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## Contents

Sr. No.	Title of Paper	Page No.
1.	<b>THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL PENSION SYSTEM (NPS) IN ENHANCING RETIREMENT PLANNING AMONG GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NPS SWAVLAMBAN</b> <b>Mr. Manoj Patel</b> Research Scholar, Silver Oak University, Ahmedabad <b>Dr. Samir Gopalan</b> Director and Dean, Silver Oak University, Ahmedabad	01-08
2.	<b>REMOTE WORK AND ITS IMPACT ON EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW</b> <b>Md Alijan Arif</b> Department of Commerce and Business Studies, Jamia Millia Islami, New Delhi, India <b>Prof. N.U.K Sherwani:</b> Professor, Department of Commerce and Business Studies, Jamia Millia Islami, New Delhi, India	09-20
3.	<b>THE INFLUENCE OF FINANCIAL SOCIALIZATION ON FINANCIAL PLANNING PROPENSITY: A QUALITATIVE EXPLORATION OF MILLENNIAL EXPERIENCES</b> <b>Fabeena Fasal</b> Research Scholar, Bharata Mata College (Autonomous) Thrikkakara, Kerala, India. <b>Dr. Rafeeka Mol C.A</b> Assistant Professor, MES College, Marampally, Kerala, India	21-30
4.	<b>TIME MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BANKING ORGANIZATIONS IN JAFFNA DISTRICT</b> <b>Thaneeswaran, S</b> Manager, National Saving Bank, Sri Lanka. <b>Velnamby, T</b> Senior Professor, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka	31-35
5.	<b>BRIDGING THE DISABILITY INCLUSION GAP OF ENTREPRENEURS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM KERALA</b> <b>Shameema A P</b> Research Scholar Research and PG Department of Commerce MES Keveeyam College, Valanchery Malappuram, Kerala, India <b>Dr. P.C. Santhosh Babu</b> Assistant Professor and Head, Research and PG Department of Commerce MES Keveeyam College, Valanchery Malappuram, Kerala, India	36-43

Sr. No.	Title of Paper	Page No.
6.	<b>LIFESTYLE CHANGES OF HEALTH DRIVEN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN KERALA</b> <b>Ottina Treasa Mendez,</b> Research Scholar, Bharata Mata College Thrikkakara, Kerala, India <b>Dr. Rafeekamol C.A</b> Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, MES College, Marampally, Aluva, Kerala, India.	44-49
7.	<b>STUDY OF DIFFERENT SOFT COMPUTING TECHNIQUES USED FOR HANDWRITTEN SIGNATURE RECOGNITION</b> <b>Sunil Tanaji Salunkhe,</b> Research Scholar, Nanded, India. <b>Dr. Satonkar Suhas Surykantrao</b> Research Guide, Assistant Professor & Head of Computer Science Department, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Nanded, Maharashtra, India.	50-59
8.	<b>EVALUATING THE FACTORS INFLUENCING CITIZENS' SATISFACTION TOWARDS E-GOVERNANCE SERVICES</b> <b>Shilpa D. Korde,</b> Assistant Professor, Rosary College of Commerce and Arts Navelim Salcete Goa, India. <b>S. V. Sukhtankar</b> Associate Professor, Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Khandola, Marcela, Goa, India.	60-66
9.	<b>A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION</b> <b>Lekshmi.S</b> Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Sanatana Dharma College, University of Kerala, India.	67-74
10.	<b>SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF PLANT NURSERY OWNERS: A STUDY AT KHAMARGACHHI IN HOOGHLY DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL</b> <b>Kartick Biswas</b> Assistant Professor, P.G. Department of Commerce Hooghly Mohsin College Chinsurah, Hooghly West Bengal 712101, India <b>Dr. Ashoke Mondal</b> Assistant Professor, Department of Management and Marketing West Bengal State University, Barasat, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. 700126, India	75-83

Sr. No.	Title of Paper	Page No.
11.	<p><b>THE ROLE OF FINTECH IN ENHANCING MSMES GROWTH AND ECONOMIC EXPANSION IN INDIA</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Jasveen Kaur</b> Faculty and Former Chairperson/Head, University Business School (UBS), Guru Nanak Dev University, Punjab, India</p> <p><b>Sarita</b> Research Fellow, University Business School (UBS), Guru Nanak Dev University, Punjab, India</p>	84-91
12.	<p><b>EXPLORING CONSUMER TRENDS IN PLUS-SIZE APPAREL IN MEERUT CITY: AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING IMPACT.</b></p> <p><b>Harshi Garg</b> Research scholar, School of Commerce and Management, IIMT University, Meerut (U.P), India.</p> <p><b>Priyank Sharma</b> Associate professor, school of commerce and management, IIMT University, Meerut (U.P), India.</p>	92-99
13.	<p><b>WORKING CONDITION OF EMPLOYEES IN HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR</b></p> <p><b>Aabid Yousuf,</b> Research Scholar, Gulzapore, Awantipora, Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, India.</p> <p><b>Dr. Aasim Mir</b> Assistant Professor, Gulzapore, Awantipora, Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, India.</p> <p><b>Dr. Gaurav Seghal</b> Assistant Professor, Gulzapore, Awantipora, Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, India.</p>	100-107
14.	<p><b>IMPLEMENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF ATTENDANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM USING FACIAL BIOMETRICS</b></p> <p><b>Mohammed Shameer M C</b> Department of Computer Science, Farook College, Kozhikode, Kerala, India</p> <p><b>Mubeena V</b> Department of Vocational Studies, Farook College, Kozhikode, Kerala, India</p> <p><b>Habis Hassan</b> Department of Vocational Studies, Farook College, Kozhikode, Kerala, India</p>	108-115



Sr. No.	Title of Paper	Page No.
15.	<b>THE INFLUENCE OF ACTIVE VS. INACTIVE LIFESTYLES ON HEALTH OUTCOMES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS</b> <b>Vishal Vinayakrao Patil,</b> Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration and Research, Shri Sant Gajanan Maharaj College of Engineering, Shegaon, Maharashtra, India <b>Dr. Satya Mohan Mishra</b> Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration and Research, Shri Sant Gajanan Maharaj College of Engineering, Shegaon, Maharashtra, India	116-123
16.	<b>EFFECTIVENESS OF MOMENT MARKETING: A STUDY OF PRODUCT &amp; SERVICE BASED ADVERTISEMENTS</b> <b>Pooja Verma</b> Research Scholar, Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya Indore, India. <b>Dr. Pragya Jaroliya</b> Professor, Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya Indore, India. <b>Dr. Deepak Jaroliya</b> Professor, Prestige Institute of Management & Research (PIMR) Indore, India.	124-135

## A Bibliometric Analysis on International Student Mobility in Higher Education

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### Abstract

Higher education has a critical role in determining how future generations learn to deal with the problems of sustainable development. It determines a society's intellectual capacity and the strength of its prospects. A complex interplay of international and domestic circumstances appears to have opened the floodgates for student mobility. Student mobility is a bigger development process and can be viewed as a beneficial driver for development when accompanied by appropriate policies. In this way, international student migration is considered an essential factor that plays a determining role in the economic development. International student mobility in higher education is a worldwide phenomenon increasing in scale, scope, complexity, and influence so it is necessary to understand bibliometric analysis on international student mobility in higher education. The study uses Bibliometrix and Biblioshiny, of the R packages were used to examine web of science indexed journal publications focusing on International student mobility. The basic aim of the review is to demonstrate the development of international student mobility in higher education research over the years. The findings of the study highlights that Covid-19 pandemic (after 2020) 16 articles were published which makes it the highest publication year recorded so far. Findings also reveal most important information regarding the Country-wise Scientific Production, impact of journal, knowledge areas of publication domains, most cited countries, keywords in the field by demonstrating networks around the world. Disquisition and directions can provide a basis for countries and international organizations in their policy development on international students mobility and knowledge base and addition for future research.

**Keywords:** International student mobility, Higher education, Bibliometric analysis

### Introduction

Education is the most empowering tool for individuals as well as the economy. Education helps citizens to receive a high level of technological knowledge, qualitative skilled manpower, and awareness of the environmental and social conditions and realities of an economy. Higher education helps to grow the economy through better resource allocation and management. Expansion of Indian higher education is a major part and looking to government and private agencies in active participation through policies and funding. Higher education has a critical role in determining how future generations learn to deal within the problems of sustainable development. It is the determinant of a society's intellectual capacity and the strength of its future prospects. The Students population is one of a nation's most valuable human resources, and its quality determines the nation's pace of growth and development. Massive Student Mobility is one of the leading concerns in the present day world. In this globalized era student mobility flows are not only increasing enormously and highly diversified. Mobility trends in recent period have changed its pace. Student mobility not only transforms physical presence, but also has impact on culture of the migrants, income of the family, Income of the country (remittance), international trade, health of the children, women and family members, technology, policy of host country and receiving country also. Studying mobility and migration resulting from diverse social, economic, or political reasons is essential for the research and development of any economy. Personal motives, economic opportunities, geopolitical factors, and cultural transformations plays significant role in international student mobility. As globalization processes intensify, external student migration of young people also increases. Studying in developed countries is the most popular option for higher education worldwide. A complex interplay of international and domestic circumstances appears to have opened the floodgates for student mobility for higher education. International student mobility in higher education is a worldwide phenomenon increasing in scale, scope, complexity, and influence so it is necessary to understand bibliometric analysis on international student mobility in higher education. There has been a significant increase in the number of studies on higher education over the years. Higher education research has changed in terms of quantity and quality over time. However, there is a lack of a holistic study on of international student mobility in higher education research. The purpose of this research study is to examine the higher education literature holistically addressing most important information regarding the annual scientific publication, Country-wise Scientific Production, impact of journal, knowledge areas of publication domains, most cited countries, keywords in the field by demonstrating networks around the world. Disquisition and directions can provide a basis for countries and international organizations in their policy development on international students mobility and knowledge base and addition for future research.



### **Methods**

Bibliometric is an open-source tool which can be capable to execute comprehensive literature analysis. The citation and network analysis aim to describe how specific disciplines, scientific domains, or research fields are structured and how they evolve over time. For the analysis of the Bib text data relating to the international student mobility and higher education Bibliometrix and Biblioshiny, of the R packages were used. The latest version, 1.4.1717 of R Studio was installed to analyse and map bibliographic data. These are the open-source software for automating the stages of data analysis and data visualization purpose. After converting and uploading.

### **Results and Discussion**

The main information about the extracted data is reported in Table 2.1. A thematic search was performed and downloaded 620 pieces of bibliographic material from the online Web of Science (WoS) database between 2003 and 2021, using the textual phrase "international student mobility in higher education". The textual phrases were searched exclusively in the title, abstract, author keywords, and keywords plus options. It reveals that 869 authors wrote a total number of 620 articles. Collaboration is the key amongst authors, whereby 42 authors have published solely. The documents published in the WoS database during this time period received an average of 2.898 citations per year. Articles, book chapters, proceedings paper, book review, editorial material, and meeting abstract were the document kinds that were selected. The descriptive analysis provides some snapshots about the top productive authors in the field, Most cited document, Most cited journal on the keyword international student mobility in higher education.

Description	Results
Timespan	2003:2021
Sources (Journals, Books, etc.)	179
Documents	277
Average citations per doc	2.27
References	11599
Keywords Plus (ID)	707
Author's Keywords (DE)	869
Authors	769
Authors of single-authored docs	42
Articles	277

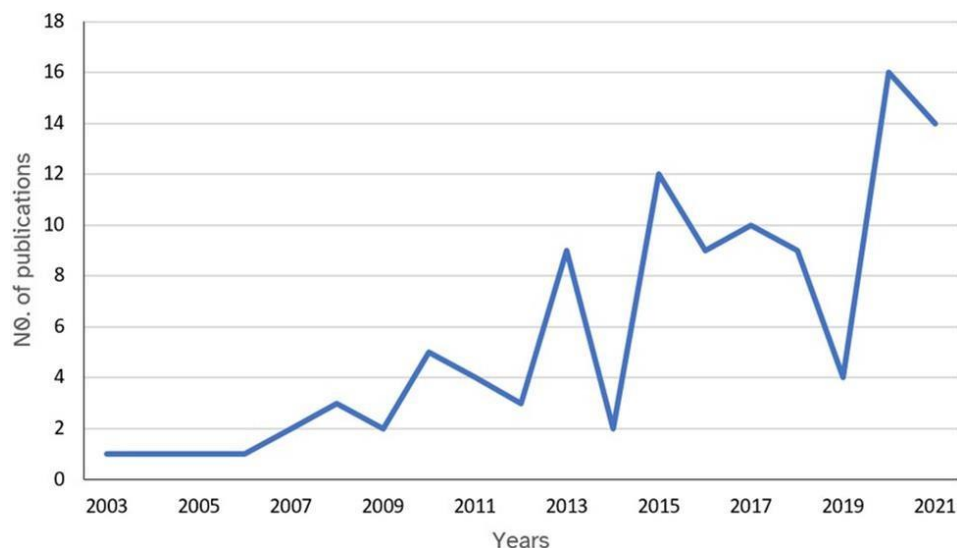
Source: Web of Science

### **Annual Scientific Production**

Analysis from the Bibliometrix R package shows that the field of international student mobility in higher education has a 16 per cent annual growth rate of scientific production from 2003- to 2021. In 2015, 12 articles were recorded, which indicates the beginning of the impressive growth of publications in the field. Covid-19 pandemic (after 2020) 16 articles were published, respectively, which makes it the highest publication year recorded so far. The analysis period covers 18 years of scientific production and it is depicted in Figure 2.1. However, the most significant increase in published articles occurred in the past years. This itself indicates the relevance of the topic international student mobility in higher education (Table showing the actual figure is in the Annexure :1) bibliographic data in R studio, Bibliometrix and biblioshiny performs a descriptive analysis of the data uploaded. The results of the analysis are described below:

**Figure 2.1 Annual Scientific Production of the number of publications on international student mobility in higher education (2003-2021)**

the number of publications on this subject presents an unsteady increasing trend since 2006 , with a peak of publications in Covid-19 pandemic (after 2020) and 2021 (these two years concentrate more than 25% of the scientific production).

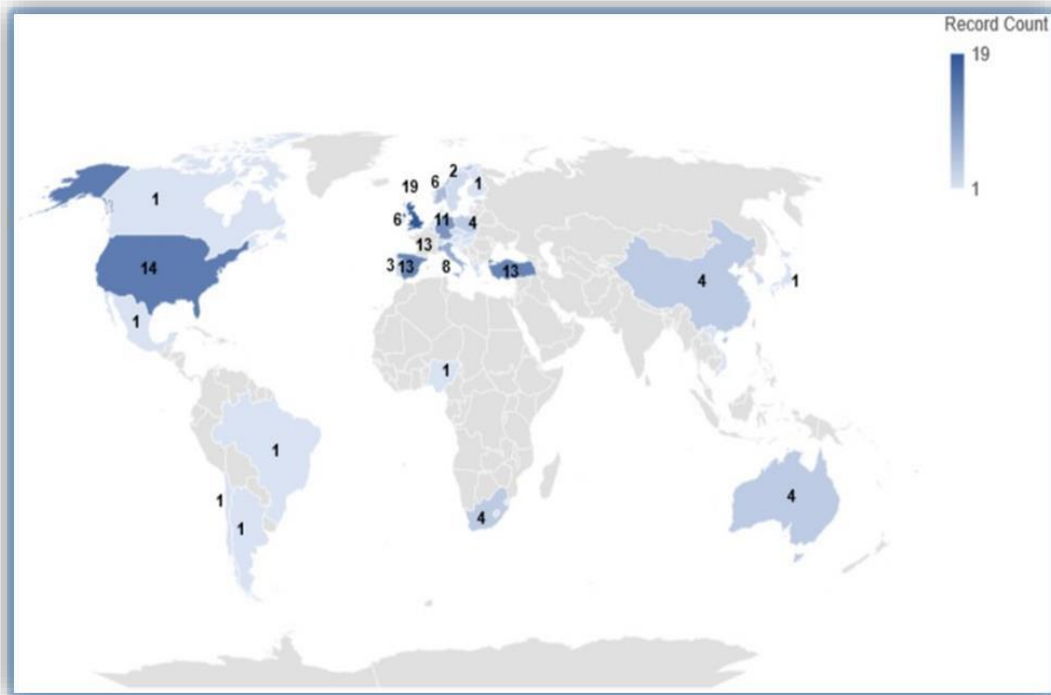


Source: Web of Science

#### Country-wise Scientific Production

The top 20 countries that contributed most to the domain of international student mobility in higher education are shown in Figure 2.2. The result indicated that the United Kingdom is the top country to productive publications in the domain of international student mobility and higher education. authors' institutional affiliation, our document selection shows that the production of countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States stands out with 19 and 14 documents respectively, followed by Spain (13 documents), Turkey (13 publications) and Germany (11 documents) contribute about 50 percent of the total global publications. . They are the countries that play a major key role in the higher education internationalization research progress. The United Kingdom is the leading country . It generates 248 publications in a total of 132 journals, covering 17.6 percent of the world's total publications. Meanwhile, the United States is the second most productive country, with a total percentage of 12 percent, followed by Australia with a total of 10.5 percent. However, a direct comparison among the leading countries could be a bias, as it does not show a large majority percentage. Although the Total Publications (TP) from Boston College are slightly lower than the UCL Institute of Education, it should be noted that the latter has 30 centers, and therefore a direct comparison might be considered as biased. Otherwise, Newcastle University can be considered as the most productive academic institution in the United Kingdom with ten publications

Figure 2.3 Country-wise Scientific Production of Publications in international student mobility in higher education (2003-2023)



Source: Web of Science

Source Impact of Journals Published Papers on international student mobility in higher education  
A total of 620 documents on international student mobility in higher education from web of science. The source impact of the journals published papers of international student mobility in higher education based on the indexes are shown in the Figure 2.3. The h-index is an author-level metric that attempted to measure both the productivity and citation impact of the publications in the area of. The h-index is a way of measuring the productivity and citation impact of the publications of a researcher, scientist or scholar. The index is based on the set of the most cited papers of the authors and the number of citations that they have received in other publication. The results shows that Journal of studies in international education , Higher education are the top journals in with 9 papers each of them.

Figure 2.4 Most Relevant Sources Impact by h- Index on international student mobility in higher education (2003-2023)

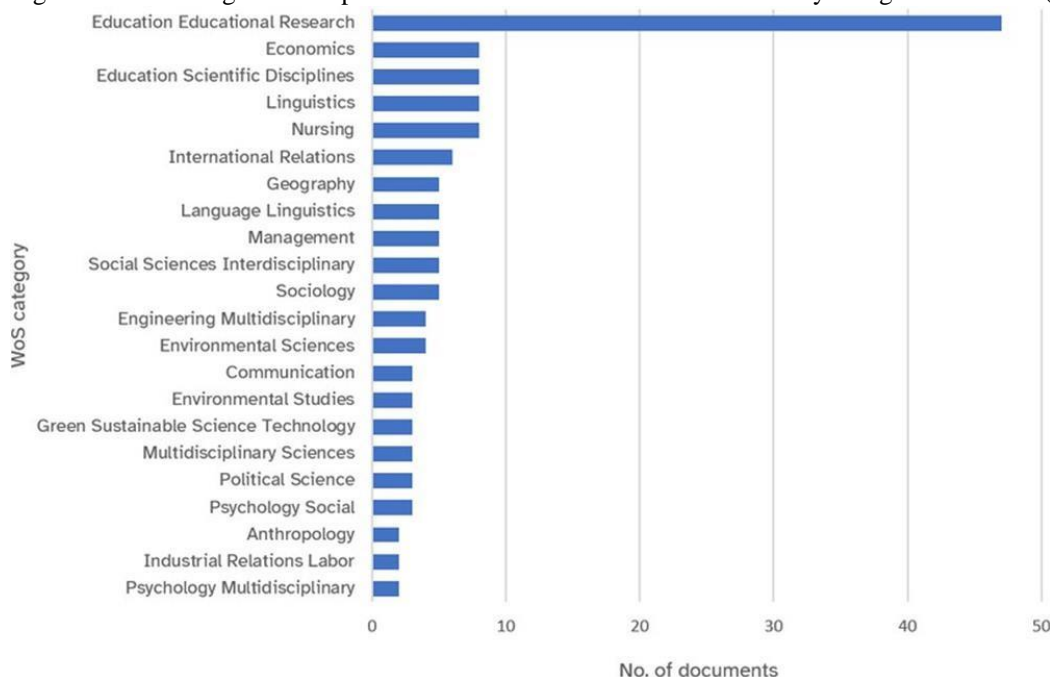
Publication Titles	No of documents
Journal of studies in international education	9
Higher education	9
Nurse education today	3
Nurse education in practice	3
International journal of engineering education	3
Studies in higher education	2
Baltic journal of economics	2
European journal of education	2
International journal of manpower	2

Source: Web of Science

Source of Knowledge areas of publications on international student mobility in higher education research areas of the journals, publications can be grouped into 42 WoS categories. However, almost half of the documents

correspond to Education Educational Research (31 documents). Figure 3 shows the knowledge areas in which more than one document has been published. Knowledge areas of publications on international student mobility in higher education shows that education educational research tops in knowledge domain .economics, education scientific disciplines ,linguistics, nursing comprises other set of major knowledge area.

Figure 2.5 Knowledge areas of publications on international student mobility in higher education (2000-2021)



Source: Web of Science

### Most Cited Countries

The citation analysis revealed the most cited countries with publications on the topic of international student mobility in higher education. The results show that USA is prominent in terms of a citation followed by Australia, England, Canada are the countries in which citation are more reflected. Figure 2.6 shows the pictorial representation of the most cited countries in terms of number of citations. It is to be noted that developing countries such as India have a low score of citation on the topic of international student mobility in higher education even though India is country with largest youth population.

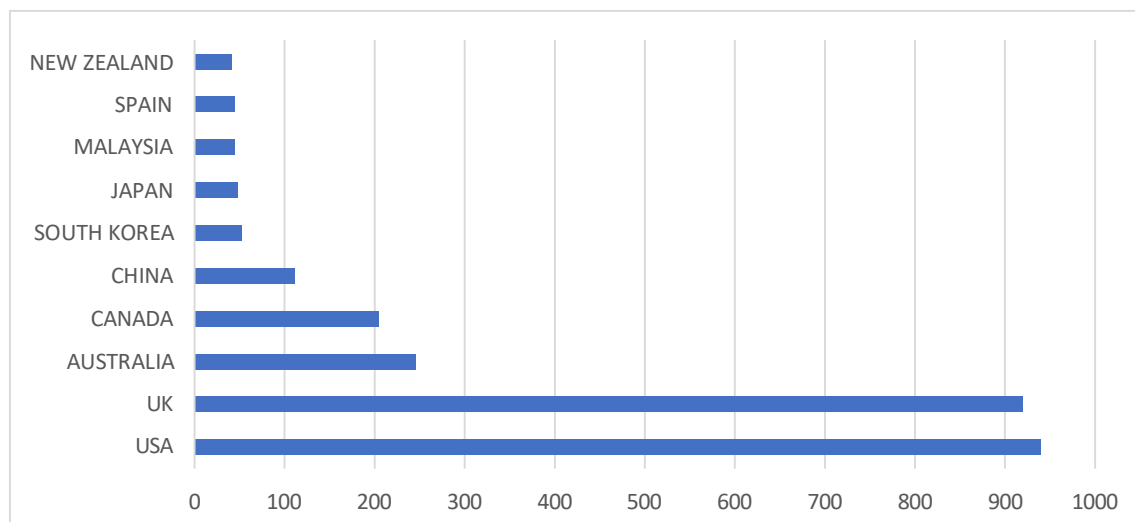
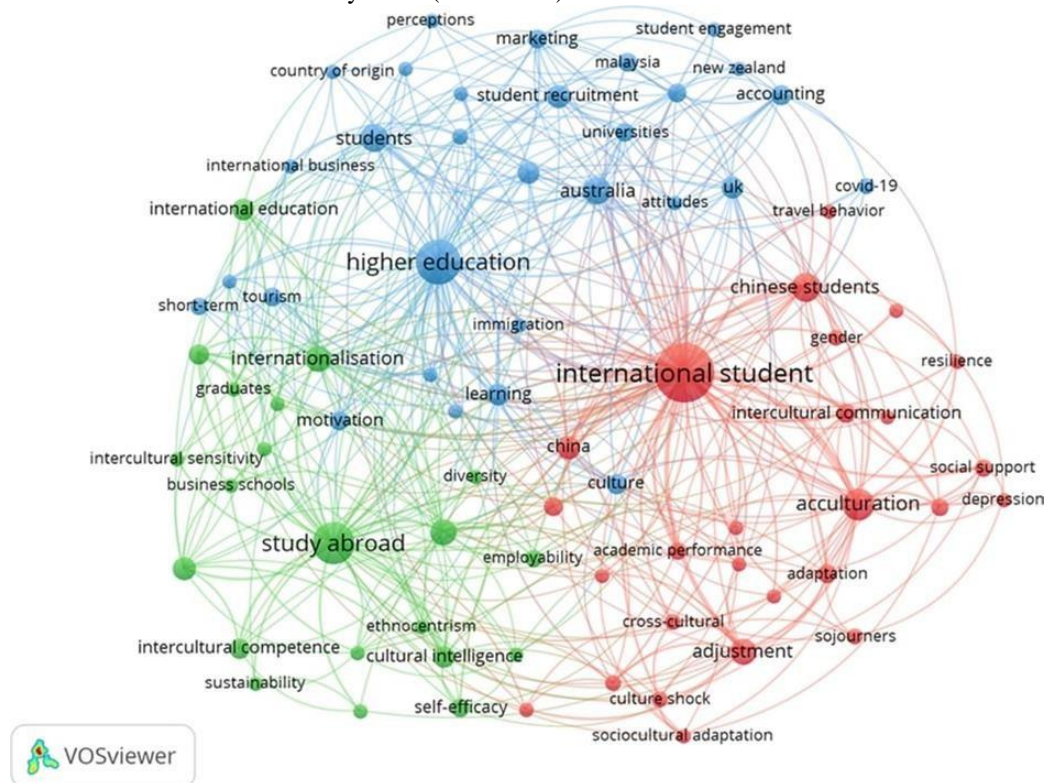


Figure 2.6 Most Cited Countries on the Topic international student mobility in higher education

Source: Web of Science

Thematic clusters from the co-occurrence of keywords in publications on international student mobility in higher education: coincidence of 4 keywords (2000-2023).



Source: authors' own work.



## Word Cloud

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73



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