



**SEEAC**

Southeast and East Asian Centre

# 6 FACTS ABOUT MIGRATION TO THE UK

THAT YOU WOULDN'T NORMALLY READ  
IN THE PAPERS

**INTERNATIONAL  
MIGRANTS DAY**

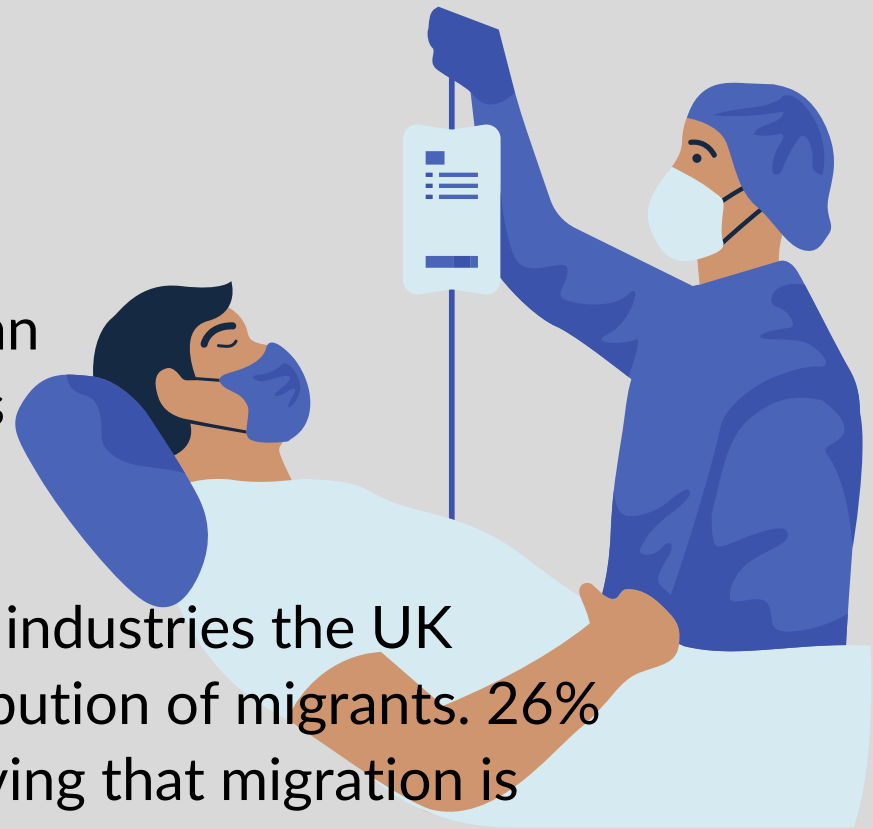
18TH DECEMBER 2020

# 1. Migrants give more to the UK than they take.

Source: University College London

Recent research from University College London shows that migrants from the European Economic Area contributed 34% more in taxes than they received in benefits between 2001 and 2011.

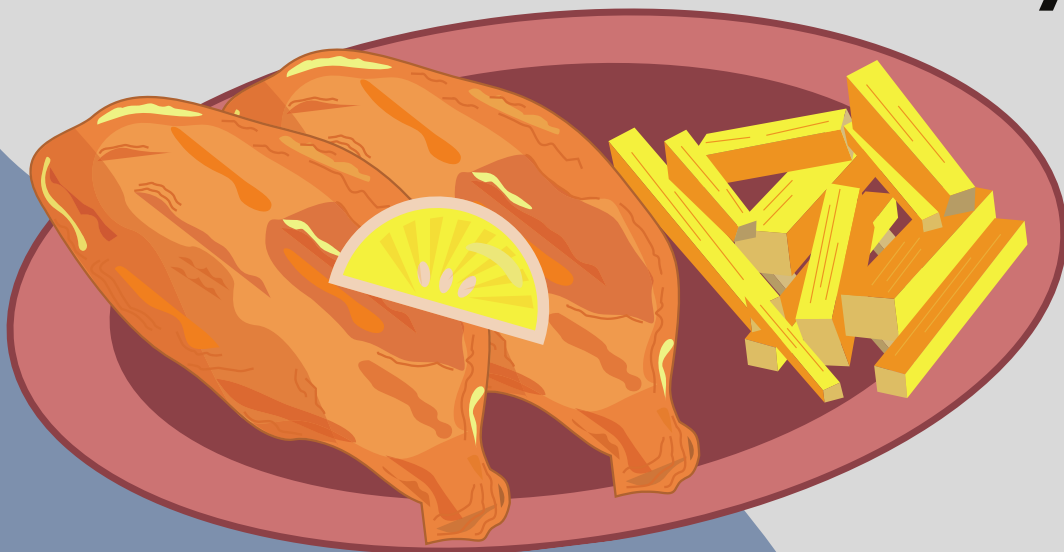
From food manufacturing to healthcare, many industries the UK depends on would struggle without the contribution of migrants. 26% of doctors on the NHS were born abroad, proving that migration is vital to the health of the nation.



# 2 Fish and Chips was brought to the UK by a Jewish refugee.

Source: Global Citizen.org

The tabloids might not shout about this, but the classic combination of fish and chips originated with Jewish refugees from Portugal in the 17th Century.





### 3. The UK population greatly overestimates the proportion of migrants in the country.

Source: Ipsos Mori



When it sees migrants, the UK basically has double vision. When asked to guess what percentage of people in the country were foreign-born, the average person guessed 21%, when the latest official estimate is only 13%.

### 4. Formal study is the main reason for migration in the UK

Source: House of Commons Library

In the year ending March 2020, formal study was the most common main reason for migration (36%), while work was the second most common main reason (32%). There has been a fall in work-related migration since June 2016 which is accounted for by a fall in EU nationals migrating to look for work.



## 5. UK's migrant population is concentrated in London.

*Source: House of Commons Library*

The UK's migrant population is concentrated in London. Around 35% of people living in the UK who were born abroad live in the capital city. Similarly, around 37% of people living in London were born outside the UK, compared with 14% for the UK as a whole.

## 6. The UK is the 10th largest source of migrants to the rest of the world.

*Source: Pew Research Center, 2016*

Yes, British people migrate too. In 2015, 4.9 million people born in Britain lived in other countries. From the Costa Del Sol to Kyoto, the volume of British expats (a.k.a immigrants) living abroad makes Britain the 10th largest source of migrants around the world. Out of all EU countries, the UK has the most citizens living abroad.

