

Alumni Voices

**Beyond
graduation:
The lifelong
global impact
of a UK education**

A snapshot of selected findings from round three of our longitudinal survey of international graduates July 2026

Research and insight



Alumni UK is the largest global network for international UK alumni, connecting people around the world who have studied with a UK university as an international student

British Council invited members of Alumni UK to tell them about:

- their UK study experience
- their decisions about their further education, career and life journey
- their views of the Alumni UK programme
- their views of the world today, and their opinions of the UK's place in the world.

The third round of the study generated responses from 4,140 international alumni residing in 130 countries.

This summary of the findings highlights the value of a UK study experience from the perspective of the international graduates themselves.



A UK degree delivers lifelong value

The value of UK education is more than just getting a job after graduation – it's about sustained career success over decades.

This is evidenced by the consistently high relevance ratings across all graduation cohorts.

We surveyed international alumni who graduated with a UK qualification across every year from 1980 to 2025. More than 73% needed their UK qualification to obtain their current job. The mean rating of the relevance of their UK education for the world of work was 8.31 out of ten.

On average, alumni rate the relevance of their UK education as 8.31 out of ten

A UK education is more than just academic knowledge – it develops the core skills needed for modern careers

The skills developed through a UK education across various fields of study align strongly with long term career priorities, particularly critical thinking, collaboration, self-confidence, and communication. These skills also closely mirror the skills alumni identify as most important for career success. This alignment indicates that UK education equips graduates with durable, transferable capabilities rather than narrowly occupational skills.

More than 73% needed their UK qualification to obtain their current job

Beyond graduation, alumni join a powerful, lifelong international network

73% maintain contact with connections they formed during their UK study – Networks which are actively used for jobs, partnerships, and collaboration.

They advocate for the UK (84% have actively recommended UK study, and strongly promote the UK as a place to visit and do business).

UK education makes a connection back to the UK economy – over half of entrepreneurs collaborate or trade with the UK.

A UK education transforms who you are

This comes across loud and clear through in the interviews conducted with 34 graduates across 20 countries. Selected quotes from the interviews include: “It was life changing for me...”; “UK has shaped me so much”; “the UK was like a crown jewel... It was everything I now understand about myself”.

“It was life changing for me...”

84% have actively recommended a UK study experience



For more details, see the full report at www.britishcouncil.org/research-insight/alumni-voices-2026-beyond-graduation

