



Being smart and skilful

Visa seminar for local agents

Background

A visa seminar for local agents was organised by the British Council in Bangladesh on 5 May 2015. Officials from the UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) of British High Commission (BHC) Bangladesh presented to local agents and responded to different queries on recent visa issues and highlighted the UK Tier 4 visa policies. The IELTS team at the British Council also joined in to highlight recent changes in IELTS.



Points covered through presentation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK's Student Visa Offer • Student visa routes • What do students need to apply for a Tier 4 visa? • Tier 4 - Supporting documents • Funds • Student Interviews • Visa application process • Common reasons student visas are refused 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student visit visa route • Will students be able to work while studying in the UK? • Options to stay on in the UK after your studies • What students can't do • National Health Surcharge • Biometric Residents Permits • English Language Tests
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During the event

20 local agents of different UK institutions took part in the event.

Matt Pusey, Deputy Director, British Council Bangladesh welcomed the participants.

The event started with briefing session by British Council IELTS team. They shared recent changes in IELTS (types of tests, fees, test procedures, test centers etc.), that is,

- **IELTS for UKVI**
 - IELTS for UKVI Academic
 - IELTS for UKVI General Training
 - IELTS Life Skills A1
 - IELTS Life Skills B1
- **IELTS**
 - IELTS Academic
 - IELTS General Training

IELTS also received important feedback and updates from the local agents.



Deep Adhikari, Country Exams Manager and Harun Rashid, Head of IELTS of British Council is in discussion with the local agents.

UKVI received some queries in advance and responded to those during the seminar along with face to face queries.



Jane Elton, Head of UKVI, British High Commission, Dhaka is delivering the key presentation.

Local agents found the event really helpful as it was a great networking opportunity for them to meet people who are working in the same field. They also found it useful to meet officials from UKVI of British High Commission and IELTS team of British Council. Local agents raised many queries regarding recent changes in visa application procedures, difficulties faced in recent days and also provided different feedbacks for improving the system.

The officials from the UKVI of British High Commission also appreciated the constructive feedback from local agents.

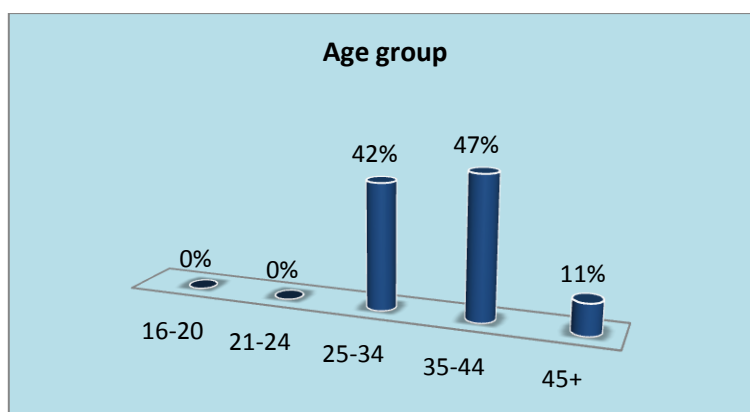
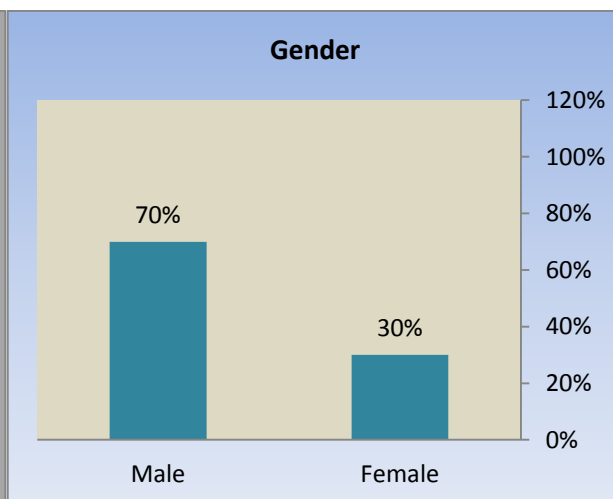
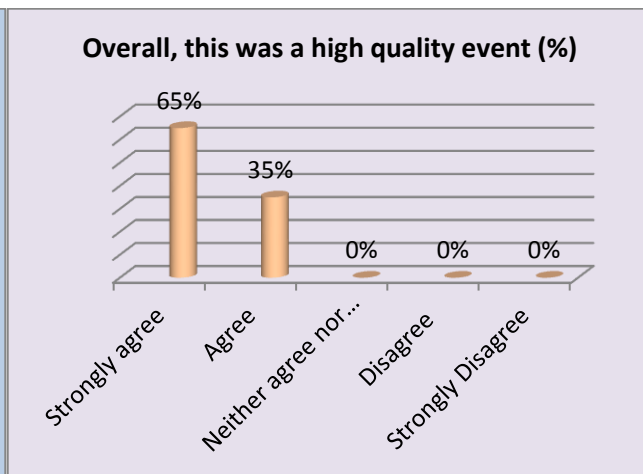
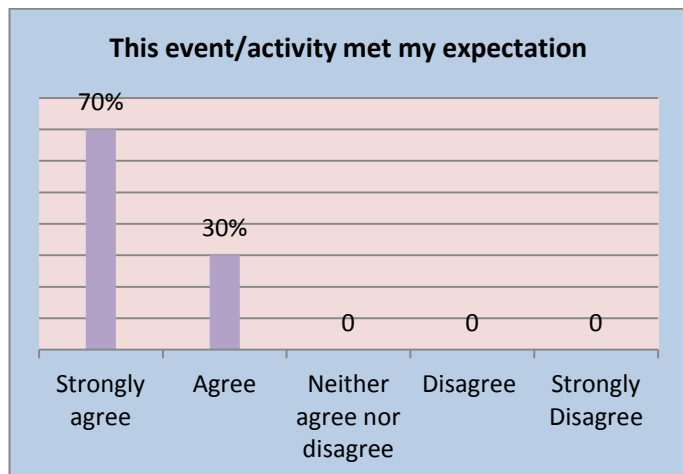
UKVI colleagues stressed to local agents the UK is open for business and genuine students are always welcomed, the UK remains the most popular destination, after the USA for international students globally and the government will continue to clamp down on students and colleges where there is evidence of fraud and abuse of the system.



- Useful link on Dependants of students and prospective students:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dependants-of-students-and-prospective-students-sty01>



Few statistics obtained from agents' comments



A few comments from the participants:

"I must thank British Council for providing the information sheets"

"To arrange more events this will be helpful for all agents"

"Please update us time to time regarding the Tier 4 changes when you feel it is needed"

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