

International Education News

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Title: EU: MEPs back new Erasmus Mundus Programme for student mobility and university exchanges

Link: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/038-40050-294-10-43-906-2

Summary: MEPs today gave the green light to a second funding period for the EU's Erasmus Mundus Programme, which aims to promote the EU as a centre of academic excellence. In backing the estimated budget of €950million for the 2009-2013 period of the new programme, Parliament adopted changes to some of the criteria for obtaining funding, with a view to simplifying visa applications for participants from non-EU countries and ensuring a balance in terms of students' gender and country of origin.

Date: October 21, 2008

Source: European Parliament

Title: ♦ AUCC welcomes two new members

Link: <http://www.universityaffairs.ca/2008/10/24/aucc-welcomes-two-new-members.aspx>

Summary: Two universities joined the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada in October â€” the Canadian Mennonite University based in Winnipeg and Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Vancouver.

The two institutions bring to 94 the number of members in AUCC. The Ottawa-based association advocates for higher education with the federal government on behalf of its member universities. It is also the publisher of University Affairs.

Date: October 24, 2008

Source: University Affairs

Title:	UK: Is the credit crunch good news for universities	
Link:	http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20081023160446970&mode=print	
Summary:	<p>With a dozen UK universities standing to lose £77 million (US\$125 million) in collapsed Icelandic banks, the higher education sector appears, along with everyone else, to be facing an uncertain future, writes Anthea Lipsett in The Guardian. But could the global financial downturn in fact spell good fortune for UK universities?</p> <p>The evidence from previous recessions is that business schools and universities tend to benefit. In a difficult recruitment situation, people take time out to embark on masters degrees to improve their CV and knowledge while they ride it out, says Jonathan Slack, chief executive of the Association of Business Schools, or ABS.</p>	
Date:	October 26, 2008	Source: The Guardian (http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/oct/17/highereducation-creditcrunch) via University World News

Title:	GERMANY: Education summit a disappointment	
Link:	http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20081024094539765&mode=print	
Summary:	<p>Seemingly undaunted by the international financial crisis which has also rocked some German banks, the Federal Government went ahead with its Education Summit last Wednesday. But the meeting ended in a row over the 16 state governments' insistence on getting a greater share of VAT revenue for investment in education.</p> <p>Originally intended as a historic document sealing a common federal and state government approach in education policy, the Dresden Declaration was overshadowed by money squabbles, and fell far short of expectations. Now, a joint working group is to be appointed by Chancellor Angela Merkel that is expected to come up with more detailed proposals on education spending by October 2009 and, above all, on where the money is supposed to come from.</p>	
Date:	October 26, 2008	Source: University World News

Title:	NIGERIA: Four million applicants denied admission	
Link:	http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20081023160801441&mode=print	
Summary:	<p>More than four million qualified candidates have failed to secure admission to Nigeria's universities in the last five years, Sunday Punch investigations have revealed. The figure represents 88% of the total number of candidates who sought admission within the period.</p> <p>These findings came as stakeholders in the education sector differed on the need for more universities to accommodate the large army of applicants. There are 94 universities comprising 27 federal, 34 state as well as 33 privately owned institutions in the country.</p>	
Date:	October 26, 2008	Source: Punch (http://www.punchng.com/Articl.aspx?theartic=Art200810190481782) via University World News

Title:	RUSSIA: Super league of 'federal' universities	
Link:	http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20081024094454199&mode=print	
Summary:	<p>A shake-up of Russia's university system will see the establishment of a network of new, high-status 'federal' institutions under Education Ministry plans being considered by lawmakers. The scheme - part of a wide ranging set of proposals under a Kremlin plan to improve Russia's socio-economic infrastructure - has passed its first reading and will target resources on specialised research universities and encourage wider lifelong vocational learning.</p> <p>A network of new quality assurance systems for state, private and flexible education courses will be introduced to police the new structures.</p>	
Date:	October 26, 2008	Source: University World News

Title: **EU: New site to attract foreign students**

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=2008102409360518&mode=print>

Summary: The European Commission has launched a new web portal called *Study in Europe* to promote universities across the EU to students from other parts of the world. The portal, at www.study-ineurope.org, is part of a campaign to boost the number of students from outside Europe who study in the EU.

Details of 32 European countries, their universities and what is required to live and study in them are available in the portal, including admission procedures, costs, scholarships and the higher education environment in Europe.

Date: October 26, 2008 **Source:** University World News

Title: **IRAN: Government supporting global Islamic studies**

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20081023160402295&mode=print>

Summary: Iran is supporting world academic centres in establishing departments of Islamic studies, the Tehran Times reported. Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology wants Islamic studies strengthened, an official said, and was looking at proposals including several from universities in Britain, America and Germany.

"The ministry is currently studying proposals by numerous world academic centres and universities including several universities from Britain, the United States, and Germany," Gholamreza Khajesarvi continued. "The departments will be set up to train and educate experts on Islam so as to assist in the introduction of Islam and its realities to the world in a proper academic setting."

Date: October 26, 2008 **Source:** Tehran Times (http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=180702) via University World News

Title: **ZAMBIA: Brain drain stemming plan in tatters**

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20081024102905476&mode=print>

Summary: A plan tabled in Zambia's parliament in 2007, aimed at curbing the brain drain among science lecturers and researchers, lies in ruins amid ongoing academic disgruntlement. The plan included adjusting salaries regularly, introducing a home-ownership scheme, retention allowances and increased research grants for state institutions. But strikes have dominated Zambia's academic year and they have included science lecturers.

The brain drain has been hitting science departments the worst but there appears to have been little movement on the parliament-endorsed plan to pay scientists adequately. Lecturers went on strike three months ago over poor salaries and the action only ended last month.

Date: October 26, 2008 **Source:** University World News

Title: **🚗 Formula One Race-Car Construction, Aircraft and Fashion Design Among New Cutting-Edge Projects for High School Students**

Link: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/press/top/2008/10/2008-10-29-131900-4674.html>

Summary: Building a race car to Formula One specifications, learning to use leading equipment to design commercial and passenger jets, and designing fashions that could land on international modeling runways are among the cutting-edge, new student projects that will benefit from over \$8.2 million in investments from the Manitoba government, Competitiveness, Training and Trade Minister Andrew Swan announced today.

An additional \$1.2 million is being invested in trades programming this year to support students who are seeking opportunities in high-wage, high-skilled jobs to meet a growing demand for workers who are trained in technical-vocational professions.

Date: October 29, 2008 **Source:** Government of Manitoba

Title: **UK: Government U-turn on overseas scholarships**

Link: <http://www.higher-edge.com/docs/oov-V07-No.36.pdf>

Summary: The British government has had a change of heart regarding its decision earlier this year to cut a significant part of the Commonwealth Scholarship scheme. In our issue dated March 26, 2008, Higher-Edge had reported that the British government's decision to axe two major international scholarship schemes had come under fire.

University heads had criticised the move as they feared it will not only deter foreign students from applying to U.K. universities as well as jeopardise opportunities for U.K. students to study abroad.

Date: October 29, 2008 **Source:** Times Higher Education (<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=403959&c>) via Overseas Overwhelmed

Title: **AUSTRALIA: Minister plans ban on shaky visa deals**

Link: <http://www.higher-edge.com/docs/oov-V07-No.36.pdf>

Summary: Australia's Immigration Minister, Chris Evans, wants stricter legislation in place to prevent unscrupulous education agents from duping overseas students. According to a recent Senate committee hearing, there is a rise in the number of agents selling dubious study packages offering tuition, work experience and an Australian visa.

Senator Evans is working with the Education Minister, Julia Gillard, to increase the legislative powers available to Australia in tackling the problem.

Date: October 29, 2008 **Source:** The Sydney Morning Herald (<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/minister-plans-ban-on-shaky-visa-deals/2008/10/2/>) via Overseas Overwhelmed

Title: **🍁 Ontario eyes ways to help migrant workers**

Link: <http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/article/527206>

Summary: Ontario, which has long argued its labour laws protect migrant farm workers, nannies and others imported here for jobs, is floating the idea of special protection for temporary workers.

Ontario has been consulting with Manitoba, where landmark legislation to protect temporary foreign workers has just been passed. The catalyst, said Manitoba Labour and Immigration Minister Nancy Allan, was creating a law to protect young models. Then, 200 workers imported from China to work at Maple Leaf Foods in Brandon were found to have paid \$10,000 to recruiters.

Date: October 30, 2008 **Source:** The Toronto Star

Title: **US: Professors Get Their Own Study-Abroad Programs**

Link: <http://chronicle.com/cgi-bin/printable.cgi?article=chronicle.com/weekly/v55/i10/10>

Summary: Fervent testimonials to the power of overseas study are not uncommon, of course. But at Rollins College, a liberal-arts institution with a mission to educate students to be more globally minded, these paeans come from professors.

The college's president, Lewis M. Duncan, has pledged to send every faculty and staff member with teaching duties abroad once every three years. Since 2006, 128 Rollins employees, about two-thirds of those eligible, have used the \$3,000 grants to conduct individual research projects or to travel internationally with faculty-led groups to destinations including China, Ecuador, and Tanzania.

Date: October 31, 2008 **Source:** The Chronicle of Higher Education