

## THE PLAYING FIELD

### *Canadian province wants labour restrictions on foreign students eased*

With the ability to work while and after studies becoming a major factor in attracting international students, the Canadian province of Prince Edward Island (PEI) wants labour restrictions on foreign students to be eased. Currently off-campus work for international students is only permitted in the provinces of New Brunswick, Manitoba and some regions of Quebec. But with the desire of foreign students to earn while they learn, and to develop expertise in their field of study after they graduate, the provincial government of Prince Edward Island is considering a proposal for both off-campus and enhanced after degree completion employment. This move would give the University of PEI on Canada's tiny island and smallest province, a better fighting chance in the extremely competitive markets for international students.

Of course, many countries are in competition to attract overseas students by offering student-friendly immigration and labour regulations. The United Kingdom and Australia allow foreign students to work part-time while studying. Although these countries do not allow students to stay on for employment after completing their courses, students can apply for a work permit once they find a job. In some cases, temporary visas are also granted to students who want to look for a job after completing their studies. The United States (U.S.) and Canada allow overseas students to work for a year post graduation to gain experience.

[Source: "Let foreign students work off-campus," Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, March 14, 2005](#)

## ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

### *Indian tutors go global*

With tuitions outsourcing being identified as a lucrative business opportunity, Indian tutors are being used to deliver lessons over the internet to students in the United States. From coaching for competitive examinations such as the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and Graduate Record Examination (GRE), to mathematics and science lessons for secondary school students, Indian companies Career Launcher and Educomp Datamatics are offering a range of services for the U.S. education market.

According to estimates, the U.S. market for tutoring for competitive examinations is valued at around \$ 20 billion.

While the market billing rate for an education service provider (ESP) in the U.S is about \$25 an hour, an Indian company would charge around \$12 for the same services. The education services being outsourced to the Indian companies are curriculum design, content development and delivery of lessons through the internet.

## OVER THE COUNTER

### *Scramble for seats at British varsities*

Despite increased funding from the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) which allows for 21,900 more seats, British universities will not be able to guarantee admission to each and every student applying for higher studies in the 2005-06 academic year. This is due to a rise in the number of students, estimated at over 29,800, applying for university this year.

HEFCE's chief executive, Sir Howard Newby told *BBC News* that university places were becoming more competitive since "more people were getting better A-level grades, and demographic changes meant there were going to be more people aged 18 to 21 up to 2011 in England."

However, it was likely that most applicants were trying to get admission into universities before the hike in tuition fees is effected. Universities across the UK are set to charge students 3,000 pounds (US \$ 5,740) as annual tuition fees starting 2006.

[Source: "Universities fail to meet students' demand for more places," Times Online, March 10, 2005](#)

["University places 'harder to get'," BBC News, March 11, 2005](#)

## GLOBE TIPPING

### *U.S., India sign aviation treaty*

With India and the United States all set to sign the Open Sky Treaty this April, airline passengers and cargo services traveling between both countries should benefit from new routes, reciprocal airline services, and better aviation facilities as a result of the agreement. In the plans are more direct flights to the U.S. from Indian cities Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad apart from the usual Mumbai and Delhi destinations.

Robert Blake, the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of the United States in New Delhi, told reporters that New Delhi and Washington would be signing an Open Sky Treaty next month which would replace a 50-year old aviation policy between the two countries. Two million passengers are expected to be travelling between the two countries after the treaty is signed.