

## Abroad Perspective - The Brits at it again in India

Starting in February 2003, Indian students will have a new resource to add to their stockpile of study-in-Britain resources. The British High Commission is opening Visa Application offices in Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad to expedite the processing times for Indian students. Luciana Rodrigues, our Manager, New Delhi, says "This move highlights the growing importance of India, as a leading source for high quality international students, on the British High Commission's radar screen".

The rate of growth in applications from 2002 to 1999 is 200 per cent, which translates to about 27,000 additional students in the span of three years. The High Commission is expecting to process 63,000 applications this year.

Resource: PTI News Agency (New Delhi), January 30, 2003 •

## The Playing Field - Saudi Embassy active in INS registration

Higher-Edge interviewed Mr. Nail Al-Jubeir of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Cultural Mission in Washington D.C. (SACM) this week regarding the INS registration of its students.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) students in the U.S., who are on a government scholarship or who have been otherwise registered with the Embassy, are being made aware of the requirements to register with the INS. The SACM has been using various means to accomplish this including the provision of immigration lawyers to assist with the registration process.

The Embassy is concerned with KSA students who have completed one or more years of study in a U.S. university or college, but are denied a re-entry visa when they go home on vacation. Al-Jubeir reports that there have been several cases in which the delay in visa issuance has caused students to lose their academic year. Universities and colleges, however, have been "easygoing" by extending the deadline for which students must report back to the institution.

According to Al-Jubeir, the effects on Saudi-U.S. relations are innumerable. Saudi students who are being accepted to U.S. higher education institutions are unable to go,

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therefore attend schools in Europe, or elsewhere, instead. The Czech Republic and Hungary, for instance, have been marketing quite heavily in the KSA. On the constructive side, the difficulties have added impetus and urgency to U.S. institutions planning, or already with, campuses in the KSA. •

## Over the Counter - Namibian Home Affairs Ministry clamps down

In response to the growing concern over student fraud in Namibian institutions of higher education, the Ministry of Home Affairs has announced plans to make sweeping changes to how they screen for legitimate students.

Deputy Director of Immigration Nkrumah Mushelenga reveals that visitors who are in the country under the pretense of study actually engage in other businesses. He has threatened to penalize students who are caught trying to beat the system by terminating their study permits and deporting them back to their originating countries.

The Ministry currently processes applications from individuals, but this will soon be limited to applications filtered through the nation's tertiary schools and through overseas Namibian consulates. Outcry came from local Namibians who displayed bitterness over what they say are their rightful places lost to foreign nationals who study at the nation's universities.

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200301300160.html> •

## Globe Tipping - Booking train tickets in China

When attempting to book a ticket in one of China's railway stations, it helps to have the name of the city to which you are travelling, written in Chinese characters. This will help to avoid potential pronunciation errors and can also later help in seeking the assistance of others while looking for the correct departure lounge and the correct train.

For the less adventurous, many hotels in China feature a Reservation Office on the premises that can assist with a range of travel bookings. •