

**Tuesday, 11 September 2018**

**Comment on Migration Advisory Committee Report**

Commenting on the publication of the Migration Advisory Committee report on international students, Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, said:

“There are elements of the Committee’s report which are positive, such as its conclusion that international students should be able to access skilled jobs in the UK post-graduation and that it should be easier to move from a student to a work visa upon completion of studies. However, it is disappointing that the Committee does not recommend the implementation of post-study work visas to allow qualified students who have completed a further and higher education course to stay in Scotland to work as their talents would enhance our society and economy.

“The college sector has the potential to contribute to the international agenda and induce benefits to the Scottish economy through inward investment from overseas and by providing opportunities for global learning, innovation, and connectivity. Traditionally, Scotland’s colleges have been active players in the international market, both in terms of recruiting international students and pursuing markets to identify commercial opportunities.

“As a sector, we firmly believe that it is in everyone’s best interests for the UK Government to reintroduce the Post-Study Work Visa as attracting the most skilled and talented international students brings cultural and economic advantages while they also enrich the experience of domiciled students.”

**ENDS**

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