

# HOST Matters



Welcoming International Students

Issue No 36 Spring 2019

## A thumbs up from Zhenming



*"My hosts are really nice, they gave me opportunities to visit so many different beautiful places such as widemouth bay and Boscastle bay, as well walk in very nice wood. They went to the pub during Christmas and visit their neighbors with me, many thanks for their efforts to give me opportunities to understand Britain daily life and Christmas holiday. I really appreciate this opportunity and I learned a lot about the culture and the daily life of British people".*

**Zhenming Wu from China studying Earth Observation at Reading**

**Achieving our Aims...Here's testimony to our success...**

*"My HOST visit has made me understand and appreciate the beauty of the countryside. It has boosted my social interaction and helped me to appreciate the genuine kindness and love of UK citizens."*

**Nicholus Mukhwana from Kenya**

*"We exchanged perspectives on politics, religion, history, culture thing, which makes me feel this is such a inclusive and amazing family, feeling blessed and gratitude that we could meet each other via this programme. A big thank to the Host UK:) "*

**Xiaojing Kang from China**

*"They made me believe in values such as togetherness, tolerance and mutual respect for all cultures and genders."* **Sara Khan from Pakistan**

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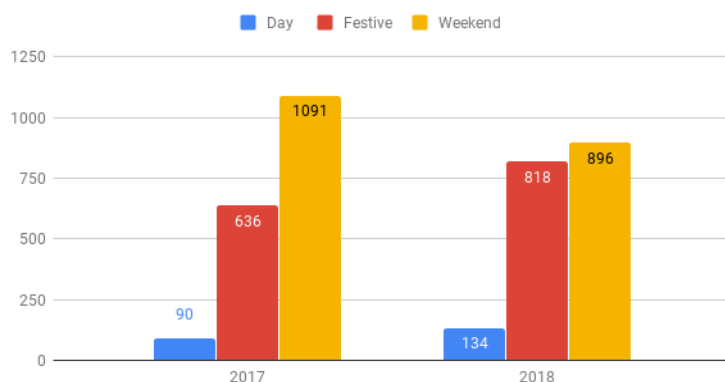


# HOST Matters—page two

For the data-fiends amongst us here are a few of HOST's facts and figures for you.

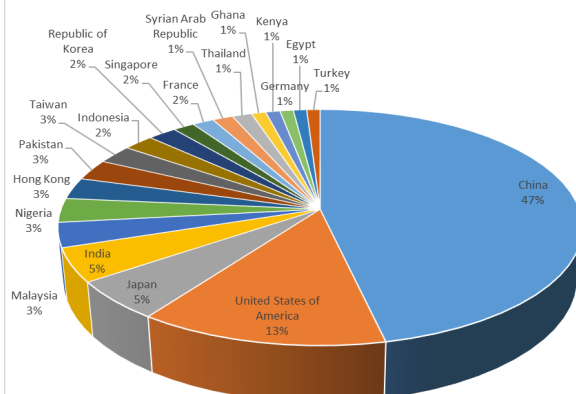
## Facts & Figures

Visits Arranged 2017-2018



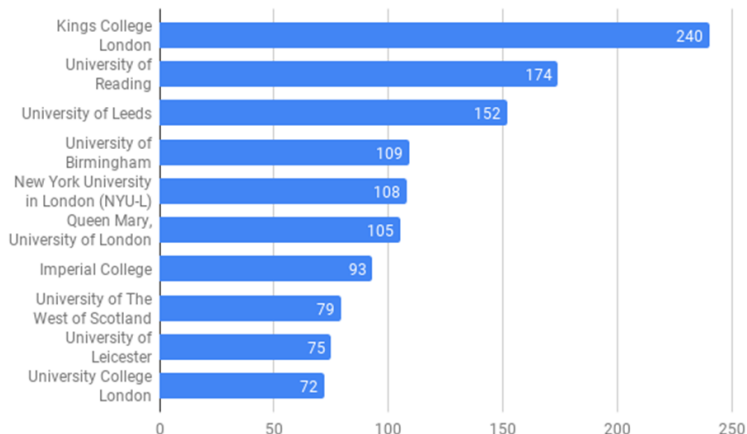
In 2017 we saw a total of 1,817 visits and in 2018 a total of 1,848 -an increase of 31 visits year on year. Another interesting highlight is the increasing popularity of day visits.

Top 20 countries our students come from

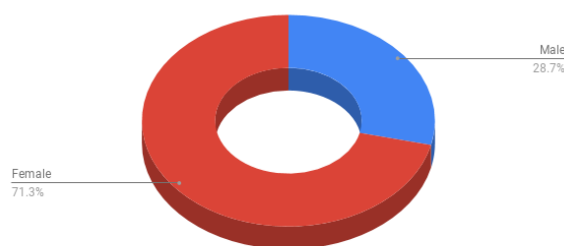


This colourful pie chart shows the top 20 countries of origin of our student guests. In 2018 students came from a total of 111 countries.

Top ten universities using the HOST Scheme.

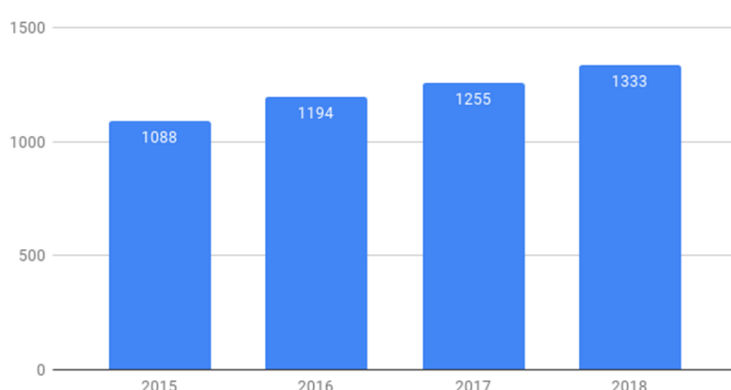


Female/Male ratio of Student applicants in 2018



What could we conclude from this? A more sociable and adventurous nature in women?

Host Enrolment 2015-2018



Host enrolment has increased year on year, however, we can *never* be complacent. For some hosts an annual invitation is as much as busy lives allow, for others ill health compels retirement, so we always look to building up our bank of hosts. We always seek to meet the interest shown by international students applying for a visit. If you feel able to offer an extra invitation, please let your Regional Organiser know.



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## Tuli's Day of Discovery in Good Company...

Tulimegameno from Namibia, studying at Salford University, enjoyed her stay with Roy and Kate. She writes enthusiastically of the visit they made together to Liverpool.

*"I had a great time with my HOST family. Roy and Kate are such wonderful people. on Sunday, these beautiful-heart couples took me to Liverpool, where the advantage and exploration continued. We walked through the city center thru most of the world heritage sites including the Albert Dock, made a turn at The Beatles statues, thru William Brown Streets with all the magnificent theater buildings, went to the modern colorful Liverpool Metropolitan cathedral - amazing art pieces. But what took the cake is the Liverpool Cathedral, with a knives statue on the side\*, this was just amazing and very huge cathedral. I was amazed by the amount of creative that went in.*

*My weekend was just awesome, full of fun, laughter- Roy and Kate have a great sense of humor and made me feel so comfortable and at home right away. I enjoyed Kate's food and they kept feeding me with significant information about their town, wonderful stories about their lives, experiences and world travels. My weekend went by so quickly.*

*Let me thank HOST as well for creating this platform for students, especially International student, to engage and experience really home-based moments with UK families. It a wonderful opportunity and I wish all the countries can tap in and follow suits."*

\* The knives statue to which Tuli refers to is called the Knife Angel sculpted by Alfie Bradley. It stands 27 feet high and is made up of 100,000 knives confiscated and also handed in during a knife amnesty. It serves as a memorial to those whose lives have been affected by knife crime.



Here's some of our Northern Irish hosts enjoying a fish and chip lunch at a Host gathering arranged by their Regional Organisers, Betty and Terry Flanagan.

Such occasions offer the opportunity to share stories, experiences and advice and give everyone that sense of belonging and common cause.

If you've enjoyed such a gathering, please tell us about it.



Feedback and photos we receive from hosts and guests alike show us that very many of you take your student guests to local places of interest, scenic, cultural & historic.

We are trying to make a case for the National Trust to feature in their magazine. The magazine has the highest circulation in Britain with a readership of over 4 million. It would be a great boost to awareness-raising if we featured.

If you have any photos showing your visits to National Trust properties, with some account of the pleasure your visit afforded you and your student guest, we would be very grateful to receive them as it will greatly strengthen our case.

Furthermore, if your student guest decided to become a National Trust Member as a result of your hospitality, that too would be a great story.

### The Personal Touch

We are composing a bid to present to the Masonic Charitable Foundation. Our efforts will be best served if a Mason was to present the case. We are happy to compile the necessary documents and text but hoped there might be a Mason amongst our readership happy to put their name to it.

Similarly, if anyone has links with any of the Livery companies, often known as Worshipful Companies, we should love to hear from you.

***Please let us know if you can help.***

Our bi-annual requests to churches, sent ahead of Christmas and Easter are very well-received and generate interest and host enrolment.

If you suspect we do not have *your* Parish email address, we would be very grateful if you were to let us know it. To comply with the new GDPR regulations, this should *not* be a personal email address.

Furthermore, if your village has a magazine or a village website that welcomes articles, please let us know. If you are thinking of submitting an article yourself, we ask that you please send it to [marketing@hostuk.org](mailto:marketing@hostuk.org) first.



***Thank-you***

### Finished reading?



...why not pass your HOST Matters on to a friend by way of telling them who we are and what you do....it could lead to your first recruit!

**Turn Recycling into Recruitment!!!**