# Chancellor Jeremy Hunt Supports Sustainable Rise in International Student Numbers at British Universities Amid Immigration Pressure



Chancellor Jeremy Hunt signaled support for a "sustainable rise" in international student numbers at British universities, amid pressures to cut such numbers to reduce net immigration to the UK. Commenting on Friday, Hunt emphasized that the government aims to welcome students driven by education, not immigration purposes.

In response to calls for further reductions, Hunt's remarks come as university leaders warn that decreased international enrollments could financially harm educational institutions. Recent policy changes have restricted foreign student's ability to bring family members, which has already led to a quarter reduction in international applications.

The Migration Advisory Committee found no widespread abuse of the graduate visa route, which allows up to two years of post-graduation work and residence in the UK, and warned that cuts could make certain courses financially unviable. The government stated it is working on reducing migration levels, prioritizing British students for university placements.

Separately, Plaid Cymru ended its cooperation agreement with the Welsh Labour government, citing a £200,000 donation to First Minister Vaughan Gething's leadership campaign from a company with environmental offense convictions. Plaid Cymru’s leader, Rhun ap Iorwerth, highlighted concerns over the donation and the recent sacking of Social Partnership Minister Hannah Blythyn as influencing their decision to withdraw from the agreement.