

# ENHANCING THE PARTNERSHIP STUDENT EXPERIENCE: TRANSFER STUDENTS FROM THE NUIST-READING ACADEMY IN NANJING, CHINA



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# The UoR-NUIST partnership



- Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology, founded 1960
- Focus on teaching and research in meteorology and climate
- Relationship with UoR from 2009

	Starting	Key features	Programmes	Allocation by MoE
Phase 1	Pre-2015	3+1 programmes with limited UoR input in the first few years, for which we get an hourly teaching fee	Chemistry Economics	
Phase 2	2015	Start of the Academy. Like Phase 1 but with increased investment by NUIST in language teaching, supported by UoR; some recognition of teaching staff by UoR; curricula written by UoR	Chemistry Economics Env. Science Mathematics	220
	2017		+ Meteorology	260
Phase 3	2018	Franchised model of delivery in which students are enrolled with us throughout. Fee or cost sharing allows us to support this.	Chemistry Economics Env. Science Mathematics Meteorology Law	300



- Joint institute established in 2015
- Significant numbers of students transfer to Reading from 2015
- 90 expected to transfer for September 2018

## COMMON CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED BY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- English language skill and academic literacy
- Difficulty in adjusting to UK academic system and life
- Adjusting to different food/culture/lifestyle/ language
- High academic and financial pressure
- Lack of integration – feelings of isolation
- Not seeking support until too late or in crisis
- Difficulty with post-graduation employment

## ADDED DIFFICULTIES FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS...

- Problems accessing pre-arrival information
- Unwillingness to explore extra-curricular activities
- Finding friends on the course
- No easing into the degree – everything counts!

## EASING THE TRANSFER EXPERIENCE – MEETING HIGH EXPECTATIONS

- Simplified application document
- Dedicated admissions staff
- Communication with Academy staff on WeChat
- Information on UoR module options while in Nanjing
- Multiple Welcome Week events organised by Schools
- Block booking for visa extension appointments
- Specific welcome event hosted by a UoR VIP

## ENCOURAGING INTEGRATION

- More summer schools at UoR
- Central funding for UoR students to visit NUIST during Year 2
- Credit-bearing field trips to Nanjing
- Emphasis on Welcome Week activities

## IMPROVING LEARNING OUTCOMES

- IELTS training for staff
- Advice from EAP specialists about setting examination questions for international students
- Dedicated international tutors
- Introduction of a laboratory pre-sessional for chemists
- Academic English module for the chemists
- Dissertation writing workshop for the economists
- Planning around giving transfer students a voice – course reps, feedback meetings

## **BIGGEST SUCCESSES**

- 'Gold standard' application route achieved
- Multiple benefits of having outbound students
- Impact of international tutors
- Degree results of 2017 cohort