

International Education News

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Title: USA: U.S. Grad Schools: No Longer The Apple Of Their Eye?

Link: <http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2009/09/03/blogs/coopscorner/entry5286170.shtml>

Summary: Faced with the worst financial crisis in decades, colleges and universities with more limited resources are being forced to rein in their international recruiting because of smaller budgets. At the same time, the global recession contributed to a sharp dropoff in applications from students in India and South Korea, two countries that send thousands of their nationals to U.S. colleges and universities each year.

Any way you do the math, the share of the world's graduate students heading for our shores is shrinking. The U.S. now faces stepped-up competition from Europe and Asia for the world's best and brightest students.

Date: September 3, 2009

Source: CBS News

Title: INDIA: No fall in Indian students' enrolment in Australia, says Oz deputy PM

Link: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/city/chennai/TNN03-austdocNo-fall-in-Indian-students-enrolment-in/articleshow/4969526.cms>

Summary: Australian deputy prime minister and education minister Julia Gillard, who is on a five-day visit to the country to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of education, said on Thursday that the attacks on some Indian students there had not affected enrolment of Indian students in Australian educational institutions.

"We have not seen any reduction in the number of students enrolling in Australia," Gillard said. More than 100,000 Indian students were studying in Australia, she added.

She said Australia showed zero tolerance' towards racial attacks and policing had been stepped up in Melbourne and Sydney, the two cities where the incidents took place.

Date: September 4, 2009

Source: The Times of India

Title: UK: UK Visa Rules Could Cause International Student Numbers to Fall

Link: <http://www.emigrate.co.uk/news/525342.html>

Summary: New reports now show that complicated new visa rules may actually cause international student numbers to fall by almost 20 percent in the UK in just this term.

In order for students to get a visa, international students now have to show that they can afford their tuition fees 28 days before they apply. These students must also have at least an extra £600 a month, and £400 for each dependent, in living expenses. All bank accounts also have to be kept in the student's name for the first year of their studies. The students will also have to have a biometric identity card.

Date: September 4, 2009

Source: Emigrate

Title: AUSTRALIA: More private colleges put on inquiry hit list

Link: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26023837-5013871,00.html>

Summary: The Victorian government has more than doubled the number of high-risk training colleges it is auditing as it seeks to clamp down on shonky providers exploiting international students and immigration laws. All 41 targeted colleges are private providers.

Victoria's move follows the federal government's introduction last month of legislative amendments requiring all 1300 providers to re-register against proposed tighter criteria, although it will be up to the state regulators to follow through.

International student advocate and whistleblower Robert Palmer said the issue was not the legislation, but toughening up enforcement.

Date: September 4, 2009

Source: The Australian

Title: CUBA: Cuba Denies Exit Permits to Students With U.S. Scholarships

Link: http://chronicle.com/blogPost/Cuba-Denies-Exit-Permits-to/7928/?sid=pm&utm_source=pm&utm_medium=en

Summary: The Cuban government has denied exit permits to 30 Cuban college students who had been offered scholarships by the U.S. Department of State for academic programs at American colleges, and several of the students have been expelled by their home institutions.

Date: September 4, 2009

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Title: GLOBAL: Researchers in dangerous times

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090903220457364>

Summary: *Scholar Rescue in the Modern World*, by Henry G Jarecki and Daniela Zane Kaisth of the International Institute of Education and released earlier this year, examined the plight of 847 academics who applied for their programme, which gives grants for relocation to a safe institution elsewhere, as well as the cases of 140 grantees from the 2002-2007 period.

Countless examples are given of academics threatened, arrested or tortured for research on human rights, exposure of government war crimes or corruption, or writing about minority groups, religion or any other sensitive topic.

Date: September 6, 2009

Source: University World News

Title: SAUDI ARABIA: 25-year plan for higher education

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090903215333517>

Summary: To promote a knowledge-based economy and move from oil to a worldwide centre for high-technology research, Saudi Arabia has announced a research initiative called 'Aafaq' or Horizons. The 25-year plan is intended to improve higher education opportunities for women, boost scientific research and tackle the country's shortage of scientists in critical fields.

Within the last four years, 12 new universities and several colleges have been opened in different parts of the country, increasing the number of state-run universities to 20.

Saudi Arabia is planning to implement a five-year, US\$30 billion effort to upgrade its science and technology infrastructure.

Date: September 6, 2009

Source: University World News

Title: EU: A new Lisbon phoenix to take wing

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090903215037875>

Summary: Among many things the ambitious Swedish presidency of the European Union hopes to achieve in the next five months is a revival of the so-called 'Lisbon Process'.

The centrepiece of this latest revision will be an internet-based consultation throughout the EU organised by the European Commission. The results, officials hope, will allow them to make formal proposals for another Lisbon phoenix which should take wing early in 2010 under the next EU chairmanship, Spain.

Almost a decade after the high tech wake-up call was first heard from Portugal, it is unclear how these elements will be played out.

Date: September 6, 2009

Source: University World News

Title: MALAYSIA: Future hub of international education?

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090903203756838>

Summary: Malaysia will play host to an international education conference next month as part of its goal of becoming a regional hub for international higher education by 2010, with 100,000 students studying at its higher education institutions.

Although Malaysia's regional hub goals are lofty, the reality may make achieving them extremely difficult. The country's higher education system has some formidable hurdles to jump before it can even consider making serious inroads into becoming a hub of any real note.

Date: September 6, 2009

Source: University World News

Title: UAE: Study of humanities neglected in universities

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090903202508160>

Summary: Higher education institutions in the United Arab Emirates say they want to correct an "imbalance" in the types of courses students are being offered and make more humanities subjects available, write Daniel Bardsley and Hassan Hassan in *The National*.

There should be more science and liberal arts courses, officials said, as figures showed that more than 60% of programmes at universities were in business, information technology and engineering.

What UAE should be doing is ensuring the quality of education that is made available to its people by enriching programmes and facilitating access to them by its people.

Date: September 6, 2009

Source: The National (<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090901/NATIONAL/708319857/1010>) via University World News

Title: TURKMENISTAN: Reverse student travel ban

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090903202411757>

Summary: Turkmen authorities should immediately revoke a new travel ban imposed on students bound for foreign private universities, *Human Rights Watch* said last week. Turkmenistan should also end new, burdensome requirements for studying abroad that violate the rights to freedom of movement and to education, said the rights organisation.

Since late July 2009, Turkmen authorities have prevented hundreds of students from boarding planes and crossing land borders to depart for study abroad. The students were enrolled or planning to enrol at universities in Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and the United States, among other countries.

Date: September 6, 2009

Source: Common Dreams (<http://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2009/08/31-10>) via University World News

Title: SOUTH KOREA: Students stay at university for longer

Link: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090903142211363>

Summary: University students in South Korea are taking longer to finish their degree as opportunities for travel open up, reports *The Chosun Ilbo*. According to figures from the National Statistical Office, 39.3% of university students have taken a leave of absence and the average time it takes to graduate from a four-year university is 5.3 years.

Full report on *The Chosun Ilbo* site.

Date: September 6, 2009

Source: Chosun Ilbo (http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/09/01/2009090100840.html) via University World News

Title: IRAN: Iran announces plan to purge universities of Western influences

Link: http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-iran-schools7-2009sep07_0,5819128.story

Summary: The head of a government body that oversees universities announced a plan to revise humanities curricula to bring them more in line with Islamic principles. A committee has been established to "eliminate certain curricula and replace them with Islamic materials".

Last week supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that humanities courses result in "disbelief in Islamic and divine teachings" and are mostly based on "materialist philosophical concepts causing misgivings about religious principles."

Critics derided the purge as another in a 30-year series of ill-fated attempts to impose on Iranian society the puritanical values of hard-liners who dominate political life.

Date: September 7, 2009

Source: The Los Angeles Times

Title: INDIA: University of Birmingham opens first overseas office in India

Link: <http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/universitybirmingham-opens-first-overseas-office-in-india/369280/>

Summary: The University of Birmingham has opened its first overseas office in India that will focus on recruiting students besides building partnerships with Indian institutions and developing research collaborations.

From the office in New Delhi, the university plans to support its alumni, consolidate research collaboration and provide local services to those students who want to come and study at the university in the UK.

Birmingham University is also looking to develop strategic partnerships with universities in the US, Australia and China.

Date: September 7, 2009

Source: The Business Standard

Title: AUSTRALIA: 'Exploited' students want national regulator

Link: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/08/2680051.htm?section=justin>

Summary: The latest claims involve allegations that students attending classes at some small private colleges have been marked as absent, or told they can not submit assignments because they have not paid for the next semester's fees.

The students claim this practice has imperilled their visas and they live with the threat of deportation unless they pay.

The Federal Education Minister, Julia Gillard, has said the Government is not necessarily opposed to an ombudsman, and it could be considered as part of the review by of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act, which is currently underway.

Date: September 8, 2009

Source: Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Title: SINGAPORE: Singapore's obsession holds lessons for us all

Link: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/5min/story/1222427.html>

Summary: When school officials from across the world come here to learn why Singapore's students score so well on international science and math tests, it doesn't take them long to discover the secret -- a national obsession with education.

Through a process officials call "streaming," schools identify students' abilities and put them on various academic tracks that eventually lead them either to the university or to technical and vocational schools.

Ninety percent of 18-year-old students finish either junior college, polytechnic institutes that focus on engineering or nursing, or vocational schools that train hair-styling professionals, cosmetologists and assistant nurses.

Date: September 8, 2009

Source: Miami Herald

Title: ♦ **CESC Releases New Indicators in Education**

Link: <http://www.cmec.ca/Press/2009/Pages/2009-09-08.aspx>

Summary: The Canadian Education Statistics Council (CESC) released today *Education Indicators in Canada: An International Perspective, 2009*, a new report that provides indicators on educational attainment, upper-secondary graduation, tertiary graduation, the academic performance of students, labour-market outcomes, the economic benefits of education, expenditures on education, international students, and transitions to the labour market — for Canada, its provinces and territories, and for OECD countries.

The education indicators presented in the report are drawn from a set of indicators released today in OECD's *Education at a Glance*.

Date: September 8, 2009

Source: The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada

Title: ♦ **Canada Among Top OECD Nations For University Degree Attainment**

Link: <http://www.academicagroup.ca/node/8403>

Summary: According to the 2009 edition of the OECD's *Education at a Glance*, in 2007, 25% of Canadians aged 25 to 64 had received a university degree or a university certificate above a bachelor's, surpassing 23 of the 30 OECD nations. At 21%, Canada ranked fourth for its proportion of adults between the ages of 55 and 64 that held a university degree. However, the country ranked 12th, along with Japan and the UK, for its proportion of adults aged 25 to 34 holding a similar degree. In 2007, the employment rate for college or university graduates in Canada was 83%, below the OECD average of 85%.

Date: September 9, 2009

Source: OECD (http://www.oecd.org/document/48/0,3343,en_2649_37455_43626864_1_1_1_1,00.html) via Academica Group

Title: **UK: OECD: UK 'left behind' in graduate league**

Link: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/6156217/OECD-UK-left-behind-in-graduate-league.html>

Summary: Only 39% of school leavers went on to gain a degree in 2007 - placing the UK 14th out of 26 developed nations. The number of people being awarded university qualifications has barely increased since 2000 when it was joint-third in rankings compiled by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The annual OECD study – *Education at a Glance* – also shows the UK has more international students than any other country outside the United States. But it said this meant the true number of home-grown graduates was being "significantly overestimated".

Date: September 9, 2009

Source: The Telegraph

Title: **AUSTRALIA: US push by agent causes ructions**

Link: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26045714-12332,00.html>

Summary: Education agent IDP will target north Asia as part of a controversial profit-making recruitment push for US colleges. IDP's US website and newsletter reveal India will be the agent's "first source" for students, followed by north Asia, especially Korea, Taiwan and China.

The Go8's concern is what part of the giant US tertiary education market IDP will pursue under its ambitious, but secretive plan.

"If they are recruiting for leading Australian universities and also recruiting for fairly ordinary American colleges there's the potential for confusion in the market," said Alan Robson, Go8 chairman and vice-chancellor of the University of Western Australia.

Date: September 9, 2009

Source: The Australian

Title: GLOBAL: Growth and diversification in global higher education

Link: <http://www.international.ac.uk/resources/International%20Focus%20issue%2045.09.09.pdf>

Summary: Last week UNESCO released its 2009 edition of Global Education Digest, with the latest education statistics for more than 200 countries. The stats are mainly 2007 figures.

Rapid growth is reported in East Asia and the Pacific where the number of students has risen from 3.9m in 1970 to 46.7m in 2007.

The report identifies two emerging trends from increased international student mobility. First, international students are more likely to stay within their regions of origin. Second is the growing choice of study destinations. Greater choice has meant greater dispersion of students and a dilution of market shares.

Date: September 9, 2009

Source: International Focus

Title: USA: US federal funding and foreign universities

Link: <http://www.international.ac.uk/resources/International%20Focus%20issue%2045.09.09.pdf>

Summary: FFELP is one of the two federal Department of Education (DoE) student loan programs. The other is the Direct Loan program, under which the federal government offers loans directly to students. Under FFELP, private companies make heavily subsidized and federally guaranteed loans.

Foreign universities had effectively been ignored by the DoE as the level of transactions involved was considered too minute a proportion of the whole to be worth reviewing. 9/11 changed that: it prompted a knee-jerk reaction to the possibility that federal money heading offshore might be destined for something other than a wholesome purpose.

Date: September 9, 2009

Source: International Focus

Title: **M** Graduate student and "great guy" wins Canada-US Fulbright Award

Link: <http://umanitoba.ca/news/blogs/blog/2009/09/10/news-release-graduate-student-and-great-guy-wins-canada-us-fulbright-award/#more-407>

Summary: Colin Anderson, a PhD student in Environment and Geography, is the University of Manitoba's newest Fulbright scholar.

Anderson, who completed his undergraduate degree in psychology at the University of Manitoba in 2006 before moving on to his graduate studies, and who will spend the coming school year at Oregon State University conducting research in geography, was recognized with the Canada-US Fulbright Award on September 1, 2009.

Operating in over 150 countries worldwide, the Fulbright program has long been regarded as the world's premiere academic exchange.

Date: September 10, 2009

Source: The University of Manitoba News Release

Title: GLOBAL: Global? Not remotely

Link: <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=408041&c=1>

Summary: Universities in the US and the UK want to dominate, not collaborate with, other countries, argues Andy Kirkpatrick. Last month's report from Gordon Brown's UK-US study group, Higher Education and Collaboration in a Global Context, is riddled with hypocrisy and hubris.

The authors' real aim seems to be to ensure that UK-US collaboration will allow them "to continue to assert their primacy in the realm of higher education". The report is very much an "us" versus "them" document, and it often reads like a cross between a neocon manifesto and a missionary manual.

Date: September 10, 2009

Source: Times Higher Education

Title: **INDIA: Work, travel & study**

Link: <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/24210/work-travel-amp-study.html>

Summary: A large contingent of students from 38 colleges in Britain has arrived to spend three weeks in India under the aegis of the UK India Education and Research Initiative Study India Programme (SIP).

The programme is designed by King's College London in partnership with HR College, the University of Mumbai and the University of Birmingham in partnership with the University of Delhi. 100 British students will be completing the programme in Mumbai, while a further 100 will do the same in New Delhi.

While in India, the students will work alongside their Indian counterparts, participating in workshops, visiting a range of local employers.

Date: September 10, 2009 **Source:** The Deccan Herald

Title: **UK: FE: 157 Group pilot scheme takes UK diplomas to the Far East**

Link: <http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6022706>

Summary: The 157 group, the organization that represents the country's leading colleges, is piloting a scheme to deliver UK college-branded diplomas in China.

The move would mean Chinese students studying for higher diplomas validated and quality assured by the 157 colleges involved, rather than awarding bodies such as Edexcel and City & Guilds.

Initially, the diplomas will bear the name of the colleges, but could eventually be styled 157 Group Higher Diplomas.

Date: September 11, 2009 **Source:** TES Connect

Title: **AUSTRALIA: Foreign student market 'at risk'**

Link: <http://news.theage.com.au/breaking-news-national/foreign-student-market-at-risk-20090911-fk6h.html>

Summary: Australia's lucrative international student market is at risk of collapsing without a massive injection of federal funding for universities, a parliamentary committee has heard.

Overseas student numbers have boomed during the past decade and the sector now makes up Australia's third largest export sector, worth more than \$14 billion annually.

But Universities Australia, the peak body representing the university sector, says the sector is not sustainable without a boost in commonwealth funding. Dr Withers urged the government to increase federal funding per student, a recommendation from the Bradley Review.

Date: September 11, 2009 **Source:** The Age

Title: **M Manitoba universities see rise in enrolment figures**

Link: <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/manitoba-universities-see-rise-in-enrolment-figures-58914827.html>

Summary: Where have all the university students suddenly come from? Both University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg have growing enrolments, though both had hoped to have stable enrolments at best and even feared they would lose students.

U of M president David Barnard said the university is analyzing where all these students have come from. The *Brandon Sun* has reported BU's enrolment is down 5%, worse than the school's forecast of a 3% drop.

University officials emphasized all their numbers are very preliminary, and it will be several weeks before enrolment numbers are firm.

Date: September 11, 2009 **Source:** The Winnipeg Free Press