

## RULE BRITANNIA

### US and UK to remain the top international destinations

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The Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) – a global association of graduate business schools – has [surveyed students considering an international programme in 2021](#) to determine how the pandemic has changed their plans.

-  71% say it has made no difference.
-  17% (1 in 6) are considering a business school closer to home.
-  14% (1 in 7) are considering online learning.

GMAC suggest these findings indicate a potential rise in regional mobility and the adoption of online – or perhaps blended - learning models for a segment of prospective international students.

In its efforts to continue to attract global talent, the [UK government is creating pathways for education](#) and work with a [points-based immigration system](#). The new system will treat EU and non-EU citizens equally. From the summer of 2021, all international students who have completed a degree programme will be permitted to remain in the UK for up to two years (going up to three years for PhD degree students) after successfully completing their studies, through the new Graduate Route. This allows the students to gain meaningful work experience in the country even as they decide their future career move.

The UK government has also simplified the visa process for international students. Since October 2020, the Student Route, which falls under the UK's new points-based immigration system, is applicable, improving the previous Tier 4 route and making a more streamlined experience for sponsoring institutions and students.

Covid-19 may be decelerating student mobility overall, but GMAC's Director suggests that these developments – coupled with the political changes in the US – mean that the US and UK are likely to remain the top two international destinations. And do well.