

UK International Student Recruitment Data: September 2026

The following data is drawn from Enroly's platform, covering live acceptances, CAS issuance, and visa-outcome declarations across its UK university partner network for the September 2026 intake.

Headline figures

CAS issuance across UK universities is down 27% year-on-year for the September intake, but the headline figure masks a market that is splitting sharply by country, subject and institution type. Enroly's platform data, drawn from live CAS and acceptance activity across its partner universities, shows growth in some markets even as others collapse.

Metric	Year-on-year change (September 2026)
Acceptances	-22.1%
CAS issued	-26.9%
Acceptance-to-CAS conversion rate	57.9% (vs 61.7% last year)
Projected CAS issued, full September intake	Approx. -28% (Enroly forecast model)

CAS issued by market

The 10 largest markets by CAS issued volume, listed alphabetically.

Fewer visas are being approved for Pakistan and Bangladesh after the Home Office tightened compliance rules, pushing several universities to pause recruitment there outright. Nigeria shows more offers but fewer conversions, largely down to naira devaluation and tighter financial checks, while Nepal is picking up students displaced by Australia's own visa crackdown. China and the US are both up, though the US rise doesn't have a clear driver behind it yet.

Market	CAS issued, year-on-year
American	+18.01%
Bangladeshi	-30.16%
Chinese	+6.56%
Ghanaian	-36.37%
Indian	-24.93%

Kenyan	-15.3%
Nepalese	+24.42%
Nigerian	-37.79%
Pakistani	-57.9%
Sri Lankan	-36.32%

CAS issued by region

Region	CAS issued, year-on-year
East Africa	-5.2%
East Asia	+5.5%
Europe	+36.2%
LATAM & Caribbean	+9.8%
Middle East	-15.8%
North America	+21.1%
Oceania	+101.8%
South Asia	-27.0%
Southeast Asia	-20.3%
West Africa	-37.3%

CAS issued by subject area

Business & Management — historically the largest single subject group by CAS volume — has seen the steepest fall of any subject area, down 45.7% year-on-year and shrinking as a share of overall CAS issued (from 40.9% to 33.3%). Computing and Engineering are also down (–29.6% and –29.4%), while Education & Teaching is the only subject area in growth (+5.7%).

Subject area	Share, September 2026	CAS issued, year-on-year
Business & management	33.26%	-45.74%
Computing	15.27%	-29.63%
Engineering	7.06%	-29.43%
Nursing & midwifery	5.62%	-3.2%

Creative arts & design	4.67%	-10.12%
Law	4.49%	-24.47%
Health & social care	4.33%	-30.1%
Education & teaching	2.79%	+5.74%

Visa refusal rates

Enroly tracks refusal rate two ways. Against CAS issued: number of refusals divided by number of students issued a CAS. Against visa outcome: number of refusals divided by number of students who have reached the visa-issued stage on CAS Shield. The two differ because not every student with a CAS has had a visa decision yet, so the visa-outcome rate is the more accurate read on actual refusal risk, while the CAS-issued rate understates it while the intake is still in progress.

Across all nationalities, visa refusals are up 30% year-on-year for this intake to date.

This is a live figure, not a final one. September is the peak month for visa outcomes to land (44% of a typical intake's outcomes are recorded in this window), so current rates, including Nigeria and Ghana, are likely to move over the next 3–4 weeks as more decisions come through.

Enroly's figures are not directly comparable to the Home Office's 12-month rolling refusal rate (4.9%, most recently reported). That figure is an official, lagging measure across all UK sponsors and all visa categories, over a full rolling year. Enroly's data is self-declared by students on CAS Shield, covers only Enroly's partner universities, and reflects a single in-progress intake. It's a live, partial complement to the official rate, not a substitute for it.

Market	Refusal rate - CAS issued	Refusal rate - visa outcome
All nationalities	1.37%	3.17%
Bangladeshi	4.79%	9.10%
Ghanaian	11.04%	30.95%
Indian	0.77%	1.86%
Nigerian	5.21%	11.90%
Pakistani	3.63%	10.15%

Notes for editors

- Source: Enroly platform data, covering live acceptances, CAS issuance, and visa-outcome declarations across Enroly's UK university partner network. This is platform-level data, not a full market census — figures should be attributed to Enroly, not read as official Home Office or HESA statistics.
- CAS and acceptance figures are close to final for this intake, but visa issuance and outcomes continue to update. Based on the last two September intakes, around 44% of outcomes are typically recorded by this point — so refusal figures here are a snapshot, not a final total.
- Visa refusal figures are based on student self-declared outcomes recorded via CAS Shield, Enroly's compliance tracking tool. Underlying volumes vary by market.
- All year-on-year comparisons are for the September intake to date (as of 4 September 2026) unless otherwise stated.
- Additional market breakdowns and spokesperson availability on request.
- Join our end-of-intake Snapshot webinar, which takes place on October 23 at 10am. [Register your place here.](#)

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