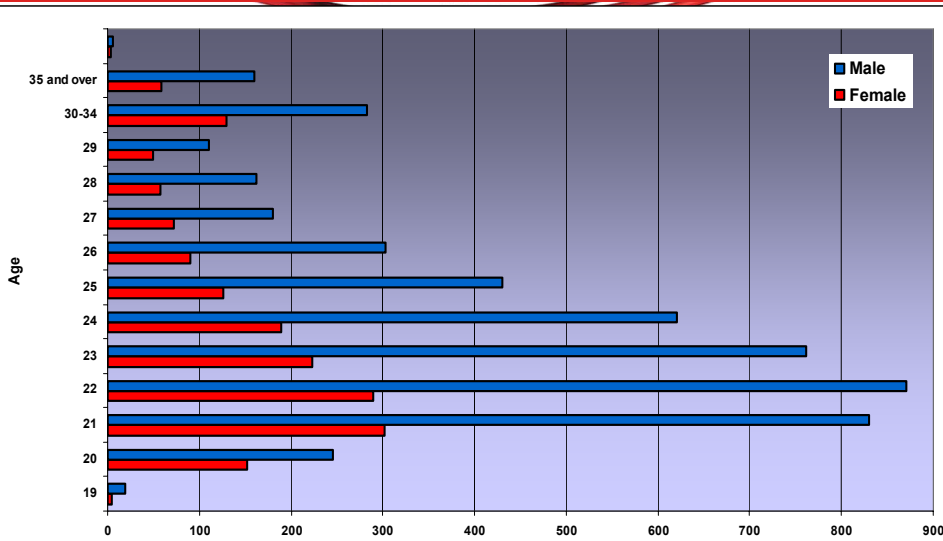




Brief Profile for India



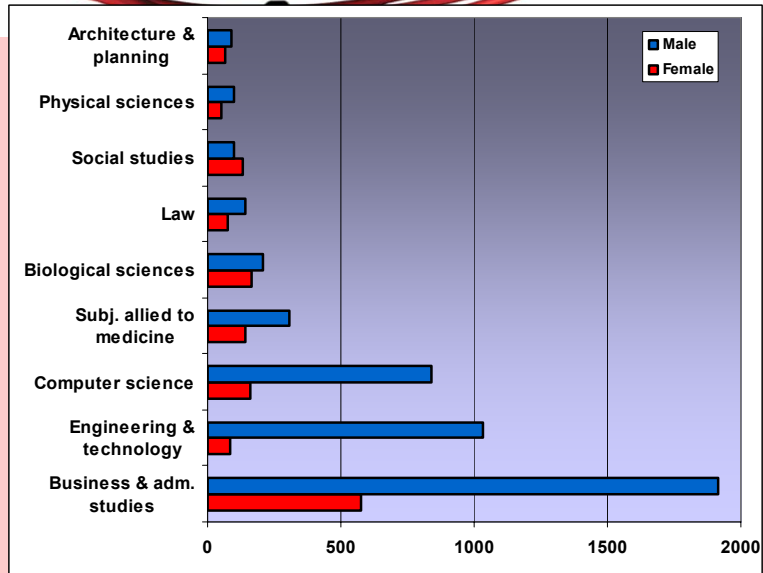
Age profile of first year students at PG taught degrees



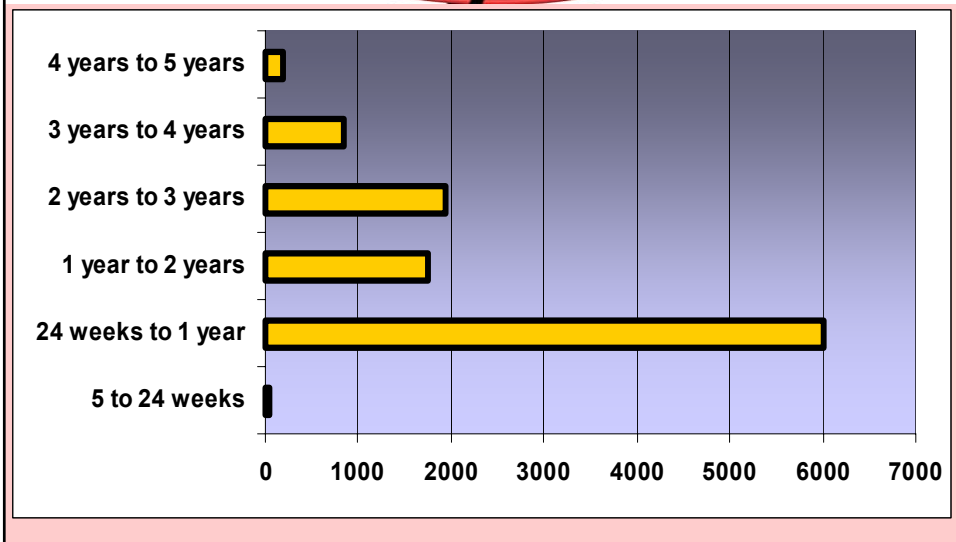
70% students are aged 21 - 25

First year students' subject choice

70% students are studying business, engineering and computer



Average length of stay of the Indian postgraduate (n=11,000)



## Conclusions

- Increasing importance of the PG degrees: highest growth rates
- Many subject areas with non-UK students outnumbering the UK students
- Postgraduate research students: important for vitality of research activity in departments
- Significant decrease in UK students on research courses
- Slow down in key sending countries and short course duration: implications for universities' strategies
- Increasing demand from the UK university sector for partnerships and collaboration with overseas institutions
- Government initiatives to support research collaborations