

Students want UK to remain open following EU referendum vote, study finds

- 8 out of 10 prospective humanities students and humanities graduates say studying with students from other countries enriches study experience
- Outlook is reflected in student views on immigrants, with 7 out of 10 (71%) of humanities graduates and 64% of prospective humanities students saying that immigrants have enriched the UK
- Two thirds (66%) of humanities graduates further say they associate themselves with being both British and European as do 64% of prospective humanities students
- Study comes as UK PM Theresa May makes speech calling for a hard Brexit

8 out of 10 UK university humanities graduates (76%) say studying with students from other countries enriched their study experience. An almost equal number of humanities graduates (75%) said they voted 'Remain' in the EU referendum, according to a new survey released today.

Studying together with international students and views on immigrants

Prospective humanities students, 62% of whom said they voted 'Remain' in the EU referendum, share this endorsement by humanities graduates, with also 76% anticipating that studying with students from other countries would enrich their study experience.

The call for the UK to remain outward-looking also transpires in views on immigrants, with 64% of prospective humanities students and 71% of humanities graduates saying that immigrants have enriched the UK.

Student concerns over economic impact of Brexit

As the survey further showed, students also express concerns over the potential economic impact of Brexit for them.

For instance, 6 out of 10 UK university humanities graduates say they are worried about the economic fallout of Brexit in terms of their job prospects and careers, which is a concern also shared by prospective humanities students, 61% of whom say they are worried that Brexit will leave them even poorer when they graduate than their peers graduating from university now.*

Students want transparency over Brexit options

Knowing what the Brexit options are is particularly important to students, with 71% of prospective students saying they want UK government to put all Brexit options on the table before invoking Article 50. The number is even higher among humanities graduates, 76% of whom said they want the government to do so.

Also, as findings show, students feel they have a positive bond with EU, with 6 out of 10 (64%) prospective humanities students and two thirds (66%) of humanities graduates saying they associate themselves with being both British and European.

Indeed, 7 out of 10 (67%) prospective humanities students also say they believe the EU has strongly contributed to peace in Europe, with the number being even higher amongst humanities graduates at 69%.

Politicians should be more honest and experts are important

Against the backdrop of the EU referendum vote and the US elections - and '[post-truth](#)' being declared word of the year of Oxford Dictionaries, students were also asked about the role of politicians and experts in society.

Indeed, there is a strong consensus amongst students that politicians need to be more honest with the public, with 9 out of 10 (90%) humanities graduates agreeing to this statement and 82% of prospective humanities students.

Asked about the merit of experts, 7 out of 10 (74%) prospective students agreed with the statement that experts play an important role in informing the public. The number was even higher amongst humanities graduates at 8 out of 10 (80%) who said that this was the case.

“We know from our research that Brexit is a concern for students. They should know that NCH takes a strong view in underlining that the UK is and remains open to students from all backgrounds and nationalities, and that we take this pledge very seriously”, said A C Grayling, Professor and Master at New College of the Humanities.

NCH, which is a [supporter](#) of the Universities UK campaign #WeAreInternational and in 2015 secured the ability to sponsor international student visas, is one of a few higher education providers in the UK to make a fixed fee promise to both UK and EU/EEA students, [guaranteeing](#) that for entry in 2017 tuition fees will not be raised for the three years students will study at NCH, even if the UK leaves the EU.

-ENDS-

Note to Editors

The survey sampled 1,000 prospective humanities students and humanities graduates in the UK and was carried out by way of two online surveys in November 2016 by OnePoll on behalf of New College of the Humanities.

Prospective humanities undergraduate students surveyed: (a) 'those who are applying to go to university in 2017' and (b) 'those who already applied to go to university in 2017'. Humanities graduates surveyed included those who studied one of the humanities subjects within the last 10 years, and hold at least an undergraduate degree qualification (BA, BSc etc).

*These survey results show that polling agency YouthSight [findings](#) from July 2016 still hold true in terms of UK students taking a bleak view of the EU referendum outcome. Then, more than three quarters (77%) of UK students said they felt negative about the result of the EU Referendum, and a further 17% of students who voted Leave said they would change their vote if they could. For the July 2016 Youthsight survey, please visit <http://www.youthsight.com/uk-students-brexit/>.

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About [New College of the Humanities \(NCH\)](#) - nchlondon.ac.uk

Based in the heart of London, New College of the Humanities offers unique, liberal arts-inspired curricula taught by inspirational academics through one-to-one tutorials and other small group teaching.

The College's undergraduates study a combined honours degree in subjects including Economics, English, History, Philosophy, and Politics & International Relations, or a

single honours Law LLB, in addition to the College's rigorous liberal arts diploma. The NCH Diploma offers a rich mix of Core Courses including Applied Ethics, Critical Reasoning and Science Literacy, as well as LAUNCH, the College's unique professional development programme, which teaches students the skills and behaviours they need to succeed in the increasingly competitive graduate recruitment market. Art History and Creative Writing are available as minors from September 2016. Starting September 2017, the College will offer their new Historical Research & Public History MA.

NCH's world-class professoriate includes luminaries such as Simon Blackburn, Sir Partha Dasgupta, Richard Dawkins, Daniel C Dennett, AC Grayling, Bettany Hughes, Lawrence Krauss, Steven Pinker, Sir Christopher Ricks, and Adrian Zuckerman, all of whom teach and contribute to the creation and development of the curriculum at the College.

Since its establishment in 2011, NCH has developed a reputation for delivering an unrivalled university experience. The College offers one of the best staff-to-student ratios in UK higher education, with students being offered at least 13 full contact hours per week on average, which compares to an average of 10.15 contact hours per week at Russell Group universities for humanities and social sciences students (HEPI, 2016).

NCH's first and second cohorts surpassed the national average degree classification by 10 percentage points, with over 30% of graduates achieving a first class degree, and 82% achieving a 2:1 or above.* NCH graduate destinations have included Clifford Chance, Lambert Smith Hampton, Belarus Free Theatre, Deloitte, Porsche, Diageo and the British Council, and postgraduate study at top universities including the University of Oxford, UCL, and LSE.

For more information visit: nchlondon.ac.uk

* In 2014, 20 per cent of students across the UK secured a first class degree, with 72 per cent achieving an upper second-class degree or above (HESA).