

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Foreign Students In Malaysia Can Work Part-Time

One of the many concerns that countries face when recruiting international students is the possibility of student visa abuse, usually taking the form of students working illegally. One country dealing with this problem is Malaysia, which recently amended its student visa regulations to allow foreign students to work on a part-time basis. The change was enacted to deal with foreign students who enrolled in private higher education institutions, with the sole intent of working in Malaysia.

According to a *New Straits Times* article, identification cards will be issued to each foreign student (Malaysia hosts around 40,000 students). This would allow the government to "check on their status as students every year, and determine their work places if they were to be employed." Students who violate the conditions of their visas will have them revoked; a similar case recently happened in the United Kingdom (which also allows part-time employment), when a foreign student was found to be working full-time.

Source: "Visa change to allow foreign student to work from next year," *New Straits Times*, 21 November 2004; "[Student loses battle for visa renewal](#)," *The Guardian*, 6 December 2004.

OVER THE COUNTER

Education Agent Workshop

One of the options available to institutions interested in expanding their international student recruitment is to work with education agents. Higher-Edge's Chief Overseas Officer Mel Broitman recently conducted a workshop in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on the various nuances universities and colleges should be aware of when dealing with agents. Representatives from various schools, universities and the Manitoba provincial government attended the workshop.

The full day workshop was presented by the International Education Branch, Government of Manitoba. The participants went through many scenarios of working with agents in an intensely competitive field. Topics discussed included the motivations of education agents, how to assess whether or not an agent is suitable for an institution, and how to establish a working relationship that is beneficial to both parties.

A Powerpoint presentation that accompanied Mel's workshop is available for *Not-So-Foreign* readers. Please contact editor@higher-edge.com to request a copy.

THE PLAYING FIELD

Canadian Online Portal For International Students

A coordinated marketing strategy can be critical in delivering information to potential international students. Australia is one notable example which conducts its marketing efforts in this manner. Through the "Live, Learn and Succeed" project (LLS), Canada hopes to brand itself as a modern and welcoming country. There are a variety of governmental and non-governmental organizations with interest in international education in Canada, and coordinating their messages into a single coherent format may prove beneficial. According to Christine McKay, of International Trade Canada, one of the goals of LLS will be for Canada to "capture a better percentage of the international student market."

A government initiative, LLS will take the form of a portal website, scheduled to be online by March 2006, which will "provide one Government of Canada face to all its programs for international students." Although a federal level project, LLS will involve individual provincial governments; McKay says they are currently being consulted. In Canada, education is the responsibility of the individual provinces (there is no federal level Department or Ministry of Education). With the LLS portal slated to appear on Canadian consulate and embassy websites, one example of provincial participation would be to have their own online presence on these websites.

GLOBE TIPPING

Alternative SIM Cards

During business-related travels, being connected via a cellphone can be very important. Using your cellphone to make local calls overseas can be financially prohibitive; roaming charges can make the shortest conversation an expensive one. One option available for travelers with GSM cellphones is to use alternative SIM cards. By installing a Nigeria-SIM card for example, you will be given a Nigerian number, and can make and receive local calls without incurring additional charges.

Readers should note that only "unlocked" GSM phones would be able to use alternative SIM cards. Contact your network provider to unlock your cellphone (there may be a fee); otherwise, unlocked cellphones can be bought from authorized dealers. Travelers should also be aware of their cellphone's frequency (as networks vary from region to region); those with tri-band frequencies will be able to access any network.

For more information and further reading, visit: http://www.maflink.org/gsm/simcard_more.htm