

THE PLAYING FIELD

Singapore: A New Player

Singapore is jockeying for position in the Indian student recruitment market, and with strong business and economic ties between the two nations, greater educational cooperation is sure to follow. The National University of Singapore (NUS) is one institution ahead of the curve, with Memoranda of Understanding already signed with three of the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). The University also hopes to establish an overseas IIT campus in Singapore.

Last year, Singapore announced its "Global Schoolhouse" plan to transform the country into a major player in the international education game. NUS is already successful in attracting Indian MBA hopefuls; nineteen percent of its incoming class are from India. One of the "Global Schoolhouse" goals is to enroll 150,000 foreign students in Singaporean institutions by 2012. With 50,000 foreign students in Singapore in 2003, and with students from some countries beginning to consider alternatives to the traditional destination of the United States, the city-state has the potential to reach its goal.

Source: "[NUS Plans To Woo Indian Students With Exchange Programmes,](#)" *The Financial Express*, 9 September 2004.

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Indian Marksheet Nuances

Passing or failing a course are the usual results high school students can expect, but for Indian students writing the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class X or XII exams, a third result is possible: compartment. When a marksheet states, "compartment," it indicates that the student has failed one or two subjects. Students with three or more failed subjects do not pass the Board exams and must repeat the grade. Those who receive a compartment have the option of re-writing the failed subject(s); compartmental exams occur roughly a couple months after the issuing of the initial results. For the CBSE, compartmental results are issued in mid-August, while other boards may follow different timelines.

Admissions officers should also be aware of marks awarded in the sciences. In the CBSE science exams, the theory portion is worth 75 percent and the practical 25 percent. As practical examinations are conducted by each individual school and are assessed internally, it is not unusual to find students scoring near perfect marks for this portion. The Board, on the other hand, grades the theory portion and students need to earn at least 33 percent to pass.

OVER THE COUNTER

New Zealand School Defrauded By Agent

Nineteen students who used an agent to enroll at a New Zealand school have lost their money, as the person responsible (a student herself) is believed to have left the country. What makes this situation even worse for the parties involved is that the agent was not even affiliated with the Christchurch school. The agent used the letterhead and logo of the Global Institute of Business, but falsified her position and the amount charged for the courses. The Director of the Institute told *Stuff*, a New Zealand news website, that "there could be students in China who have paid money across in expectation of coming down here ... she could still be doing it."

The country has faced and responded to a number of challenges to its international education endeavors; fake documents and bankrupt schools have led to a code of conduct for dealing with international students and agents. These latest developments will not help New Zealand's recent efforts to promote itself as a desirable study abroad destination. In June 2004, the government announced greater investment in the international education industry, promising \$40 million NZD over the next four years (as reported in [Not-So-Foreign 3.21](#)). The First Immigration Secretary for New Zealand in New Delhi recently went on an education tour, to promote immigration possibilities to Indian students.

Source: "[Agent cost foreign students their fees,](#)" *Stuff*, 20 September 2004; "[Kiwis go all out to woo Gujarati students to NZ campuses,](#)" *The Times of India*, 10 September 2004.

GLOBE TIPPING

Calling Cards

Calling cards can be an inexpensive way to keep in touch when on the road. According to a website that offers calling card tips, InternationalCallingCard.com, the number one tip to remember when buying a phone card is "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!" They advise users to be cautious of providers who offer extremely low rates to anywhere in the world. Those planning on using calling cards should also take note of the billing increments; 3 or 5 minute billing should be avoided, while per second or per minute billing is recommended.

InternationalCallingCard.com also offers a search for calling cards, however, it only searches for calling cards from one company, Nobelcom.

Source: "[Phone Cards – Tips and Hints,](#)" [InternationalCallingCard.com](#).