



Institute for the Study of International Migration
Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service
at
Georgetown University



POLICY BRIEFING

Labor Shortages and Immigration Policy: A new approach in the UK

Who

Martin Ruhs, Senior Economist, Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), Oxford University; Member of the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), UK.

Robert Lerman, Senior Fellow in Labor and Social Policy, The Urban Institute; Professor of Economics, American University.

It is often claimed that immigrants are needed to “fill labour and skills shortages” or take “jobs that locals will not or cannot do.” How can these claims be evaluated and what are the implications for policy? Dr. Ruhs is an expert in the micro-foundations of staff shortages and immigration. He will report on the research and recent recommendations of the UK’s new Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), an independent body of economists that advises the Government on where shortages exist and whether or not it is sensible to fill these shortages with migrant workers from outside the European Economic Area (EEA).

When

Friday, October 31, 2008
8 AM, Continental breakfast
8:30 to 10:00 Program

Where

Georgetown University Law Center
McDonough Hall, Room 437
600 New Jersey Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC, 20001

RSVP & Directions

Please RSVP to <http://www12.georgetown.edu/sfs/rsvp/index.cfm?Program=ISIM>

For questions, please contact Marwa Alkhairo, mwa6@georgetown.edu

For a link to directions: <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/directions/>

Media Notice

To encourage frank discussion, these proceedings follow Chatham House rules. Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed. Presenters may be asked for quotes and photographs at the conclusion of the Briefing.

ISIM thanks the Sloan Foundation for their generous support.

Bio

Martin Ruhs is an economist specializing in the economics and politics of labor immigration with a strong international comparative dimension. He is a member of the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) which advises the UK government on labor shortages and immigration. Dr. Ruhs was also Specialist Advisor to a recent inquiry by the Economic Affairs Committee of the House of Lords into the economic impacts of immigration in the UK.

<http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/about/biog/martin.ruhs@compas.ox.ac.uk.shtml>

Robert I. Lerman is a leading expert on education, employment, and family structure. He was director of the Urban Institute's Labor and Social Policy Center from 1995 to 2003. He has testified before congressional committees on such topics as youth apprenticeship, child support policies, and labor shortages in the information technology labor market.

<http://www.urban.org/about/RobertLerman.cfm>

Reading

Migration Advisory Committee (Sep 2008) *Skilled, Shortage, Sensible: The recommended shortage occupation lists of the UK and Scotland*, Migration Advisory Committee, London.

Executive summary:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/macreportssummary

Full report:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/macreport2008

M. Ruhs (2006) "The potential of temporary migration programmes in future international migration policy," *International Labour Review*, Vol. 146 (1-2).

<http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/publications/papers/RUHS-ILR-Vol145.pdf>

Anderson, B. and M. Ruhs (August 2008) "A need for migrant labour? The micro-level determinants of staff shortages and implications for a skills-based immigration policy," Paper prepared for the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC).

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/andersonandruhs2008

House of Lords, Economic Affairs Committee (2008) *The economic impact of immigration in the UK*, House of Lords, London.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldselect/ldconaf/82/82.pdf>

R. Lerman (1998) "The Labor Market for Information Technology Workers," Testimony before the United States' Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Immigration.

<http://www.urban.org/publications/900279.html>