Strategies and actions may be cross-sectoral, so this article should be read in conjunction with the ‘Overview: Mobility and Internationalisation [1]’.

**Bilateral Agreements**

This section describes some of the main examples of bilateral agreements between the UK and third countries.

The [UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI)](https://www.ukieri.org) [2] started in April 2006 with the aim of enhancing educational links between India and the UK. It provides opportunities for professional and leadership development in schools, higher education institutions [3] and vocational institutions; supports partnerships; and develops student mobility and skills development programmes. The 2016-2021 phase of the programme is focusing on leadership and faculty development; integration of skills in the education system; and e-partnership and research incubation.

In addition, the [Newton Fund](https://newtonfund.ac.uk) [4], managed by the [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)](https://www.gov.uk/government/departments/business-energy-and-industrial-strategy) [5], develops science and innovation partnerships to support the economic development and social welfare, and to develop the research and innovation capacity for long-term sustainable growth, of the partner countries: Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, South Africa and wider Africa, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam. Activities are delivered through 15 UK delivery partners and their associated in-country partners, and fall into three broad categories: capacity building, including student and researcher fellowships and mobility schemes; research collaborations on development topics; and partnerships which focus on innovative solutions to development issues. The Fund was originally launched in 2014 for five years, but was expanded and extended in 2015 to run until 2021. The UK Government investment in the fund is supplemented by matched resources from the partner countries.

In 2015, the UK and China signed a framework agreement on education collaboration in six key areas: higher education, vocational education, schools, language, sports, and mobility. Higher education partnerships formed under the 'UK-China Strategic Framework in Education' involve UK universities and organisations working with partners in China to boost joint academic research and student exchange and establish new institutions. Further information about the Framework is available in this [September 2015 press release](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-china-strategic-framework-in-education) [6]. New initiatives to further bolster the UK’s bilateral education links with China were also announced [7] in January 2018. They include an agreement to facilitate joint training of pre-school staff in the UK and China, and improved information sharing on vocational education through more study exchanges.

The UK has also entered into Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) with partner countries with the aim of increasing and enhancing partnerships across all levels of education, including through
mobility. For example in 2016, the UK and Cuba signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on enhancing cooperation in higher education and, in 2018, the UK entered into a MoU with Egypt to establish international branch campuses, which included a focus on student and staff mobility. See the articles on ‘Mobility in Early Childhood and School Education’ [8] and ‘Mobility in Higher Education’ [9] for further information.

**Cooperation and Participation in Worldwide Programmes and Organisations**

The UK is committed to the United Nations' ‘Sustainable Development Goals’ [10], which include the goal of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning, as well as the broader UNESCO goals, including those related to education [11]. The UK Government’s Department for International Development (DFID) [12] is involved in many bilateral and multilateral projects around the world, focusing on five core priorities:

- strengthening global peace, security and governance
- strengthening resilience and response to crises
- promoting global prosperity
- tackling extreme poverty and helping the world’s most vulnerable
- delivering value for money.


DFID supports the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) [14], a global fund and multilateral partnership that aims to strengthen education systems in developing countries in order to significantly increase the number of children who are in school and learning. The UK Government’s support for the GPE during the period 2018-2021 is focused on sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia and on keeping children in school, in particular those in fragile or conflict-affected states; training teachers; building classrooms; and distributing new textbooks.

The UK also supports the Young Lives [15] study; a longitudinal and multidimensional study of childhood poverty, following the lives of 12,000 children over 15 years in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam. Young Lives is generating knowledge about the relationships between early childhood, schooling, poverty and inequality and about what works in education policy to improve learning and opportunities.

Through the Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) [16], DFID is also working with the World Bank to improve the regulatory environment of private provision of education and skills in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Launched in 2012 with funding from the DFID, the Centre for Education Innovations (CEI) [17] provides information on innovative education programmes which aim to improve access to, and the quality of, education in low income communities around the world.

Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation and Reform (SPHEIR) [18] is a £45 million (€51.1 million*) DFID fund which aims to transform higher education systems in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Asia. The programme involves large-scale partnerships working collaboratively across different sectors and countries to deliver solutions to major issues facing higher education,
particularly in the areas of accessibility, relevance, quality, scale, sustainability, affordability, and technology. The programme is managed by the British Council [19], which is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities; Universities UK International (UUKi) [20], which represents the interests of UK universities globally; and PwC [21], the multinational professional services network.

See the articles on ‘Mobility in Early Childhood and School Education [8]’ and ‘Mobility in Higher Education [9]’ for further information.

*Exchange rate used: €1 = £0.88, ECB 23 February 2018 [22]

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