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INTERNATIONAL INSIGHT

How international study changes lives

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London

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Benchmarking student and stakeholder perceptions; delivering comparative insights to the education sector worldwide.

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The leading independent benchmarking and research group for international education, working with over 700 partners across the globe...

Enabling positive change through comparative insight

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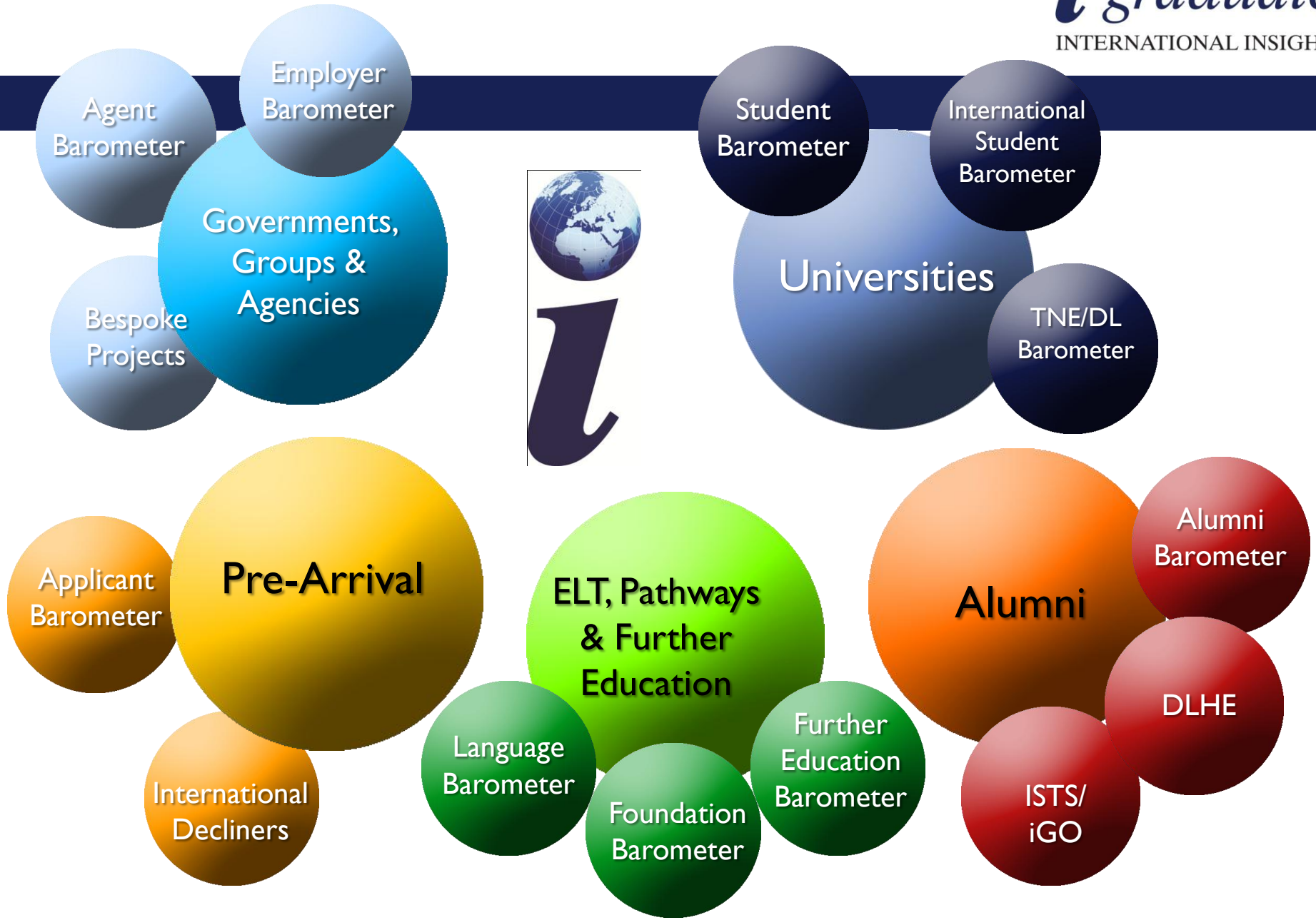

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Relevant studies

- International Student Barometer (ISB)

  955,000 students in 22 countries

- International Graduate Outcomes (i-GO) & International Alumni Barometer (IAB)

- CIHE Membership & Employer Barometer (212 employers)

- Employability Study

  414 Careers staff from institutions in 25 countries

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Key themes for today

- The pursuit of knowledge – not limited by geography
  - All academic life is international
- Employability – little is local. Context is everything
  - Orange call centre Darlington
  - Drummond's bins
  - HSBC's global fast track
  - Shell's international managers
- Destinations…
- Preparation for life
  - the collapse of time & the meaningless of distance
  - Cost & time to Barcelona, Berlin, Beijing
  - London to Wembley, Glasgow to Edinburgh

How international study changes lives

characteristics of international students

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- Context & unfamiliarity
- Independent thinking – evidence of doing something different
- Self sufficiency
- Challenge
- Tolerance of ambiguity
- Dealing with disorientation
- Adaptability
- Determination
- Communication skills
- The ability to question how you think

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International Student Barometer

The world's largest student survey

How satisfied are international students?

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ISB - international student experience in the UK

Since 2006 used as an official measure of the international student experience, **across the lifetime of the ISB international student satisfaction has increased on average by 8 percentage points, to 80%.**

Notable increases are:

- **Careers Service** (increased 7 percentage points from 78% to 85% satisfaction)
- **Employability** (7pp from 71% to 78%)

- The only element that has experienced a significant decline in satisfaction is **opportunities to earn money** (-4 percentage points from 60% to 56%).

CAREERS	60%	65%	69%	69%	69%
Earning money	60%	60%	60%	57%	56%
Employability	71%	74%	77%	79%	78%
Work experience	52%	54%	57%	59%	59%
Careers advice	59%	59%	62%	65%	65%
Careers Service	NA	78%	86%	85%	85%

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What do employers think and want from graduates?

The Employer Barometer
with CIHE

Survey of 233 employers

CIHE Graduate Employability report (2008)

- 86% of employers consider good communication skills to be important, yet many employers are dissatisfied that graduates can express themselves effectively.
- 'Soft' skills such as team working are also vital and even more important than most 'Hard' skills, although numeracy and literacy skills are considered essential by 70% of employers.
- **65% of international employers indicate that having overseas experience makes graduates more employable.**

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Table 2: Top 10 capabilities employers are most satisfied with and their importance ranking:

	Satisfaction Rank
IT skills	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8
	9
	10

Source: 233 employers representing over 750,000 employees

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Largest importance-satisfaction gaps in capabilities of new graduates

	Importance Rank	Satisfaction Rank	Gap
Commercial awareness	13	33	-20
Analysis and decision-making skills	10	26	-16
Communication skills	1	16	-15
Literacy (good writing skills)	8	23	-15
Passion	12	25	-13
Relevant work experience	17	30	-13
Planning and organisational skills	7	17	-10
Confidence	5	13	-8
Personal development skills	21	28	-7

Outward mobility: prepare yourself…

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- students: think global
- parents: look abroad
- schools: open your eyes - more than a wake-up call

Universities

- make partnerships work
- make students travel
- track and compare experience and expectations
- track and compare outcomes – across locations
- recognise today's competition is further from home, but closer than ever
- Transforming student futures. Securing our own.

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THANK YOU!

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The Observatory Global Forum 2011
Vancouver, Canada, 25-27 May
You are warmly invited.