

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The Observatory and i-graduate join forces to enable positive change in the higher education sector.

London, United Kingdom - 28th July 2010 – i-graduate announced today that the **Observatory on Borderless Higher Education** will transfer to the **International Graduate Insight Group Ltd.** from 2nd August 2010.

The Observatory's original parent organizations **Universities UK** (www.universitiesuk.ac.uk) and the **Association of Commonwealth Universities** (www.acu.ac.uk) are pleased to see the highly respected research unit become part of the i-graduate organization which itself has a global reputation for its independent insight and international benchmarking.

"The transition of the Observatory into i-graduate will strengthen the capacity and scope of both organizations to serve the global HE community. The research role of OBHE in concert with the proven market survey and analysis role of i-graduate will be a value-added resource for the entire sector." said **Don Olcott**, Chief Executive, the Observatory on Borderless Higher Education.

"The Observatory on Borderless Higher Education has now reached a level of maturity with a considerable international reputation such that it needs to be fostered and grown within a wider environment." said **Professor John Wood**, Secretary General, Association of Commonwealth Universities, "I am pleased that i-graduate will provide that fertile ground where the Observatory will be able to flourish and develop new services in the future. The founding partners are proud to have seeded the Observatory at the start and wish it all the best in its new home."

There will be no change in the interface between the Observatory and its subscribers, and the shift will give the Observatory more resources to pursue its important work in the ever more rapidly evolving world of higher education.

"Universities UK is pleased to record the progress made by the Observatory for Borderless Higher Education having attained a notable international reputation. We are pleased that i-graduate will provide the appropriate framework to enable the Observatory to expand its service range in the future. Universities UK is proud to have been involved in the Observatory from inception and wish it every success as it takes the next stage in its development." **Nicola Dandridge**, Chief Executive, Universities UK.

"With our shared goals of enhancing international education through the provision of robust research and comparative insights, there is a compelling logic to joining forces. We welcome the Observatory to the i-graduate group, and look forward to further strengthening our combined ability to enable positive change across the sector." **William Archer**, Director, International Graduate Insight Group Ltd (i-graduate)

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Notes to editors

About i-graduate

The International Graduate Insight Group (i-graduate) was founded in 2005 as an independent benchmarking and consultancy service, using comparative insights to enable positive change in the education sector. i-graduate works with governments and over 700 education providers worldwide delivering the International Student Barometer™, the global annual index of expectations and perceptions of international students. Related instruments provide comparative insights across all stakeholder groups in education.

For more information on i-graduate and the group's services visit the website at www.i-graduate.org or contact john.phillips@i-graduate.org

About The Observatory

The Observatory on Borderless Higher Education grew out of a collaborative initiative with the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and Universities UK in 2000. The Observatory's mission is accomplished through extensive collaboration with global higher education, government, and private sector organisations and is committed to bringing together international faculty to conduct scholarly research in various areas of transnational higher education.

The Observatory's core membership is comprised of organisational members from over 70 countries, and is the global leader for providing strategic information and services to universities and government organisations vested in cross-border higher education.

For more information on The Observatory and its services visit the website at www.obhe.ac.uk/home or contact the press team on info@obhe.ac.uk.

About the ACU

The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) was established in 1913 and is the oldest inter-university network in the world, with over 500 members in six continents. It is a voluntary organisation, registered in England and Wales as a charity (number 314137), and is controlled by its member institutions through an elected Council. Her Majesty the Queen, the Head of the Commonwealth, is Patron of the ACU.

The secretariat of the ACU is based in London, UK, with around 50 members of staff.

About Universities UK

Universities UK is the major representative body and membership organisation for the UK higher education sector. It represents the UK's universities and some higher education colleges. Its 133 members are the executive heads of these institutions. Universities UK works closely with policy makers and key education stakeholders to advance the interests of universities and to spread good practice throughout the higher education sector.

Founded in 1918 and formerly known as the Committee for Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP), Universities UK celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2008.

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