

International Education News

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For the period Saturday, December 13 to Friday, December 19, 2008

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Title: ♦ BC #1 Destination for International Students

Link: http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2008ALMD0078-001771.htm

Summary: B.C. is the number one destination of choice for international students coming to Canada, announced Advanced Education and Labour Market Development Minister Murray Coell during International Education Week.

"In the last year, British Columbia has become the most popular study destination for international students, drawing about 30 per cent of all students who come to Canada," Coell said. "With almost 22,000 students entering the province last year – most of them from the Asia-Pacific – B.C. surpassed Ontario in the number of initial entries of international students for the first time."

Date: November 19, 2008

Source: Government of British Columbia News Release

Title: **M We're bucking global slump**

Link: http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/were_bucking_global_slump.html

Summary: Manitoba's economy will once again post growth higher than the national average this year and next despite the global recession, the Canada West Foundation said. The Calgary-based think-tank's latest economic profile and forecast for the province released this morning said the province's diversified economy, which features strong non-residential construction and innovative manufacturing industries like buses and aerospace parts, will help fuel 2.3 per cent growth in 2008 and 2.0 per cent in 2009, according to Canada West.

That prognosis is made under the larger expectation that Canada's economy will continue to contract until mid-2009, pushing the jobless rate above eight per cent and robbing Canadians of more than \$50 billion in income. That is what the TD Bank projected Wednesday, abandoning a previous, more optimistic scenario.

Date: December 11, 2008 **Source:** Winnipeg Free Press

Title: **♦ Phony degrees catch up to buyers**

Link: <http://www.thestar.com/article/553330>

Summary: They are among at least 220 Canadians with bogus academic credentials uncovered in a recent probe. Worldwide, fake degrees are a billion dollar industry, even threatening government security, investigators say.

Last week, an undercover *Star* investigation exposed Peng Sun, a York University grad who forges university degrees from real Canadian universities for \$4,000. Sun's client list was not available, but the *Star* obtained a list of Canadians who bought fake degrees from an American diploma mill busted three years ago by the U.S. Secret Service and Homeland Security.

Date: December 13, 2008 **Source:** The Star

Title: **AFRICA: New generation of scholars needed**

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20081214092057738&mode=print>

Summary: Universities across Africa are running out of academics. The scale of the crisis and reasons for it differ between countries but all are affected and one thing is certain, says Professor Goolam Mohamedbhai, Secretary-Genera of the Association of African Universities - the continent must "think outside the box" if it is to succeed in developing a new generation of scholars.

Most African universities were set up after from the 1960s, carbon copies of institutions in the north and most of them in cities. Political persecution of universities by dictatorial states in the 1970s and 1980s coincided with rapid growth in demand for higher education and World Bank policies that shifted loan funds to primary education.

Date: December 14, 2008 **Source:** University World News

Title: **AFRICA: Global university leaders pledge support**

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20081213153656963&mode=print>

Summary: Global university leaders have called on Africa to come up with proposals for collaboration that could bring the intellectual and resource muscle of the world's top institutions to bear on the challenge of training a new generation of academics. Ruth Simmons, president of Brown University and head of a Global University Leaders' Forum (GULF) team attending a forum of African higher education heads in Ghana, said ways of supporting African universities would be discussed by GULF at the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos next month.

There were many ways in which the world's top universities could collaborate with African institutions to tackle the issue of academic shortages, Simmons said. She suggested that African universities "be direct and specific" about how they wanted to collaborate.

Date: December 14, 2008 **Source:** University World News

Title: CHINA: Leading a global arms race in innovation

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20081212095956597&mode=print>

Summary: China has upped the ante on the education revolution. Between 1998 and 2005, the number of students enrolled in tertiary education in China rose by an extraordinary 4.4 times to 15.6 million, not far short of the total tertiary enrolment in each of the US and the European Union.

At the same time, China has lifted the quality of its institutions and created a layer of top research universities. The annual number of research papers published in international journals rose by 4.5 times between 1995 and 2005, and the level of investment in basic research in its universities is already third largest in the world after the US and Japan and rising.

Date: December 14, 2008 **Source:** University World News

Title: GLOBAL: Female domination to strengthen

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20081212095824772&mode=print>

Summary: Women will account for more than 70% of higher education students in Austria and England and for an average of 59% across the developed world by 2025, a new OECD report indicates. The report, *Higher Education to 2030*, said in 2005, 55% of higher education students in the 30 OECD nations were women and women accounted for 60% or more of higher education enrolments in Norway, Sweden and Iceland. But by 2025, 10 nations would have student bodies that were 60% or more female and the OECD average would be 59%, the report said.

Only Japan, Korea and Turkey were expected to still have fewer women students than men by 2025. Japan's student population was expected to be 48% female, Korea's 40% and Turkey's 43% by 2025 - projections that included minimal growth from present figures.

Date: December 14, 2008 **Source:** University World News

Title: ♦ Diaspora faculty play major role in research development

Link: <http://www.affairesuniversitaires.ca/diaspora-faculty-play-major-role-in-research-for-development.aspx>

Summary: Faculty members from the developing world who have emigrated to industrialized countries often play a pivotal part in international development. A recent symposium examined the role of Canadian diaspora faculty from a new angle: the specific strengths of these faculty members and their ability to leverage institutional partnerships for international research collaboration.

Some institutions have already ventured successfully into international research collaboration with the help of diaspora faculty. "Research is an ideal vehicle to jumpstart diaspora initiatives," said Mario Pinto, vice-president, research for Simon Fraser University.

Date: December 15, 2008 **Source:** University Affairs

Title: MALAYSIA: Politics Remains Off-Limits for Students in Malaysia

Link: http://chronicle.com/news/index.php?id=5670&utm_source=pm&utm_medium=en

Summary: The Universities and University Colleges Act was passed in 1971 to quell student activism that threatened the ruling government. But nearly 40 years later, critics argue that the act is stifling academic freedom by curtailing speech and freedom of association. Under the law it is illegal to express "support, sympathy, or opposition to any political party." But it is also illegal to criticize or boycott "any examination, lecture, tutorial, class, or other authorized activities" of a university without the university's permission. Those who violate the law can be imprisoned or fined.

During the parliamentary debate, several opposition lawmakers said that the act is responsible for the decline in intellectual standards of Malaysia's students. But other lawmakers said that the law was not at fault but that Malaysian students were simply too lazy to study, another Malaysian newspaper, *The Star*, reported.

Date: December 15, 2008 **Source:** New Strait Times (http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Friday/National/2426249/Article/index.html) via The Chronicle of Higher Education

Title: ♦ **New Rules to Lure Skilled Foreigners**

Link: http://www.nationalpost.com/todays_paper/story.html?id=1076799

Summary: The federal government is changing a key immigration rule it says will help Canadian companies more easily find skilled foreign labour.

Ottawa is to announce today that skilled professionals such as engineers, accountants or professors from the United States or Mexico will be able to get three-yearlong work permits instead of one-year-long permits.

Date: December 15, 2008 **Source:** National Post

Title: **AUSTRALIA: Graphic Feed: Australia's dependence (2007-2008) upon foreign students**

Link: <http://globalhighered.wordpress.com/2008/12/16/graphic-feed-australias-dependence-2007-2008-upon-foreign-students/>

Summary: A graph comparing different countries and their relative dependence on foreign students.

Date: December 16, 2008 **Source:** Global Higher Ed

Title: **AUSTRALIA: Long-Awaited Report Calls for Broad Overhaul of Australian Higher Education**

Link: http://chronicle.com/news/index.php?id=5683&utm_source=pm&utm_medium=en

Summary: The independent review, which was commissioned by the government and led by Professor Denise Bradley, a former vice chancellor of the University of South Australia, proposes shaking up the higher-education sector by forcing universities to compete for government funds. But it also calls for greater government spending on the country's 37 public universities.

The 272-page report, which is not yet posted online, suggests moving away from a system of centrally allocated seats, and instead giving students vouchers. The panel that wrote the report, which took nearly a year to complete, said if students could more easily choose where they wanted to study, universities would be forced to not only offer more-popular courses but also improve quality and efficiency in order to attract students.

Date: December 16, 2008 **Source:** The Sydney Morning Herald (<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/sweeping-reforms-to-fix-universities/2008/12/16/1229189622963.html>) via The Chronicle of Higher Education

Title: **INDONESIA: Indonesian Students Protest New Law that May Lure Foreign Universities**

Link: http://chronicle.com/news/index.php?id=5697&utm_source=pm&utm_medium=en

Summary: Indonesia's parliament voted on Wednesday to refashion the country's public universities into independent legal entities or corporations, a move that might help attract foreign universities but that was met with loud protests by students who complained that autonomy would commercialize education and cause tuition to skyrocket.

The government defended the new law, noting that it requires the state to still cover half the overhead of all public universities. The remaining half will be covered by tuition and by universities' fund raising.

Date: December 18, 2008 **Source:** The Jakarta Post (<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2008/12/18/protests-mar-passage-education-entity-bill.html>) via The Chronicle of Higher Education

Title: CHINA: China Entices Its Scholars to Come Home

Link: <http://chronicle.com/cgi-bin/printable.cgi?article=chronicle.com/weekly/v55/i17/17>

Summary: The Graduate School of Business is one of three ambitious programs established by the Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing to improve the quality of Chinese higher education, in part by drawing back some of the thousands of Chinese scholars who have left since China began opening up in the 1980s.

The Cheung Kong schools are the most extreme example of an aggressive recruitment scheme that has resulted in what is sometimes called China's "reverse brain drain." In a remarkable about-face from early Chinese policy on overseas study, government programs and individual academic departments alike now offer competitive benefits and salaries to candidates interested in returning from abroad.

Date: December 19, 2008 **Source:** The Chronicle of Higher Education

Title: US: International Study Shouldn't Be Elective

Link: <http://www.insidehighered.com/layout/set/print/views/2008/12/19/blountlyon>

Summary: Unfortunately, too few colleges or universities are preparing students to understand these global dynamics. According to the Center for International Initiatives at the American Council on Education, the percentage of colleges that require a course with an international or global focus as part of the general education curriculum fell from 41 percent in 2001 to 37 percent in 2006. And 27 percent of the nation's colleges and universities have no students at all who study abroad. But even among the colleges and universities that do promote "semester abroad" programs, most offer these as add-ons to the required course of study, providing students with only a taste of life in another nation and a small selection of elective courses.

A far better approach would be to make international study a core component of undergraduate education in the 21st century — requiring students to spend a significant portion of their college years abroad (e.g., two or more semesters) and do it while studying in multiple locations. Students would thereby be exposed to the interconnections across multiple countries and cultures, so they have the opportunity to gain insight into the complex economic and political factors shaping our world.

Date: December 19, 2008 **Source:** Inside Higher Education

Title: **M** Strong Population Growth Continues in Manitoba: Swan

Link: <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2008-12-01&item=4981%0D2008-12-22>

Summary: Manitoba continues to attract significant numbers of immigrants and has recorded its strongest population growth in 36 years, Competitiveness, Training and Trade Minister Andrew Swan announced today.

As of Oct. 1, Manitoba's population stood at 1,210,500 people, according to figures released today by Statistics Canada. During the last 12 months, the population jumped by 13,124, the largest one-year growth in 25 years. It grew by 25,300 in the last two years, the strongest two-year growth in 36 years.

Date: December 19, 2008 **Source:** Government of Manitoba News Release