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CaSE calls upon politicians not to risk losing the contribution that international scientists and engineers make to the UK

The Campaign for Science & Engineering's latest policy report, *International Excellence: Valuing International Scientists and Engineers*, urged the government to take a co-ordinated approach to its science and migration policies in order to guard against a "brain drain" in scientists and engineers.

The Prime Minister has the aspiration to make the UK a world leader in science and innovation. For this to happen, the UK must attract the best and brightest scientists and engineers from around the world to study and work here. The report urges the Government to better align its migration policies with its aspirations for science and engineering. Otherwise it risks losing out on all the benefits that international scientists and engineers bring to the UK.

Nick Dusic, Director of the Campaign for Science & Engineering, said:

"International scientists and engineers have brought massive benefits to the UK, through their contribution to education, research and innovation. In order to keep attracting researchers and students to the UK, the government must keep investing in science and engineering. Politicians must make the case for the immigration of skilled scientists and engineers in order to show the world that the UK welcomes talented individuals. At a time when competition for the best and the brightest scientists and engineers is fierce, we can not risk making the UK a less attractive destination.

"The government needs to bring a new coherence to its science and migration policies, which can at times contradict each other. The new points based migration system needs to be more consistent with making sure that the best scientists and engineers are keen to work and study in the UK. Unless the new system is appropriately implemented, the UK risks turning away the skilled scientists and engineers. The recently introduced security certificates for post-graduates were under-resourced and led to problematic delays. It took years for the US to recover its international student numbers after a more stringent migration system was introduced after 9/11. The UK cannot afford to make the same mistake."

The report made a number of specific recommendations, including:

- An international strategy which brings new coherence to migration and science policies
- Not to cap migration of skilled scientists and engineers critical to the UK's economic or scientific prosperity
- The shortage worker list should include primary teachers with a science or mathematics background
- The administrative burden for institutions hosting international scientists and engineers should be proportional to their risk

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. For further information, please contact Nick Dusic, Director of CaSE, on 020 7679 4995 or 07749 953041.
2. A copy of the report is attached to the e-mail or can be received by contacting the CaSE office.
3. Campaign for Science & Engineering (CaSE) is a policy advocate for science and engineering in the UK. We work to ensure that science and engineering are high on the political agenda so that they receive the funding and support necessary for the UK to have world leading research, skilled scientists and engineers, innovative businesses and evidence-based policy. CaSE is supported by its members, which includes individuals, corporations, universities and learned societies. Further information on CaSE can be found on our website:
<http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk/>
4. The CaSE Opinion Forum and policy report were sponsored by the British Council:
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