Emerging Challenges in Post-Pandemic British Higher Education for Students of Pakistani Origin

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Bio- Dr. James Mahon is a 33-year-old Romanian born Irish broadcast storyteller and educator who has worked for local, regional, national and international outlets. He has accumulated more than 1000+ hours of live presenting and reporting experience. While on assignment he has covered the largest election in history in New Delhi India in 2019 as well as the ISIS occupation of Mosul in Iraq in 2017. Mahon is currently based in Scotland with ITV Border where he is a freelance self-shooting on-screen journalist. He is interested in human-interest stories and social and political issues. He is a digital media consultant, journalism trainer and has been an invited speaker at the World Journalism Conference in Paris 2019 and the UK Media Education Summit 2021 as well as MECCSA 2023. Over 8 years in HE Mahon has been a BA course leader, module coordinator, external examiner and is currently a senior fellow of the HEA based at UWS outside Glasgow.
Abstract

A triple threat of Brexit, Covid and now a cost-of-living crisis has pushed higher education in the UK into turbulent financial waters, (Nash, 2024). Impacting this further has been immigration requirements linked to student status and higher income thresholds for graduates (Baker, 2023). The Migration Advisory Committee estimates that the UK international student market is worth more than 17 billion pounds with a rising number of those coming from Pakistan. Colbran (2023) suggests that there are now more than 64,000 Pakistani students studying overseas with the majority enrolled in business related degrees. Their research also points to how this figure has increased considerably since 2020 with Australia and the UK being amongst the most popular destinations.

This study draws upon a qualitative approach with focused expert interviews with students and academic leaders, garnered in early 2024, all based in Scotland and England and of Pakistani heritage. This research aims to shed light on the current challenges and provide insights and advice into what can be done to support this student population during unstable and difficult economic times (Rehman, et, al, 2021).

The presentation will include audio recordings and slides with quotes as well as recommendations for educators who deal directly with students of Pakistani origin as they undertake transformations in their delivery and course curriculums.

References-

Colbran, H., (2023) Inbound Insight Pakistan, Global Student Living, https://gsl.news/2023/05/19/inbound-insight-pakistan/#:~:text=As%20an%20example%2C%202021%2F22,UK’s%20fourth%2Dlargest%20source%20market.
