

Abroad Perspective - Destination Europe For MBA Hopefuls

Some Latin Americans are looking to Europe, instead of the United States, to earn their MBAs. The main attractions include length (one year vs. two) and cost (two-thirds the price). Leading schools such as the Wharton School of Business, are not concerned given the profiles they have in offering very high quality education. Some Latin Americans believe Europe to be more open to cultures and attitudes and consequently a learning experience in Europe appears more attractive.

With the increased security precautions taken in the US, Nicolas Scarfuro, a current MIT student, admits, "it is perhaps not the most favorable moment to go study in the United States," a sentiment echoed by other foreign students (*The New York Times*, 18 July 2003). With foreigners comprising about 70% of students in European business schools, a global experience is achieved with a European MBA. The value of an American education is still high, but with declining interest in the past few years, adjustments could be made to the marketplace.

Source: "[Allure of Europe Is Drawing Students.](#)" *The New York Times*, 18 July 2003 •

The Playing Field - US-Cuban Restrictions Eased For Universities

When Kansas University students and professors make a trip to Cuba in December, it will mark the first time since 1959 that Americans will be allowed to travel to the Communist island solely for academic purposes. As one of the 200 American institutions granted travel licenses, valid for two years, from the US Department of the Treasury, Kansas University has planned activities for the trip, that include taking part in a film festival and the investigation of research possibilities. One idea being discussed is the establishment of a month-long internship for medical students. While the trips are primarily an opportunity for academics to learn more about Cuba, there is some hope that through these exchanges, further steps towards rapprochement between the two nations may be possible. During his 2002 visit to Cuba, former President Jimmy Carter foresaw "a massive student exchange between our universities" as part of his new vision of future relations between the US and Cuba.

Source: "[KU wins U.S. approval to do research in Cuba.](#)" *The Lawrence Journal-World*, 30 July 2003 •

Over the Counter - Foreign Student Recruitment Limited in Malaysia

Malaysian authorities have instituted a "re-registration process" for private institutions of higher learning looking to recruit foreign students. When granted these licenses, colleges will have to follow a new set of guidelines, in an attempt to prevent the "rampant and blatant" abuse of student visas in the country. According to Dr. Molly Lee of Universiti Sains Malaysia who spoke to Higher-Edge, the procedure allows a tighter control over the types of students, such as those with the intention of working and not studying, who enter the country. With a growing number of international students choosing Malaysia as their place of study (a 69.4% increase from last year), the guidelines that accompany the new license include the establishment of an international office to deal with foreign student affairs.

According to the Malaysian government, Chinese nationals represent a large majority of student visa violators. The Chinese government stated that their embassy will also approve any private institution looking to recruit Chinese students. With these measures in place, it is believed that the quality of higher education in Malaysia will improve, although critics say that the government needs to take more steps to protect the interests of the international student population, by investigating the way colleges handle complaints from foreign students.

Source: "[Only 100 to get licences to recruit foreign students.](#)" *The Star*, 12 June 2003 (Registration required to view online) •

Globe Tipping - Tourist Police

When travelling in a foreign country, it is advisable to know the contact information of the local Tourist Police. Usually stationed in popular tourist spots, officers of this law enforcement branch are usually multilingual.

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