

OVER THE COUNTER

Examination fraud in South Africa

Matric results of students of 550 Mpumalanga schools in South Africa have been withheld following reports of exam irregularities. It has been alleged that teachers and principals in these schools helped students cheat by providing answers to exam questions. The Mpumalanga police are investigating the case.

The Education Minister has ordered a thorough probe of the examination fraud so that disciplinary action can be taken against the offenders. The results of the probe will be available by February 10, 2005. The education authorities are also closely monitoring the administration of the examination system to prevent such scams in the future.

Source: "[Pandor appoints committee to probe exams.](#)" [Business Day, South Africa, 1 February 2005](#)

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

More international students at Oxford University

Britain's Oxford University plans to use international students to help solve its financial problems, and decrease seats for British students, in order to reach its targets. Claiming it needs the cash from overseas students paying high tuitions, the university is looking to increase the number of overseas students on campus from 7 per cent to 12 per cent over the next 5 years. Overseas students are charged nearly 10 times the tuition fees British students pay at the university.

Oxford University is just the latest in a growing list of British universities deploying this strategy to boost revenues. According to a report by the British Council, international students contribute US \$ 43 billion for the UK. Middlesex University and London School of Economics are two examples of large proportions of overseas students on campus. Cambridge University is also considering admitting more international students to counter its budget deficit.

Source:

"[Oxford University is to take fewer British students.](#)" [The Telegraph, 25 January 2005](#)

THE PLAYING FIELD

U.S. varsity in Britain

University of Chicago is setting up a business school in the UK, offering a 20-month executive MBA programme for British graduates for a US \$ 94,000 tuition fee. The school is relocating to London after ten years in Barcelona. With a decrease in international students and tougher visa regulations post "9/11," U.S. universities are looking for newer ways to attract students to their campuses, whether at home or abroad.

While the University of Chicago is the first U.S. institution to have established an overseas campus in Britain, Canadian universities have been present in Britain for several years now. Memorial University of Newfoundland has a centre at Harlow in Essex. Queen's University from Kingston, Ontario, set up a European campus at Herstmonceux Castle in Sussex in 1993. Several Canadian universities have agreements with British universities in areas of student, research and faculty exchanges.

Source: "[Chicago University to open campus in Britain.](#)" [The Telegraph, 30 January 2005](#)

GLOBE TIPPING

Dubai's visa rules

Despite being one of the hottest new tourist destinations, many travellers still don't know much about visa requirements in Dubai. Canadians, Americans, most Europeans and Australians are given visas at no cost at the point of entry. The duration is usually 30 days (British passport holders get 60 days).

Business class travellers have special queues which are normally speedier. If travelling Business or First Class with Emirates Airlines, upon exiting Dubai there is a special check-in and immigration counter at the airport.

The Department of Civil Aviation in Dubai has created a website for visitors to the city. The website provides useful information on the Dubai International Airport, flights, visas and travel tips.

www.dubaiairport.com