




International Education News

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Title: GERMANY: Bologna process gets nod of approval

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090212190918921>

Summary: A senior Education Ministry official has taken a positive view of the impact the Bologna process has had on Germany's higher education system. Speaking at a symposium in Berlin in the run-up to the Bologna Conference of Ministers next April, Parliamentary State Secretary Andreas Storm told government, higher education officials and students that Bologna had contributed to what he referred to as a successful modernisation of German higher education.

Storm also referred to progress made so far in the introduction of new courses. Out of 12,000 courses throughout Germany in the 2008-09 winter semester, around three quarters had been converted to masters and bachelor degrees, compared with just 61% a year before. Around two thirds of all first-year students opted for these courses in 2008-09 while in the 2006/2007 winter semester just 44.4% had enrolled for masters and bachelor courses.

More German students are studying abroad, too. Over a 10-year period, the number of German students undertaking courses in other countries grew steadily to 78,000 in 2005 and 83,000 in 2006.

Date: Feb 15, 2009

Source: University World News

Title: EUROPE: Students call for a global ombudsman

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090212191350489>

Summary: Student rights are being violated in institutions around the world and students' groups have called on Unesco to establish a global ombudsman's office to tackle breaches of their rights. At a meeting in Paris last month, student representatives from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and North America discussed issues they will present to the Unesco World Conference on Higher Education to be held in July.

It was the first time in five years that 17 organisations representing students across the globe took part in an official preparatory meeting for the conference. The meeting was organised by the European Students' Union, through its international cooperation working group which is run by member organisations in Switzerland and Norway.

"Such international cooperation therefore marks a major step forward in creating a stronger student movement - the overarching goal of the European Students' Union for the year ahead," the union said.

Date: Feb 15, 2009

Source: University World News

Title: INDIA: Science and technology vs the humanities

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090212185856618>

Summary: In the past 50 years, science and technology institutions, or STIs, in India have acquired global recognition whereas the humanities and social sciences institutions - the HSIs - are still struggling for national acceptance despite a living tradition of education in these fields.

There are some obvious reasons for this anomalous situation. Most ST institutes have the President of India as their Visitor and it is the President who appoints their directors, chairmen and boards of governors following professional advice.

There are enormous differences in funding between the two types of institutions. The STIs are funded by ministries of science and technology, defence, IT, industry and so on while the HSIs receive only crumbs. Each technology and science institute receives some US\$20 million a year for routine expenses, plus millions more from foreign agencies, non-government organisations, foreign governments and international bodies, as well as alumni donations for non-routine expenses.

Should the HSIs go on? There is only one answer: the STIs can help create skills which, in turn, can create wealth. For using that wealth with wisdom, we need the humanities and social sciences. Investment in science and technology alone could not save Eastern European nations.

Date: Feb 15, 2009

Source: University World News

Title: INDIA: Wanted: 1,500 universities; apply here

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090212184520146>

Summary: India faces the enormous challenge of finding ways to skill a large population of whom more than 550 million are under the age of 25. Over the next six years, it needs to create another 1,500 universities. Already educational institutions in the UK and US are lining up to become partners to help with this massive tertiary-level expansion. Pressure is building on the government to allow foreign investment into the sector to allow public-private partnerships meet some of the demand.

Pressure is building on the government to allow foreign investment into the sector to allow public-private partnerships meet some of the demand. Leading universities across the world are exploring a range of different models from faculty partnerships, distance learning to setting up campuses.

Ankur Rudra, an analyst at Mumbai-based Noble investment bank, says "the low penetration of high-quality education and the growing demand for educated workers in a fast developing service-led economy" offers huge potential to develop the education market.

Date: Feb 15, 2009

Source: The Financial Times via University World News

Title: GLOBAL: The Liberal Arts, Abroad

Link: <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/02/16/liberalarts>

Summary: In most of the world, higher education can be found in large public universities and in technical training programs. Over the last 10 to 15 years, however, plenty of international examples of liberal learning have emerged: Asheshi University, in Ghana, for instance, or the Smolny College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, in Russia. Soon the list will include New York University's planned liberal arts college in Abu Dhabi, and the Asian University for Women, which is being established in Bangladesh.

The import and adaptation of American-style liberal arts education does in fact seem to be proliferating in pockets worldwide, in areas where more professional-oriented education has been the prevailing norm. There are a number of models, including that of the American university establishing a branch campus abroad. "But these are often more modest initiatives and are often started by people who had the benefit of liberal education and want to establish it in their own countries," Gillespie said.

Europe has also been a site of innovation, spurred in part by the Bologna Process, a series of reforms intended to generate comparable degrees at the bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. levels, and thereby encourage mobility across a 46-country European Higher Education Area.

Date: Feb 16, 2009

Source: Inside Higher Ed

Title: GLOBAL: Highlights from Education at a Glance 2008 Now Available

Link: (none)

Summary: Highlights from Education at a Glance 2008 (now available from the Online Bookshop) is a new companion publication to the OECD's flagship compendium of education statistics, Education at a Glance. Each indicator is presented on a two-page spread. The left-hand page explains the significance of the indicator, discusses the main findings, examines key trends and provides readers with a roadmap for finding out more in the OECD education databases and in other OECD education publications. The right-hand page contains clearly presented charts and tables, accompanied by dynamic hyperlinks (StatLinks) that direct readers to the corresponding data in Excel™ format.

Date: Feb 16, 2009

Source: Government News Release

Title: CHINA: Interest in Studying Abroad Remains Strong in China

Link: http://chronicle.com/daily/2009/02/11950n.htm?utm_source=at&utm_medium=en

Summary: The Chinese news media has a name for the craze that has gripped students here in the past few years: "overseas study fever." And despite the worsening global financial crisis and a slowing domestic economy, it shows little sign of letting up.

Chinese recruiters say a high household savings rate, a difficult job market, and a steady yuan combine to keep foreign study popular in China. That marks a significant difference from India, where students who rely on loans to pay overseas tuition have had difficulty securing credit; and South Korea, where the plummeting won has made Western education increasingly unaffordable.

But for the smaller group of students who depend on grants and scholarships to go abroad, particularly to the United States, the situation is vastly different. For years, nervous applicants to Western universities have prayed at the Temple of the Reclining Buddha outside Beijing, because the temple's Mandarin name, Wofo, sounds like "offer." Now, as news of those universities making budget cuts reaches China, such pilgrimages may increase.

Date: Feb 18, 2009

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Title: **M International student program taking off at Gray academy**

Link: <http://www.jewishtribune.ca/tribune/PDF/jt190209.pdf>

Summary: Gray Academy offers Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 and places an equal value on Jewish and general academic programs. The student body that populates the corridors of Gray Academy is diverse, with students from Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and the US.

According to Rory Paul, head and CEO of Gray Academy, "There are no Jewish day schools with a home-stay program in Canada, but there is one boarding school program in the States." So, the Gray Academy program is quite unique. "The home-stay aspect of the program is critical, because it gives the students the chance to connect with a family," said Paul.

International students who come to Gray Academy can get full credits for their studies back in their home country school. Ideally Paul would like to see from 5 to 10 international students attend Gray Academy through this program.

"For Gray Academy to have students in our hallways from all around the world is incredible," said Paul. "It enriches the lives of the students, linguistically, culturally and academically. The international students also get a Judaic education, exposure to different people and ways of life, and a top-class education."

Date: Feb 19, 2009

Source: The Jewish Tribune

Title: **M At our best when chips are down**

Link: http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/at_our_best_when_chips_are_down-39836522.html

Summary: Make no mistake about it: Manitoba is not immune to the global recession. The burgeoning biotech sector in Manitoba may soon be forced to use elastic bands and paperclips in their research because there is no new money available to move research to the next stage.

Any business that depends on advertising (including this newspaper) is struggling. The fact the country's largest multimedia company, Canwest Global Communications Corp., is based in Winnipeg puts that much more pressure on this market.

But considering the mayhem in housing, financial services, auto and manufacturing across North America, it is a marvel to see how well this provincial economy is chugging along. Economic conditions may someday turn against Manitoba's strengths and we will all resume our hand-wringing about the slow pace of growth when boom times resume elsewhere, but it is uncanny how well this diversified, niche-oriented economy works when everywhere else it's looking broken.

Date: Feb 19, 2009

Source: The Winnipeg Free Press

Title: **🇨🇦 VIU loses lawsuit, appeal to foreign student**

Link: <http://www.canada.com/loses+lawsuit+appeal+foreign+student/1305486/story.html>

Summary: Vancouver Island University has lost an appeal of a small claims court decision that means it must now pay an international student \$7,500 plus \$700 for his court costs.

Avanish Kumar, from India, sued the former Malaspina University-College last year after he was refused entry into a prerequisite program in the summer of 2007 for the MBA course starting in October 2007 and VIU would not refund his initial \$10,000 payment. VIU appealed the small claims decision in B.C. Supreme Court.

When Kumar's student visa was delayed, he ended up arriving at VIU a week late, in July 2007, and was told he could not take the prerequisite program. Kumar was told that he could take the course in October and start the MBA program in January 2008. Kumar had expected to start the program in October 2007 and when he instead asked to be refunded the \$10,000 he paid to confirm his place in the program, that was refused.

Johnston found no error by the provincial court judge and dismissed the appeal by VIU and upheld him getting 75% of the \$10,000. He also ordered that Kumar's \$700 cost be paid to him as a lump sum by VIU.

Date: Feb 19, 2009

Source: Canada.com

Title: **AFRICA: Africa's New Crisis: a Dearth of Professors**

Link: http://chronicle.com/weekly/v55/i24/24a02701.htm?utm_source=at&utm_medium=en

Summary: Rafiki Yohana's transition from student to lecturer was difficult and abrupt. After graduating from the University of Dar es Salaam, in Tanzania, with a degree in linguistics, she was quickly hired as a teaching assistant and soon found herself standing in front of hundreds of students in introductory courses.

Ms. Yohana is part of a generation of African scholars who find themselves overwhelmed and ill equipped. Universities across the continent have expanded rapidly in the past decade to meet growing demands for higher education, but they have not invested enough in training new professors and researchers to keep pace with the growth.

A number of African universities, many in South Africa, along with a handful of foreign colleges and foundations, are pooling their resources to develop new ways to turn out more Ph.D.'s in Africa. While they have met with some success, the process is by nature long and intensive. One program estimates, for example, that it costs \$100,000 to graduate a single doctoral student.

Date: Feb 20, 2009

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Title: **CHINA: In China, Thinking Like an American Lawyer**

Link: http://chronicle.com/weekly/v55/i24/24a01802.htm?utm_source=at&utm_medium=en

Summary: In the master-of-law courses he took in a program run jointly here by Temple University and Tsinghua University, Bao Jian studied legal practices he had never faced during his six years as a prosecutor in the Chinese court system. The American way of justice did not always impress.

But Mr. Bao, whose classmates last year included fellow prosecutors, judges, and private lawyers, says he appreciated learning about rules of evidence. A new law in China makes it easier for defendants to see the evidence against them before the trial, and Mr. Bao says the training readied him to do his job. The new law is a "big challenge to prosecutors," he says, but "it's a great opportunity to improve the protection of human rights."

Temple's program with Tsinghua, now in its 10th year, is the oldest of its kind in China. It may take years to understand how a program that trains a few dozen legal professionals a year may affect the legal rights of 1.3 billion Chinese. But there is no question about the benefits that this program has produced for Temple's Beasley School of Law.

Date: Feb 20, 2009

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Title:  **Canada plans to admit more foreign students**

Link: <http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/590819>

Summary: Canada will "substantially increase" the number of foreign students it admits this year, Immigration Minister Jason Kenney announced today.

"We are not receiving enough foreign students," Kenney said at a scrum during the conference. "They have a huge advantage because of the Canadian Experience Class. Canada is looking to Asia as well as India for potential students. Universities are happy to get them, he said, because foreign students are "a source of revenue" since they pay the highest tuition fees.

Kenney also said he expects a "significant reduction" in the number of temporary foreign workers brought in to Canada because of the economy and unemployment. Ottawa imported a record number of new migrant workers, 115,470 in 2007. Despite rising jobless numbers, the restaurant industry is still clamouring for foreign workers to fill jobs, Kenney said.

Date: Feb 20, 2009

Source: The Star

Title: **INDIA: India Plans Big Budget Increase to Finance Higher-Education Expansion**

Link: http://chronicle.com/news/index.php?id=6010&utm_source=pm&utm_medium=en

Summary: The Indian government intends to increase its higher-education budget by 21 percent, to \$2.79-billion from \$2.22-billion, to help underwrite a sweeping expansion of the university system, according to an interim report presented this week in parliament.

India's University Grants Commission, the system's regulator, has been allocated \$1.32-billion, up from \$1-billion last year, a 28-percent increase. The funds are aimed at kick-starting as many new higher-education institutions as possible before national elections that are scheduled for April and May, government officials said.

India has only about 400 universities and 18,000 colleges to serve a population of 1.1 billion. Less than 12 percent of young people enter higher education. The prime minister, Manmohan Singh, has said he wants to raise the college-going rate to 21 percent by 2017.

Date: Feb 20, 2009

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Title: **M Tax credit for tuition**

Link: http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/tax_credit_for_tuition-39900092.html

Summary: If you (or someone you know) have graduated since January 2007 from a post-secondary institute recognized by CRA, you should listen up. The Manitoba government has some money for you, if you decide to stay and work in Manitoba.

The Manitoba Tuition Fee Income Tax Rebate adds an incentive for graduates to stay in Manitoba, or to move here from other provinces. A tax credit that will reduce Manitoba tax otherwise payable is available to all such grads, once they have Manitoba tax to pay. The credit is spread over a minimum of six years, and more if needed to receive the maximum.

The cash back can total up to 60 per cent of total tuition paid since Jan. 1, 2004, to get your degree, diploma or certificate. The maximum total credit is \$25,000, which assumes you paid \$41,667 or more tuition. It does not matter where in Canada you paid the tuition fees, or whether you attended full time or part time.

Date: Feb 20, 2009

Source: The Winnipeg Free Press

Title: **PAKISTAN: Pakistan Finally Pays Tuition for Its Students Abroad**

Link: http://chronicle.com/news/index.php?id=6012&utm_source=pm&utm_medium=en

Summary: To the relief of thousands of Pakistani students enrolled on government scholarships at universities abroad, the Pakistan government has released 2.819 billion Pakistan rupees, or about \$35.4-million, to pay their tuition. The government had not paid the scholarships for the last academic term.

Many Pakistanis studying abroad under the country's ambitious foreign-scholarship program found themselves in tuition trouble last November, as Pakistan's cash-strapped Higher Education Commission did not have the money to pay the foreign universities.

A senior official at the commission said then that more than 2,500 students were enrolled at universities in Australia, Austria, Britain, France, Germany, Romania, and the United States, among others. Other reports stated that as many as 6,500 students were abroad under the program.

Date: Feb 20, 2009

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Title: USA: Short Study-Abroad Trips Can Have Lasting Effect, Research Suggests

Link: http://chronicle.com/daily/2009/02/12191n.htm?utm_source=at&utm_medium=en

Summary: The length of time students study overseas has no significant impact on whether they become globally engaged later in life, according to researchers at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, a conclusion that is sure to add fuel to the already fiery debate over the efficacy of increasingly popular short-term study-abroad programs.

The Minnesota study, which surveyed nearly 6,400 graduates of 22 colleges who had studied overseas during the last five decades, sought to learn the ways in which those individuals had become globally engaged and the degree to which that engagement could be attributed to having studied abroad. The researchers defined engagement in several ways, including volunteerism and philanthropy, involvement in international and domestic political issues, and leadership in organizations that benefit the community and society.

The project was done in collaboration with the Forum on Education Abroad, a membership association of American and overseas colleges and independent education-abroad providers, and supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Date: Feb 20, 2009

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Title: USA: 'Study Abroad Changed My Life and Other Problems'

Link: <http://www.insidehighered.com/layout/set/print/news/2009/02/20/studyabroad>

Summary: Conventionally, conference sessions serve a purpose of further orienting participants into the accepted language and landscape of a shared profession. More rarely does a conference session for a professional association feature the opposite goal – to thoroughly rip apart the rhetoric and deconstruct a field's founding myth.

"Quite frankly and simply I'm going to try to deconstruct the notion we hear all over the place -- that study abroad changed my life," Michael Woolf, president of the Foundation for International Education, in London, said Thursday at the Forum on Education Abroad's fifth annual conference. (The session Woolf led was titled, appropriately, "Study Abroad Changed My Life and Other Problems.")

"We like to hear that," Woolf said. "The person who says that is usually enlightened, usually talented, will usually describe themselves as a global citizen. I'm not trying to be cynical about that individual, but the sentence to me is very problematic. ... It postulates the primacy of self, it prioritizes a first-person perspective.... it's a wholly natural thing to do but it's not one that sustains the innate seriousness of our endeavor."

Woolf challenged the sentence in context of the growing commercialization of education, and criticized the passivity the sentence implies – in which the student is "the passive recipient of the envisaged life-changing process" (a process, in this case, that's been purchased).

Date: Feb 20, 2009

Source: Inside Higher Ed