






International Education News

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Title:  Making Sense of International Joint Degrees in Canada and Beyond

Link: <http://www.wes.org/ewenr/PF/08nov/pfeature.htm>

Summary: Cross-border university enrollments have been skyrocketing over the past decade, however, the global expansion and internationalization of post-secondary education should still be considered in its formative stages, with many new internationalization strategies and initiatives still evolving. International joint and dual degree programs have become increasingly relevant as an internationalization strategy, as they provide a *relatively* risk-free means of promoting teaching and learning across national borders.

The purpose of this article is to provide a brief terminology primer, highlight some innovative examples of international joint and dual degrees, and to examine some of the issues related to the development of these programs and their qualifications, with a particular focus on Canada, one of the 'middle powers' in the education-export industry.

Date: November 2008

Source: World Education News and Reviews

Title: **BANGLADESH: Campuses of foreign universities allowed**

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20081127151417381&mode=print>

Summary: Despite opposition from Bangladesh's university regulator, the country's caretaker government passed a law last week allowing private individuals and institutions to establish campuses in the name of foreign universities - but only with prior permission from the government.

Last November the regulator, the University Grants Commission, banned 56 foreign-university campuses in the capital Dhaka and in four other cities, for selling degrees and for not meeting quality standards. In its own draft of the new law, the commission had said no foreign universities should be allowed to set up campuses in Bangladesh.

Date: November 30, 2008

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education (<http://chronicle.com/news/article/5560/bangladesh-will-allow-foreign-universities-to-set-...2008-12-02>) via University World News

Title: **EUROPE: Are higher education rankings reliable?**

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20081127151829247&mode=print>

Summary: A recent study by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre has questioned the substance of statistics on which the Academic Ranking of World Universities conducted by Shanghai Jiao Tong University are based. The study, carried out by researchers at the Centre for Research on Lifelong Learning (CRELL), questions whether the Jiao Tong ranking serves its intended purpose, compares it with the Times Higher Education-QS rankings exercise, and concludes that neither system succeeds in effectively ranking Europe's universities.

Higher Education Rankings: Robustness Issues and Critical Assessment, written by Michaela Saisana and Beatrice D'Hombres, contends that the Jiao Tong system is statistically robust only in the identification of "top performers" either side of the Atlantic and is quite unreliable in its classification of other institutions.

Date: November 30, 2008

Source: CRELL (<http://crell.jrc.ec.europa.eu/Publications/CRELL%20Research%20Papers/EUR23487.pdf>) via University World News

Title: **HUNGARY: University rankings rejected**

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=2008112713110030&mode=print>

Summary: Competitive university rankings have been rejected as an effective means of informing people about differing standards in higher education. A conference attended by delegates from European university and standards setting associations in Budapest last week agreed that rankings had "perverse effects".

More than 500 delegates from higher education research and student groups at the 3rd annual International Trends in Quality Assurance conference agreed that developing a competitive system of higher education rather than competitive institutions was a more effective strategy.

Date: November 30, 2008

Source: University World News

Title: **INDIA: Technology institutes face uncertain future**

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20081127130514396&mode=print>

Summary: The scientific community in India is worried about the global image of Indian institutes of technology after the government created six new IITs earlier this year. Professor CNR Rao, principal scientific adviser to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, expressed surprise and dissent at the decision.

Unlike other universities in South Asia, India's institute of technology have won global recognition for the quality of their education. Their graduates are accepted in top universities, winning scholarships, faculty positions and top jobs in big companies.

Date: November 30, 2008

Source: University World News

Title: THAILAND: Siege at Bangkok Airports Worries Thailand's Horde of Tourism Students

Link: http://chronicle.com/news/index.php?id=5583&utm_source=pm&utm_medium=en

Summary: The government has estimated that many of Thailand's one million tourism jobs could be lost because of the crisis. The predictions worry hospitality students who believed it would be relatively easy to get a job after graduation.

Hospitality courses have been popular among undergraduates, largely because of the strong growth of Thailand's tourism sector. Students see their prospects shrinking with every day the siege continues.

Date: December 1, 2008

Source: Bangkok Post (http://www.bangkokpost.com/011208_Business/01Dec2008_biz24.php) via The Chronicle of Higher Education

Title: UK: Going Off to College for Less (Passport Required)

Link: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/01/education/01scotland.html>

Summary: St. Andrews has 1,230 Americans among its 7,200 students this year, compared with fewer than 200 a decade ago.

The large American enrollment is no accident. St. Andrews has 10 recruiters making the rounds of American high schools, visiting hundreds of private schools and a smattering of public ones.

With higher education fast becoming a global commodity, universities worldwide — many of them in Canada and England — are competing for the same pool of affluent, well-qualified students, and more American students are heading overseas not just for a semester abroad, but for their full degree program.

Date: December 1, 2008

Source: The New York Times

Title: 🍷 Vanier scholarships challenged by tight deadlines

Link: <http://www.universityaffairs.ca/Print.aspx?id=4798>

Summary: When the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships were announced in the 2008 federal budget, they were positioned as a “magnet” for the world’s top graduate students. Valued at \$50,000 a year tax-free, these are the first federal scholarships open to international doctoral students as well as to Canadians.

But the program’s design and this year’s tight nomination deadline have raised questions among some in the university community as to whether the awards can fulfill this goal, at least in the short term.

Date: December 1, 2008

Source: University Affairs

Title: US: Minnesota College Group Finds Alternative Way to Leave Thailand

Link: <http://chronicle.com/cgi-bin/printable.cgi?article=chronicle.com/daily/2008/12/783>

Summary: Eighteen students and three professors from Northwestern College, in St. Paul, Minn., are finally on their way out of Thailand after being stranded over the weekend by antigovernment protesters who have shut down two of the country's largest airports, both near Bangkok.

Half of the group, which is in the middle of a two-month, five-country trip, departed on Monday from an airport at U Tapao, 90 miles southeast of Bangkok, that has served as a primary departure point for the estimated 100,000 travelers who have been stranded in the country since protesters blockaded the airports last week.

Date: December 2, 2008

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Title: 🇨🇦 **Canada to Fast-Track Immigration for Students**

Link: <http://www.higher-edge.com/inst/nsf-V07-No41.php>

Summary: Canada's federal government last week announced plans to dramatically speed up immigration processing time for certain in-demand occupations, and for international students, in 2009. Permanent residency applicants in "highly skilled" areas such as health, finance and the oil industry could see their applications processed in six to 12 months rather than the five or six years that is now common, Canada's Immigration minister said.

All together, Canada plans to admit up to 265,000 new permanent residents next year—at a time, the minister said, when other important immigrant admitting countries such as Australia, Germany and England are cutting back.

Date: December 3, 2008 **Source:** Canwest News Service (<http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=1005552>) via Overseas, Overwhelmed

Title: **CHINA: Chinese Economics Bring Students to America in Record Numbers**

Link: <http://www.higher-edge.com/inst/nsf-V07-No41.php>

Summary: Enrollments of Chinese students at American universities grew by 20 per cent between 2007 and 2008, reaching an all-time high of 81,127 according to the "Open Doors" report released recently by the Institute of International Education.

An official with one U.S. university said that China's rapid economic growth has led to the creation of a middle class of 300 million people—many of them consisting of families with a single child (because of China's "one-child-per family" policy). These families are increasingly willing to look into sending their children to the U.S.

Date: December 3, 2008 **Source:** The Herald Tribune (<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/11/17/america/Colleges-Foreign-Students.php>) via Overseas Overwhelmed

Title: **AUSTRALIA: Mumbai Attacks May Make Australian Universities Hesitate in India**

Link: http://chronicle.com/news/index.php?id=5598&utm_source=pm&utm_medium=en

Summary: Some education experts say the deadly assaults in the city, formerly Bombay, may affect the growing number of research partnerships between the two countries, as well as Australian efforts to recruit Indian students.

The attacks, which left at least 188 dead and more than 300 injured, are "likely to make institutions much more cautious about sending staff to undertake marketing and promotional activities in India," Roger Peacock, an Australian international-education consultant, told the newspaper.

Date: December 3, 2008 **Source:** The Australian (<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,24742104-12332,00.html>) via The Chronicle of Higher Education

Title: 🇺🇸 **BU World University Service of Canada chapter collecting used textbooks to benefit Books for Africa**

Link: http://www.brandonu.ca/news/article.asp?A_ID=1884

Summary: Brandon University's World University Service of Canada chapter has partnered with Better World Books (www.betterworldbooks.com) to run a book drive that will benefit Books for Africa (www.booksforafrica.org) and would love to have the support of the Brandon community!

Donate your unwanted college-level books published within the past 10 years (highlighting/writing in books is fine), and any books used in a college class to our book drive. We have set up big green and orange collection boxes in every building on the Brandon University campus which will remain in place until January 16, 2009.

Date: December 4, 2008 **Source:** Brandon University

Title: **US: Graduate Schools Seeking International Partners Need Clearer Guidelines, Educators Say**

Link: <http://chronicle.com/cgi-bin/printable.cgi?article=chronicle.com/daily/2008/12/801>

Summary: A growing number of American graduate schools are moving to establish joint-degree or dual-degree programs with international universities—38 percent of all graduate schools have at least one such degree or certificate program, according to the Council of Graduate Schools, and 31 percent plan to start one in the next two years.

But as a workshop held Wednesday during the council's annual meeting here made clear, there is much uncertainty among educators about how to fashion such collaborative agreements, how to promote them to students and faculty members, and how to evaluate their effectiveness.

Date: December 4, 2008 **Source:** The Chronicle of Higher Education

Title: **US: Women Abroad and Men at Home**

Link: <http://www.insidehighered.com/layout/set/print/news/2008/12/04/genderabroad>

Summary: It's truth in advertising. Take Austin, for example, which, at about 80 percent, sends one of the highest proportions of its students abroad. But even with that critical mass, out of 390 total in 2006-7, 248 were women and 142 were men (like at many liberal arts colleges, Austin's overall undergraduate population skews somewhat female, but not to the same degree).

In recent years, as study abroad has ballooned across the nation, fueled by growth in short-term programs and increasing diversity in participating students' majors and destinations, a 2-to-1 female-to- male ratio has stayed remarkably stagnant. In 2006-7, the most recent year for which data are available, 65.1 percent of Americans studying abroad were women, and 34.9 percent men. A decade earlier — when the total number of study abroad students was less than half its current total — the breakdown was 64.9 percent female, 35.1 percent male

Date: December 4, 2008 **Source:** Inside Higher Education

Title: **AUSTRALIA: Australian and Indian Academics Team Up on Antiterrorism Strategy in Mumbai**

Link: http://chronicle.com/news/index.php?id=5617&utm_source=pm&utm_medium=en

Summary: Following last week's terrorist attacks in Mumbai, an Australian team of safety and risk experts from the University of New South Wales plans to travel to India's financial capital to help academics there develop strategies for dealing with threats of terrorism.

The Australian university announced the visit to Mumbai, formerly Bombay, on Thursday after the University of Mumbai and the University of New South Wales signed a cooperation agreement.

The Australian university's School of Risk and Safety Sciences has expertise in strategic risk assessment of threats like terrorism, climate change, and toxic spills, as well as the development of world-class systems to respond to disasters and gun violence.

Date: December 5, 2008 **Source:** Sydney Morning Herald (<http://news.smh.com.au/national/university-risk-experts-head-to-mumbai-20081204-6r97.html>) via The Chronicle of Higher Education