

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION COMMITTEE

SUPPORTING ESSENTIAL
INVESTMENT IN HIGHER
EDUCATION



SUPPORTING HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education (HE) is critical to the development of advanced economies and the sector has experienced significant growth over the last 20 years. In the UK, the rise in both UK and international student numbers has created a huge demand for quality accommodation.

Figure 1: Full-time Students 1995/96 – 2013/14FC

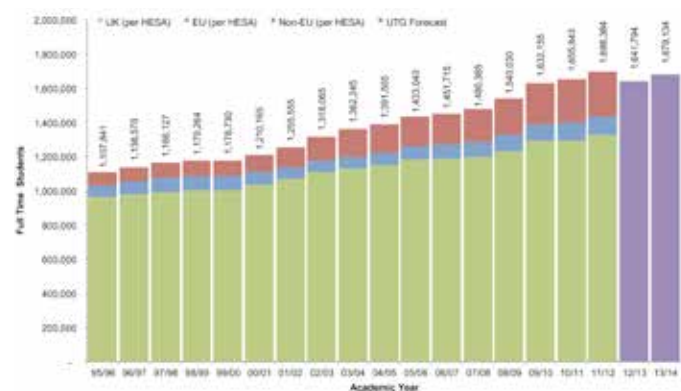
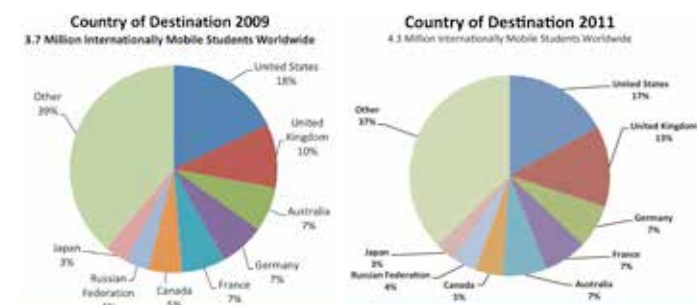


Figure 2: International Student Mobility [Source: OECD]



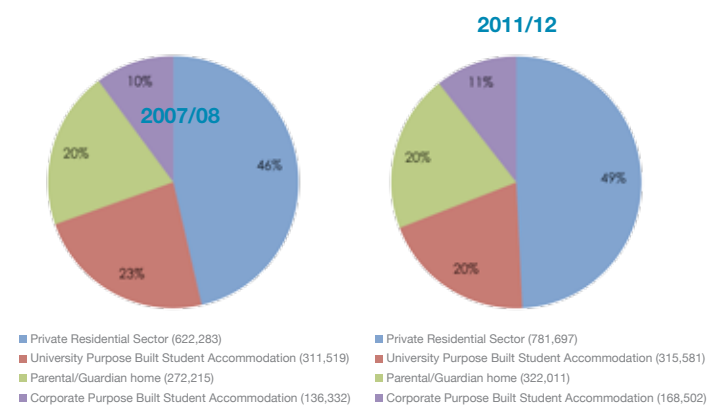
Privately-funded purpose-built student accommodation (PBSA) has been a very successful part of the home construction industry since its inception just over 20 years ago. In that time around 200,000 student beds have been created. These beds have helped meet the needs of a rapidly expanding student community and have relieved Government and HE institutions of a significant burden, in many cases freeing up their resource to invest in academic facilities.



BOOSTING LOCAL ECONOMIES

Unlike many other industries, which are focused in a particular part of the country, the HE sector is nationwide. Through 142 institutions in 102 towns and cities, it reaches every corner of the UK. In support, PBSA is delivering accommodation across the length and breadth of the country.

Figure 3: Full time students studying at UK HEIs [Source: HESA]



The charts illustrate the percentage of UK full time students studying in HE institutions broken down by accommodation type. The PBSA sector is the only area showing growth, an increase of more than 30,000 beds in a five year period which had a corresponding increase in students of 241,432, yet demand still outstrips supply and there is a need for more investment in student accommodation.

DRIVING CHANGE

A number of PBSA providers have the size and scale to bring real innovation into the UK's student accommodation provision. Techniques such as the use of off-site construction have helped to deliver more efficient accommodation quicker, to higher specifications, and with less waste. The sector is also innovative in its engagement with students both before and during the time they live in the accommodation, and there is significant investment in the student experience, research and the use of digital platforms.

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

Partnerships have been crucial to the growth of the PBSA sector. Local authorities understand the impact of the rapid expansion of HE on housing and have been fundamental in seeking to accommodate the increasing number of students in a planned way. Universities have also been central to the PBSA sector's growth. Around half of all PBSA is provided via nomination agreements with universities and, when other forms of partnership agreement are taken into account, almost 75% of all PBSA is operated with direct involvement from universities. The PBSA sector values its relationship with universities and the two sectors work hand-in-hand to ensure that they deliver the right experience for students under their care.

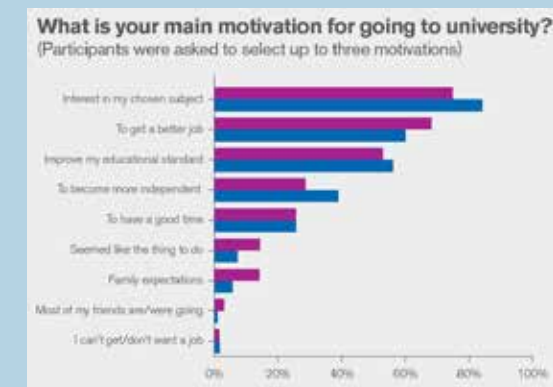
BEING GOOD NEIGHBOURS

The PBSA sector is conscious that it not only has responsibilities to the students in its care, but also in the way residents interact with the wider communities around where they live. Research by UNITE, the UK's largest provider of PBSA with 42,000 rooms, shows that students want to give back to their local communities through volunteering and that they bring material benefit through the spending power of student populations. PBSA also reduces pressure on local private rented markets especially where areas have a high concentration of family homes in multiple occupancy (HMOs).



THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Students today are demanding better accommodation and better services than they did in the past. While the popular portrayal might be that students go to university to 'party', research demonstrates that students today are more focused on their studies and career, ahead of having a good time. Their accommodation needs to support their longer-term aspirations.



Source: UNITE, April 2013

ASSURED ACCOMMODATION

Most PBSA providers are registered with one of three statutory-recognised codes of standards run by Universities UK, the Accreditation Network UK and Unipol. By joining, they open themselves up to a high level of scrutiny and are able to provide assurance of their compliance with a good standard of accommodation management.



THE BPF STUDENT ACCOMMODATION COMMITTEE

The development of the PBSA sector has been, and will continue to be, an important facilitator of the UK HE sector's growth and an essential service for many students. The PBSA could not deliver what it does without private investment. As the voice of the property industry, the British Property Federation is pleased to support this growing sector with the formation of the Student Accommodation Committee to raise awareness of the vital role it plays in supporting the UK economy and HE sector throughout the UK.

Over the coming years, the Committee sets out to:

- **Be the voice of the PBSA sector.**
- **Engage with government on relevant legislative matters, and provide valuable research and insight to support legislative development.**
- **Engage more closely with the UK HE sector's representative and policy making bodies on topics of mutual interest, and initiatives of benefit to both sectors.**
- **Work with and support ANUK and its members in improving and standardising best practice in managing student accommodation.**

We look forward to working with you over the coming months and years.

If you would like more information on the BPF's Student Accommodation Committee and its work please contact:

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ABOUT THE BRITISH PROPERTY FEDERATION

The British Property Federation is the voice of property in the UK, representing organisations that create and hold property for its long-term investment qualities. Our members comprise a broad range of businesses that create, own, manage and maintain the nation's commercial and residential rental stock. This includes the now sizeable Purpose-Built Student Accommodation sector. The property industry, as the biggest contributing sector to UK GDP, is an important direct and indirect facilitator of growth in our economy.

ANUK/UNIPOL NATIONAL CODES OF STANDARDS

These Codes were first introduced in 2005 in order to set some benchmark standards for the day-to-day management of high density, purpose-built, student accommodation. They were devised by a consortium of the following three organisations:

- **ANUK (The Accreditation Network UK), an umbrella group set up to promote the positive aspects of landlord accreditation;**
- **NUS (The National Union of Students), the voice of students in the UK;**
- **Unipol, a leading student housing charity with offices in Bradford, Leeds and Nottingham.**

Currently there are 134 members of these Codes, covering just over 190,000 bed spaces throughout the UK.

CUBO

CUBO is the association for senior professionals in higher education responsible for an institution's commercial business. At its core this includes: residential portfolios, catering and retail operations, conferencing, business and leisure tourism. Many members also have a much wider portfolio of support services including sport, security, printing, transport, cleaning, customer services, maintenance or running of the whole estate.

Members have direct contact with most of the HE student population and in 2013 generated revenues in excess of 1.6 billion. Affiliated to ACUHO-I, CUBO has links to equivalent organisations in the United States, Canada, Australasia and South Africa. In 2013 CUBO ran its first Study Tour, the first of its kind in the UK. This tour enabled international delegates to tour UK Universities and share best practice. CUBO works proactively to further its members' interests through numerous activities within the HE sector.

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