

## International Researchers in the UK

Dr Brendan Barker

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## Background

1988-1997 Contract Researcher, PREST,  
University of Manchester

(1994-1996 Visiting Research Fellow, STA NISTEP,  
Tokyo)

1997-2006 British Council (Japan, Korea, Malawi)

2006-2009 Manager Impact and Promotion, Royal  
Society, London

2009- Head of International Development,  
University of Dundee

Perspectives – contract research, international collaboration,  
funding, internationalising UK higher education

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## Internationalisation of Research

The UK has 1% of the world's population but undertakes 5% of the world's scientific research and publishes 9% of the World's scientific papers, receiving on average 12 cites per paper (world average 7.8 citations).

.... But 90% of the world's research is done overseas

(Scotland has 0.1% of the world's population but undertakes 0.7% of the world's scientific research and publishes 1% of the World's scientific papers, receiving on average 13 cites per paper – Scotland produces more citations per head and more citations per £100 research spend than any other country in the world (Universities Scotland)

.... But 99% of the world's research done elsewhere)

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## Internationalisation of the UK Research System

- 40% of UK scientific output between 2001 and 2005 involved international collaboration, a 50% increase over the previous five years. (Evidence Ltd, 2007)
- The UK hosts about 44,000 international research students, second only to the US. (NK Education Ltd, 2007)
- Almost half of PhD students and around 40% of all researchers in the UK are non-UK citizens
- About 20% of UK academic staff are from abroad. (Universities UK, 2007), 27% of academic staff appointed in the UK in 2005-06 were from abroad. (Universities UK, 2007)
- (28% of 'research-intensive' university staff in Scotland come from outside the UK (Universities Scotland))

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## UK's International Research Strategy

- Encourage collaboration between UK researchers and the best researchers from around the world
- Promote the movement of researchers to and from the UK
- Give UK researchers access to data, facilities and resources
- Influence the international research agenda
- Promote the UK as a world centre for research and innovation

Global Science and Innovation Forum  
- International Research Strategy

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## Research Concordat

***"The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers ..... aims to increase the attractiveness and sustainability of research careers in the UK and to improve the quantity, quality and impact of research for the benefit of UK society and the economy."***

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## Sainsbury Review of Science and Innovation

- Recommendation 10.2

***“The Royal Society, with support from the other National Academies and the Research Councils, should establish a new fellowship scheme to attract the best researchers to the UK from overseas and should run an alumni scheme.”***

The Race to the Top: A Review of Government's Science and Innovation Policies (Oct 2007)

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## Newton International Fellowships

- Managed by the Royal Society on behalf of the British Academy, The Royal Academy of Engineering, and the Royal Society.
- The Scheme aims to select the very best early stage post-doctoral researchers in all disciplines covered by the three academies – natural and social sciences, engineering and humanities.
- Fellowships are tenable for a period of two years.
- Funding for ten years after the UK period of the Fellowship ends – to support networking activities with UK-based researchers.
- Newton Fellows will also become members of the RCUK international alumni scheme.

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## Some Issues for Researchers coming to the UK

- Accommodation
- Bank accounts
- Family
- Language
- Integration
- Support networks
- Tax and National Insurance
- Visas and work permits

Network UK – the researchers' mobility portal  
(<http://www.britishcouncil.org/eumobility-working-in-the-uk.htm>)

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