# The Urban Living Festival





StuRents

**Richard Ward** Head of Research







Where we get our data

One data source

Everything you need in one place

<u>HESA</u>

HESA



UCAS



ONS (Office for National Statistics)



Planning applications



100m+ data points



**Enquiry Distribution** 



**Search Seasonality** 



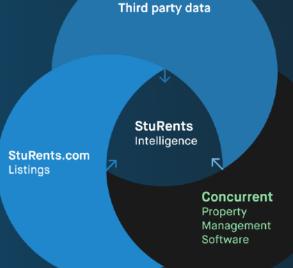
>750k listed beds



**HMO & PBSA Pricing** 



Search behaviour



£2.5 billion

tenancies signed in platform



**Executed rents** 



Payment plans



Tenancy length



Utilities

**750,000** + beds advertised

## **Topics**

#### 01 Clearing

The latest data from UCAS covering Clearing

#### **03 Accommodation Needs**

How does demand vary per demographic?

#### **05 Outlook**

What does the future hold?

#### **02 Shifting Demand**

How has demand been changing?

#### **04 Future Supply**

Is future supply aligned?



## **Data limits**

01 UCAS

**02** HESA

**03** Office for Students





## Acceptances by domicile

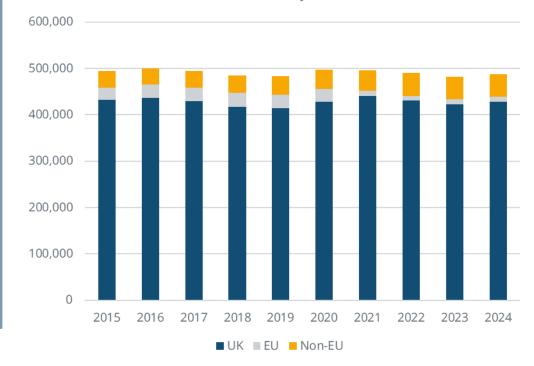
**01** UK +1.4% YoY

02 Non-EU -1.2% YoY

**03** Postgraduates?

## Total acceptances are up by 1.1% 15 days after results day

However, **non-EU** numbers have declined by 1.2%



#### China & India

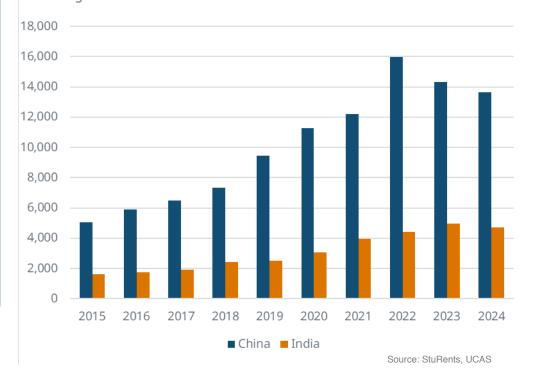
**01** 2022 & 2023 were extraordinary years

**02** Reverting to sustained growth?

**03** India flatlining?

## Chinese acceptances are down by 14.5% from their peak

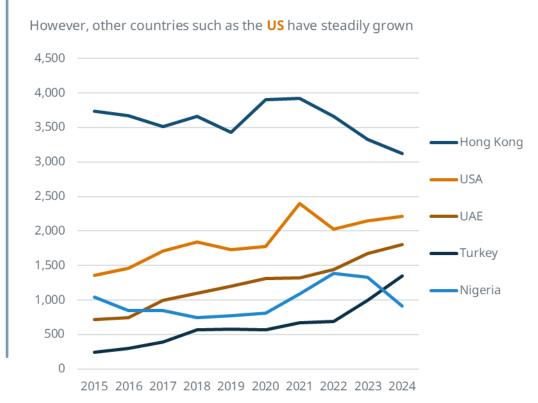
However, long-term the trend remains positive with numbers 11.8% higher than in 2021



#### **Elsewhere**

- **01** Growth but from low bases
- **02** Huge long-tail 128 countries equate to 63%
- O3 However, China (27%) and India (10%) still constitute the lion's share of non-EU demand

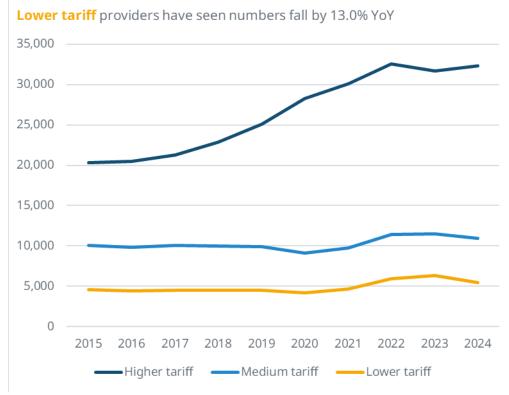
## Acceptances from Nigeria have collapsed 31.6% YoY



## By tariff: Non-EU

- Only higher-tariff providers have reported growth so far (2.2%)
- **02** Medium 4.4%
- **03** Lower -13.0%

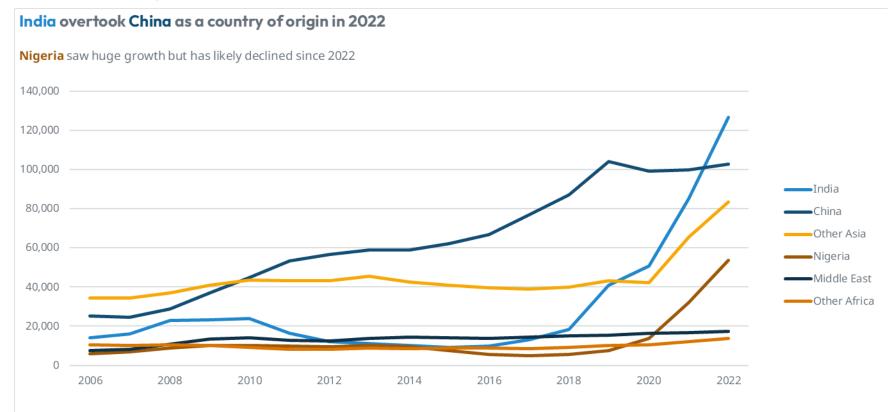
## Higher tariff providers equated to 66.3% of all acceptances



Source: StuRents, UCAS



### Overseas growth (HESA)

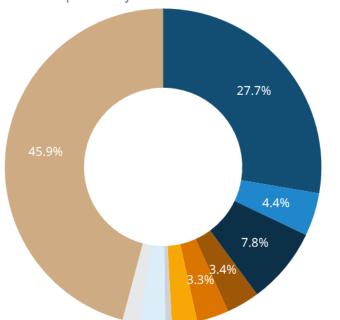


Source: HESA

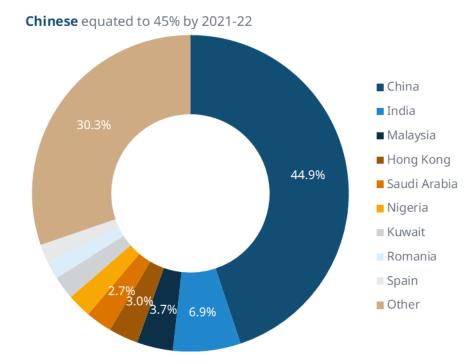
### **Shifting Demand (Manchester)**

2014-15

**Chinese** equated to just 28% of non-UK students in 2014

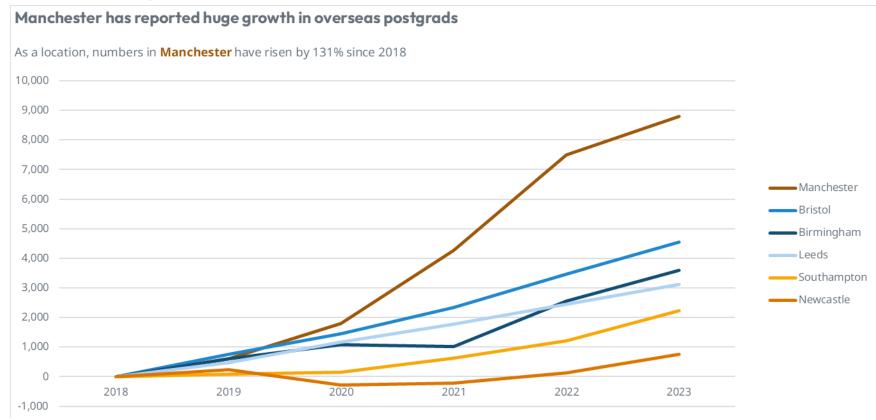


2021-22



Source: HESA

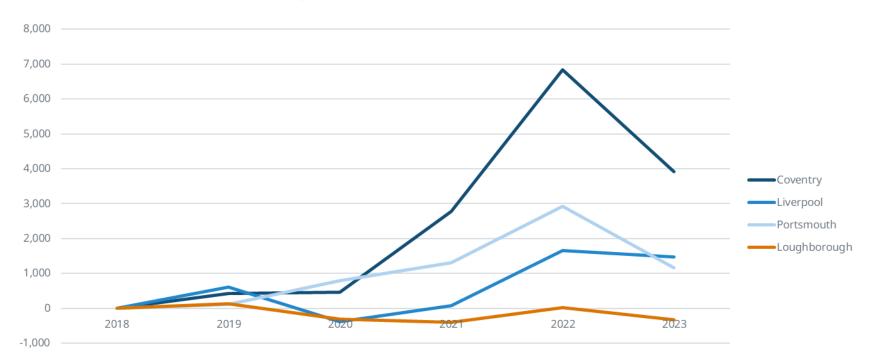
### Overseas growth (OfS)



### **Overseas Volatility**

#### Some locations have seen huge recruitment swings in overseas postgrads

As a location, numbers in Portsmouth declined by 43.6% in 2023





## 03 Accommodation Needs

## Tenancies by accommodation

Not all students want or can afford PBSA

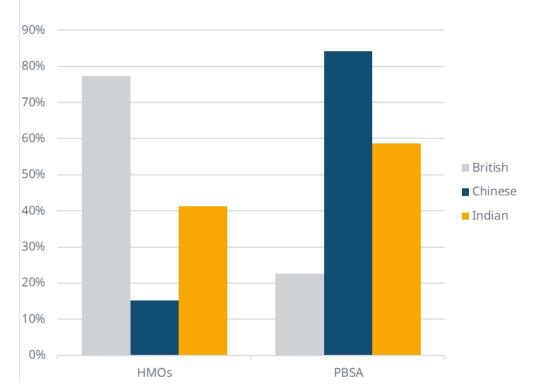
O2 Chinese students heavily skewed towards PBSA

**03** Average executed tenancy YTD

British: £160pppw Chinese: £226pppw Indian: £150pppw

#### British students still favour HMOs

Tenancy share by accommodation type



Source: Concurrent.co.uk

### **Tenancies by type**

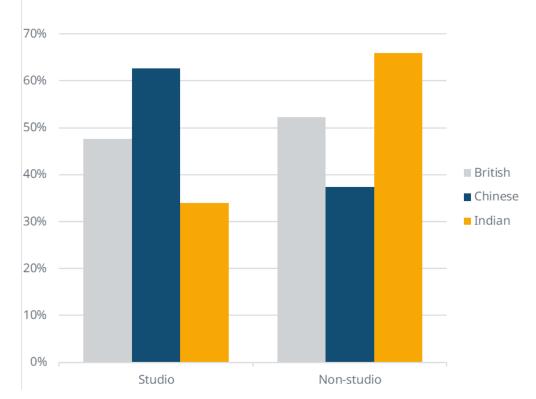
**01** Availability of stock plays a role

**02** PBSA studios usually sell first

**03** Not a room at any cost

#### PBSA tenancies by unit type

**Chinese** students have a skew towards studios



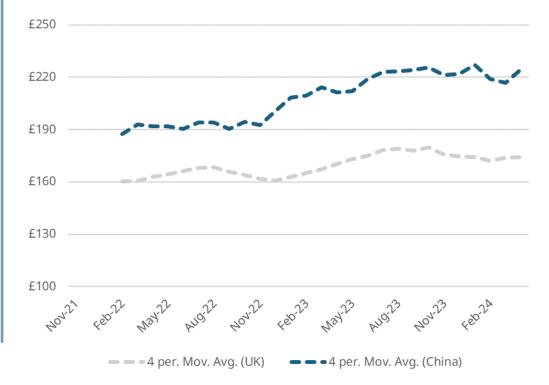
Source: Concurrent.co.uk

### **PBSA** price demand

- O1 Chinese student search budgets are consistently higher
- **02** PBSA demand is a small proportion of UK demand
- There remains a noticeable price spread between demographics

#### Demand profiles vary per demographic

Chinese students have consistently had higher budgets



Source: StuRents



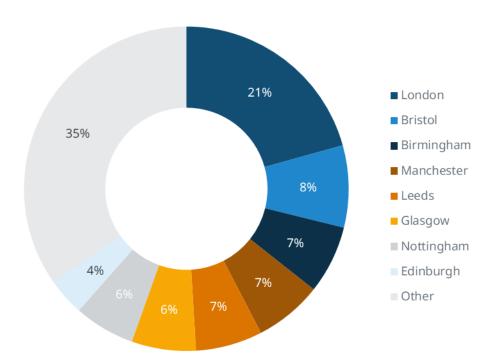
**04 Future Supply** 

### **Planning hotspots**

- **01** Limited to relatively few locations
- **02** Are beds being delivered where they are needed?
- **02** Does the pipeline reflect future demand?

#### Half of beds in the pipeline are focused on 5 locations

Understanding local supply growth is key



### Pipeline mix

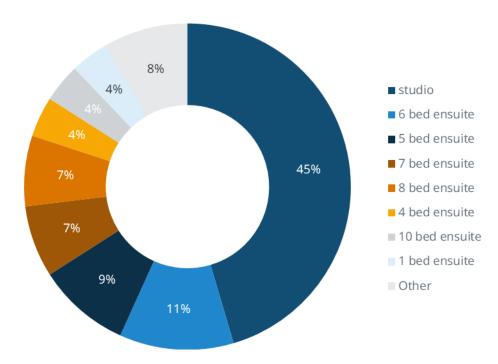
**01** Planning by unit mix

**02** UK student preference

Not enough new beds at a national level, but the local level is key

#### The pipeline remains skewed towards studios

Few beds proposed are aligned to UK student needs



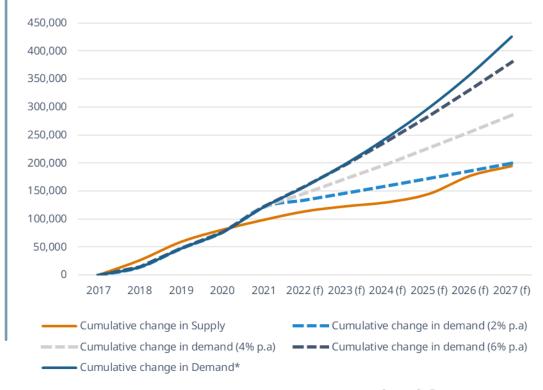


#### **Core PBSA demand**

- O1 Core demand likely to outstrip supply growth
- **02** Huge variances between locations
- Not all locations undersupplied don't forget HMOs!

#### Core demand reached a tipping point in 2021

However, national trends hide city-level variances



## Assessing supply vs demand

O1 At a local level changes are often not aligned

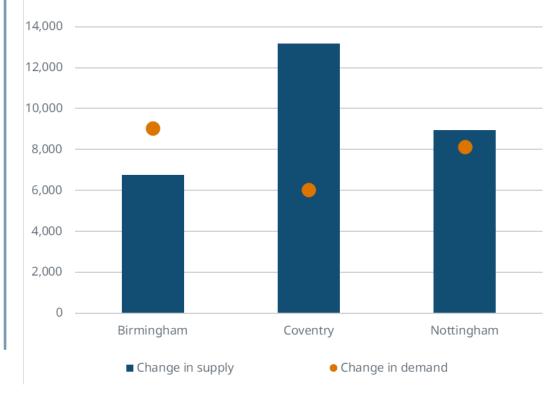
**02** Creating opportunities and risks

Beds added per student added (2017-2024)

Birmingham: 0.75 Coventry: 2.2 Nottingham: 1.1

#### Changes are rarely aligned at a city-level

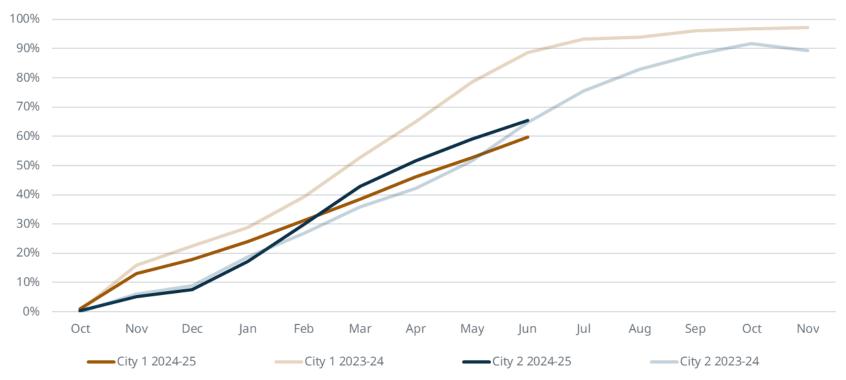
This creates both opportunities and risks for stakeholders



Source: StuRents

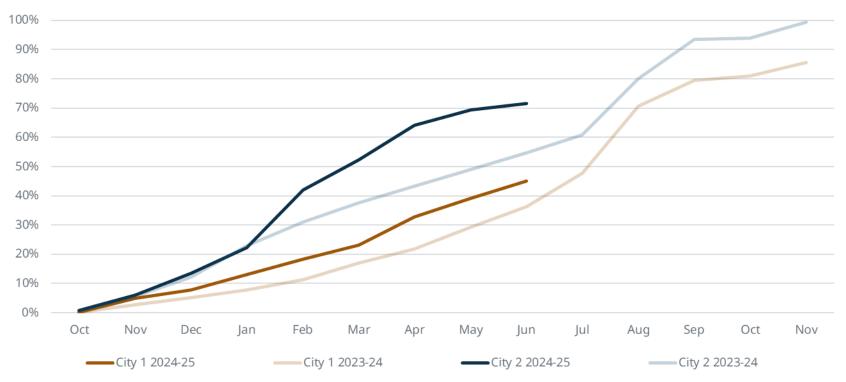
## **Studio PBSA Occupancy**

#### YoY studio performance has been mixed



### **Cluster PBSA Occupancy**

#### YoY performance has improved in some locations



## Summary

- Demand patterns can quickly shift
- Price sensitivity and preferences vary by demographic
- National trends not reflected locally
- Understand local markets in their entirety
- Historical performance not a reflection of future trends



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