

We run a pulse research to assess the student mobility trends in September 2016.

The research involved students, study abroad agents and college counsellors.

FINDINGS OF THE PULSE RESEARCH

What students said?

Almost 350 respondents took the survey.

- Half of the respondents are seriously considering education abroad (mainly postgraduate)
- UK is the first country of choice - in the next 18 months
- Pursuing career prospects, better quality of education, improving English, recent incidents in Turkey and experiencing a different culture are stated as the most important factors when considering education abroad.

What agents said?

Almost 25 respondents took the survey.

- The desire for education abroad has significantly increased due to the recent incidents, political situation, and social unrest in Turkey.
- The students/parents from the schools closed due to the purge are concerned about their future and are searching for alternatives.
- The students/parents also stated concerns about the potential impact of Brexit on international education and employment opportunities in the UK: tougher entry conditions; a more hostile attitude towards foreigners; troublesome visa application processes and limited career opportunities in the UK following graduation.
- Language schools and high school exchange programmes are in a rising trend as the families want to leave the country sooner and through any means.

What college counsellors said?

Quote 1 (Hisar Schools)

...Although no other experience can match making personal connections with recruitment officers, it seems like we are not going to be hosting many university visits this year. ... CIS has been cancelled ... Since the closing of school last June, and after the bombing event at the airport and the coup, I personally can say that a few of my students who were not thinking about applying to universities abroad have changed their minds. It is in students' and parents' best interest as well as their aim to pursue education options that will broaden their world views as well as offer them with brighter/ resourceful opportunities towards their futures, and unfortunately the current state of affairs in Turkey does the exact opposite...

Quote 2 (ACI school)

It is a serious obstacle for us this year that there are no university fairs or visits. I see time after time what an impact meeting with university representatives has on students. I truly hope that some UK universities will still visit Istanbul this year so that our students can't make the best informed decisions for their futures. Of course recent events in Turkey have made studying abroad even more attractive- 70% of our students are planning on going abroad now.

...Students are more likely to attend a school event than a fair, and often students, who were not considering studying abroad, become excited about the prospect after attending a presentation at school.