



MAC Call for Evidence on the impacts of international students in the UK

Stakeholder Evidence submitted by St Clare's, Oxford (January 2018)

Background information about St Clare's, Oxford (Company number 1986868, Registered Charity number 294085)

The College was founded in 1953 by Anne Dreydel and Pamela Morris who wished, amongst other things, to promote interaction between students from England and Europe after the Second World War. The College continues to support and give meaning to their ambitions by maintaining its mission of promoting international education and understanding. In 2016-17, 48 nationalities were represented at St. Clare's and 20 different languages were taught.

The College operates a number of business streams on two sites. The main courses offered are the International Baccalaureate Diploma, University Foundation Courses, English as a Foreign Language with academic enrichment and Liberal Arts at university level for visiting students mainly from the USA, as well as short summer courses for children and teenagers aged from 10 to 18, and for adults. In addition, St Clare's IB Institute is the only school-based authorized teacher training provider in the UK for the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

St Clare's is the longest-established IB World School in England and second only to Atlantic College in the UK. The overwhelming majority of St Clare's students (juniors, teenagers and adults) are international. Any impediment to our recruitment of international students poses a grave risk to the very existence of St Clare's.

Evidence from St Clare's on the economic and social impact of international students

1. Impact of the payment of migrant student fees.

Given that 98% of St Clare's students are international and originate from 48+ countries around the world, the same proportion of the college's fee income comes from international families. Hence, out of a turnover in 2016-17 of £16m, £15.68m is derived from migrant fees.

2. Do migrant students help support employment in educational institutions?

St Clare's is a boarding and day college located in the City of Oxford. We employ an average of 246 people during the year in a wide variety of roles (including teachers, administrators, boarding staff, sales and marketing, catering, maintenance, cleaning etc.) thus making a significant contribution to the local economy through a payroll of £6.3 million. St Clare's contributes £1.9 million per year to the public purse by way of income tax and NIC on payroll, together with irrecoverable VAT on purchases.

3. How much money do migrant students spend in the national, regional and local economy and what is the impact of this?

Assuming (conservatively) an average weekly spend of £30 in local businesses, the students contribute at least £500,000 directly to the local economy per annum. Indirect spending is at a far greater level. St Clare's provides or has provided work for many local businesses for the benefit of students, averaging of £5.2 million in each of the past two years to local (Oxfordshire) suppliers. Thirty-five businesses with OX postcodes benefited from contracts with St Clare's which were worth more than £15K in 2015-16, and twelve were worth more than £50K.

4. How do migrant students affect the educational opportunities available to UK students?

Our summer school and adult courses are designed specifically for non-UK students so have no impact on UK students. The fact that uniquely in the Oxford area we offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma in an international setting gives our small number of UK students the chance to study a Level 3 qualification in a multicultural context. Thus migrant students enrich the opportunities for UK students.

5. To what extent does the demand from migrant students for UK education dictate the supply of that education provision and the impact of this on UK students?

St Clare's depends almost entirely on the strong and growing demand for high quality UK education.

6. What role do migrant students play in extending UK soft power and influence abroad?

Around 50% of St Clare's leavers go on to study at UK universities, including a high proportion at elite Russell Group universities. The next most favoured destinations are the USA, European universities teaching degrees in English and Canada. Many St Clare's students come from wealthy, influential, well-educated international families and they almost all return to their home countries once they have completed their university studies. The experience of having been educated in the English language and studying for internationally recognised qualifications while living in Oxford for up to three years has a profound effect on them. Our regular contact with our alumni (including those who studied here many decades ago) shows that they often regard their time in the UK with us as the best time of their lives. St Clare's alumni tend to be anglophiles who are strong advocates for the UK in their home countries and thus extend the soft power and influence of the UK abroad. The fact that 50% of our students are recruited via family and friendship networks is evidence of the positive experience of the UK they gain while at St Clare's.

7. If migrant students take paid employment while they are studying, what types of work do they do?

St Clare's students do not generally take any paid employment in the UK while they are studying.

Andrew Rattue

Principal, St Clare's Oxford