# UK launches £50 million scheme to attract top global researchers amid US academic restrictions



The UK government is poised to unveil a new initiative aimed at attracting international academic talent, particularly in response to actions taken by the Trump administration that have been perceived as detrimental to academic freedom in the United States. This programme is set to be announced in the coming days and will be supported by approximately £50 million in government funding to facilitate research grants and relocation for international researchers.

Sources briefed on the plans indicate that the initiative has been in development since before Donald Trump took office in January. It is designed to welcome scientists from across the globe, assessing candidates based on their research output and the relevance of their work to key areas of the UK’s industrial strategy. These priority sectors include life sciences, artificial intelligence, and green energy.

Initial efforts will focus on relocating about ten research teams to the UK, with the potential for expansion if the scheme proves successful. The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology has stated that the UK is “open for business on international science” and aims to enable some of the world’s leading researchers to bring their innovations to life within the UK.

The initiative is expected to reignite discussions regarding the UK’s appeal to international scientists, particularly in light of criticism regarding the country’s visa costs for research professionals, which are reportedly higher than those in other developed nations. The House of Lords science and technology committee previously described the UK's immigration system as an “act of national self-harm,” citing its negative impact on attracting science students and early-career researchers.

Ben Moore, head of international policy at the Russell Group of leading research institutions, remarked, “International researchers underpin our world-leading R&D excellence and additional funding will help attract talented global researchers.” He further emphasised the necessity for the government to reconsider visa costs, which he claims are prohibitive compared to those in other prominent R&D nations.

This initiative in the UK reflects a broader trend, as other countries have also launched similar programmes to attract international talent amid growing uncertainty in US science and academia. For instance, Canada recently introduced the Canada Leads 100 Challenge, which aims to bring 100 early-career scientists, particularly from the US, to its research institutions. Meanwhile, Norway has initiated efforts to recruit overseas researchers in vital fields such as climate health and energy. France is expected to announce its own initiative, termed “Choose France for Science”, focusing on attracting international scientists in health, climate change, and digital technologies.

The upcoming UK initiative underscores a strategic effort to bolster the country's research sector and maintain its competitive edge in global academic prestige and innovation. As the government prepares to release further details, the initiative is likely to be closely watched by both domestic and international scholarly communities.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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7. <https://www.ft.com/content/d1ce6077-fabc-4fc0-b6a4-53bd9fbccbaa> - Please view link - unable to able to access data