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UK Border Agency

SECURING
OUR BORDER
CONTROLLING
MIGRATION

Reducing net migration

Study route reforms

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7 June 2011

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We are committed to reducing net migration but there are a number of challenges

Reducing net migration and protecting economic growth.

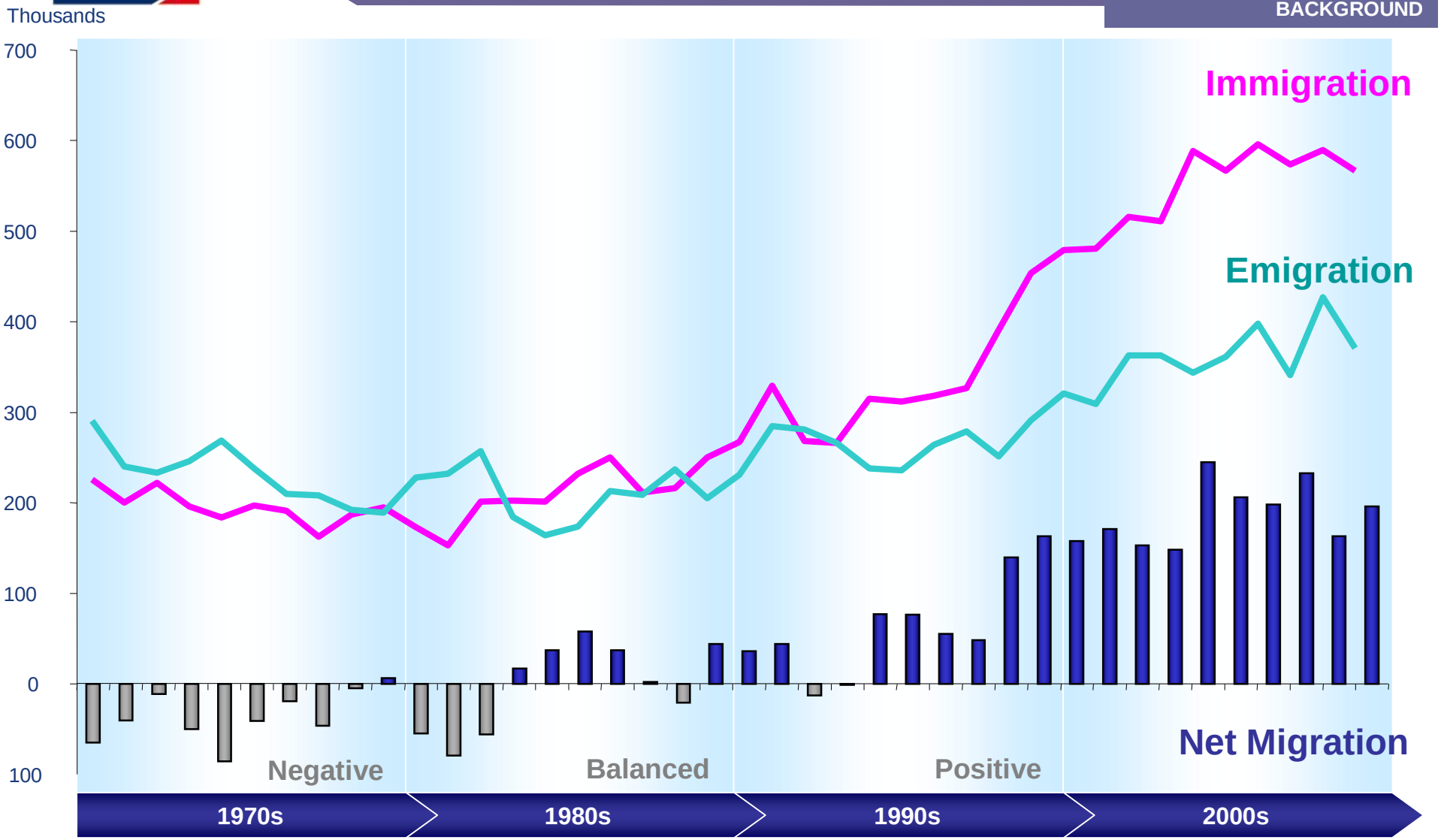
Building confidence in the immigration system.

Selecting the best and the brightest to work and study here.

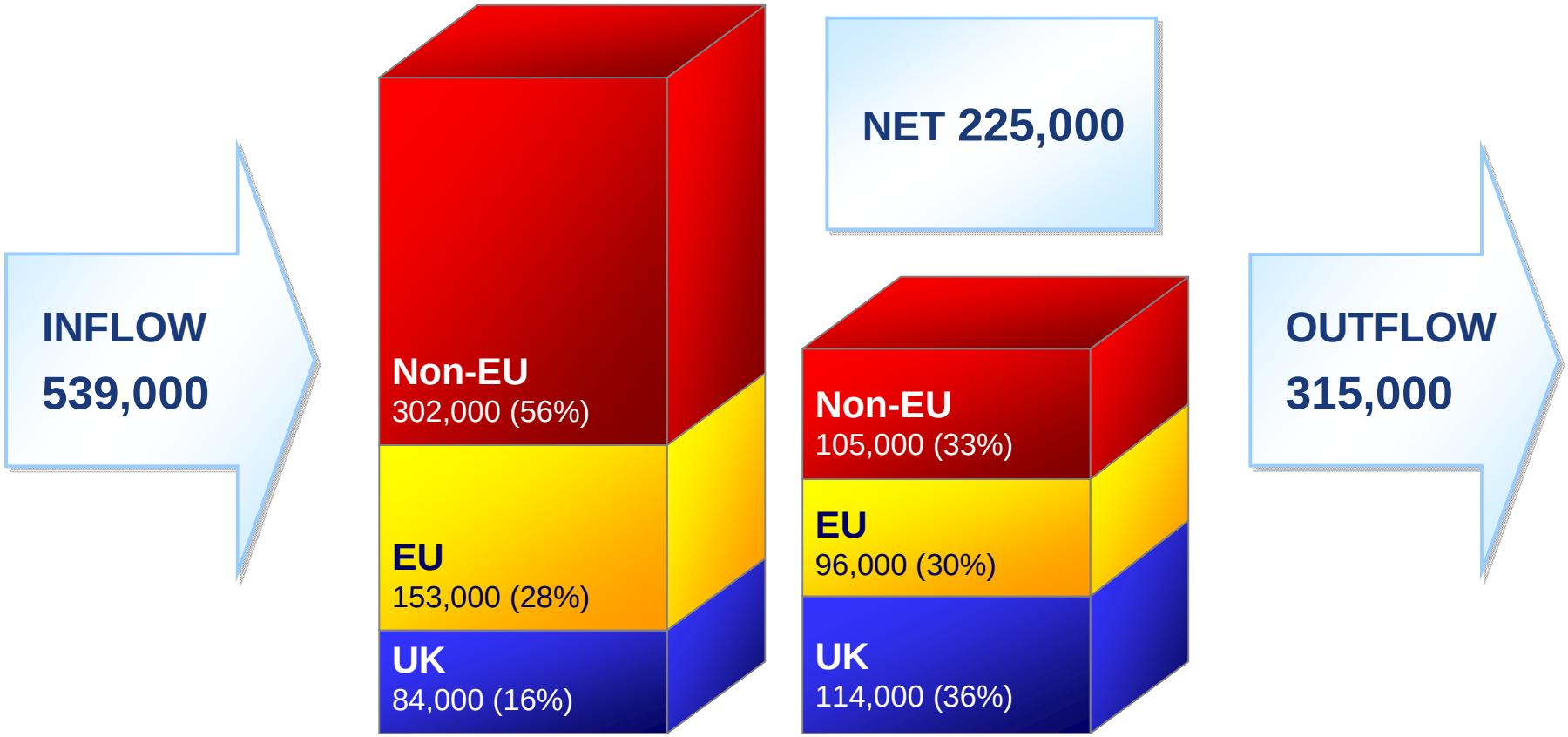
Bearing down on abuse.

Less automatic settlement.

Levels of net migration have seen significant increases since the mid-1990s



Non-EU nationals make up the majority of net migration



Estimated net long-term migration to the UK in the year to June 2010 was 225,000. The rise from 191,000 in 2009 has primarily been driven by a recent fall in British citizens emigrating.

Source: ONS, International Passenger Survey (IPS)

A reduction in economic migration alone will not be enough; action will need to be taken across all routes

Work	**56,000** visas issued in 2010 (102,000 with deps)	**14%**
Temporary Work	**58,000** visas issued in 2010 (65,000 with deps)	**14%**
Study	**254,000** visas issued in 2010 (286,000 with deps)	**61%**
Family	**47,000** visas issued in 2010 (62,000 with deps)	**11%**

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We propose a wide programme of change across the work, study, family and settlement routes

Reduce net migration across routes to fulfil our political commitments, **protect economic growth** and **tackle abuse** in the education sector.

Work: Significantly narrow Tier 1. Protect but restrict Tier 2. Exempt ICTs.

Study: All Tier 4 sponsors accredited and highly trusted. Close post study work.

Family and Settlement: Consult on new proposals in the summer.

We have implemented the first phase of policy changes to Tiers 1 and 2 and have introduced the first annual limit on 6th April 2011

We introduced an **annual limit** of 21,700 for those coming to the UK under the skilled and highly skilled routes. (20,700 skilled and 1,000 exceptional talent.)

Tier 1 is a low priority for business and a source of abuse, so we have narrowed this route to only entrepreneurs, investors and the exceptionally talented.

This allows us to protect **Tier 2**, where we are increasing the minimum skill level.

It also allows us to exclude **Intra-Company Transfers** from the limit but control quality and numbers coming for over 12 months through a £40,000 salary limit.

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We received over 31,000 responses to our student consultation and have announced reforms in four key areas, to be implemented in full by end of 2012

1. Accreditation of sponsors – all institutions to be Highly Trusted Sponsors and vetted by the relevant approved inspectorate.

2. Entry Requirements for students – tightening language requirements and evidence of maintenance requirements.

3. Entitlements for students – restricting the right to sponsor dependants and permission to work.

4. The end of the course – including a maximum time permitted in Tier 4, requiring genuine progression and closing Tier 1 Post Study Work.

We will require all institutions who wish to bring in students under Tier 4 to be vetted by the relevant approved inspectorate by end of 2012 and achieve HTS status by April 2012

Proposal 1: Accreditation of sponsors

By the end of 2012 all sponsors will need to have been vetted by the relevant approved inspectorate – either Ofsted and its devolved equivalents, the Quality Assurance Agency, the Independent Schools Inspectorate, The Bridge Schools Inspectorate, or the Schools Inspection Service – **and all must become Highly Trusted Sponsors by April 2012**.

There will be a transitional period for current sponsors to meet these requirements. During that time those sponsors on the Register who do not meet the new requirements will be limited in the number of new students they may sponsor.

We will also partner providers to deliver courses on behalf of licensed sponsors, including 'Pathway' courses. This will be on the condition that the licensed sponsor takes full responsibility for that student by sponsoring them

As with their own students, **if a sponsored student turns out to be bogus it would be the sponsor's responsibility to alert UKBA**. Consistent abuse would place the sponsor's highly trusted sponsor status at risk.

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We will tighten language requirements, simplify application procedures for certain low risk countries and restrict entitlements

Proposal 2: Entry requirements

Those coming to study at degree level will have to speak English at an upper intermediate level (B2). We will refuse entry to those who can't speak English without assistance.

We will introduce much **tougher entry requirements to ensure evidence of maintenance funds is genuine** and that the student does have control of those funds.

We will **streamline requirements for students from low risk countries** going to HTS sponsors to make the application process easier.

Proposal 3: Entitlements

We will **remove permission to work during term time** from all students other than those at university and publicly-funded further education colleges.

We will **reduce the amount of work that can be done on work placement courses** for non-university students from 50:50 as now, to two thirds study, one third work.

We will **remove the right for students to bring their dependants with them** for all but postgraduate students at universities and government-sponsored students.

We will introduce a maximum time for being in Tier 4, requiring genuine progression and closing the Tier 1 Post Study Work route

Proposal 4: The end of the course

We will **limit the overall time that can be spent on a student visa** to 3 years at lower levels, as now, and 5 years at higher levels.

There will be exceptions for longer courses such as medicine and veterinary science and PhD study.

We will **close the Post Study Work route from April 2012**.

Only those graduates who have an offer of a skilled graduate-level job from an employer who is licensed by the UK Border Agency will be allowed to stay.

We will not impose a limit on this group next year, but we will keep this position under review.

If there is a meaningful rise in numbers or evidence of abuse, then we will act immediately to introduce a limit.

When we close the Post Study Work route, we will **ensure that innovative student entrepreneurs who are creating wealth are able to stay in the UK to pursue their ideas**.

We have already announced an English language requirement for spouses and can go further on the family route and on settlement

We can reduce net migration further by breaking the link between temporary and permanent migration and underlining the temporary nature of Tier 5 migration.

We will launch a public consultation on settlement and other work routes later in the year.

We can also seek to tighten the family routes, in particular the marriage route but also the routes for children and elderly dependent relatives.

We will launch a public consultation on family routes later in the year.

Any Questions