# PM Rishi Sunak Considers Immigration Measures Targeting Foreign Students in Lower-Quality Courses



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is considering new measures aimed at reducing immigration by barring foreign students from enrolling in lower-quality postgraduate courses in Britain. This initiative targets the so-called 'graduate route,' which the government believes is being used as a means to secure work visas and extend stays in the UK post-study.

The proposed changes, which may include limiting graduate visas to prestigious courses and restricting universities from using recruitment agents to attract foreign students, come ahead of anticipated immigration statistics. These figures are expected to show a decrease in net immigration from record highs but still well above pre-2019 levels.

Criticism arises from within the government and educational sector. Chancellor Jeremy Hunt and Education Secretary Gillian Keegan oppose the measures, arguing existing rules are sufficiently lowering immigration. A report from the Migration Advisory Committee has found no widespread abuse of the graduate visa scheme.

Additionally, UK universities face financial strain due to stagnant tuition fees, currently capped at £9,250 a year. Vice-chancellors and former education ministers suggest raising these fees by £2,000 to £3,500 per year or increasing funding to avoid potential bankruptcies. Universities increasingly rely on higher fees from international students, compounding concerns over potential further reductions in foreign student numbers.

In a related effort to address illegal migration, Sunak will discuss this issue with Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer in Vienna.