

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

New Zealand to fund offshore education projects in Asia

In a bid to develop and consolidate its presence in the offshore education market, New Zealand's Export Education Innovation Programme is funding four offshore education projects across Asia to be administered by Education New Zealand.

The four projects that have been selected include Auckland University of Technology's (School of Languages) collaboration with Jinan University in the People's Republic of China for the integration of Advanced English Studies, Christchurch College of Education's professional development programmes for English and bi-lingual school teachers from the People's Republic of China, Heurisko Limited's virtual programme for students at grades 8-10 in international schools across Asia, Victoria University's Foundation Studies Programme in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Source:

["Export education innovation projects funded," Scoop New Zealand, March 24, 2005](#)

[Export Education Innovation Programme 2004-2005](#)

OVER THE COUNTER

Government approval for Kenyan university colleges required

The Commission of Higher Education (CHE), Government of Kenya has made it mandatory for post secondary institutions offering university qualifications to get their programmes approved by the Government by June 30, 2005. Colleges which have not approached the government for validation by this deadline would be declared illegal by the Government. The validation process will help certification of programmes and collaboration between institutions offering university courses. Students studying at these institutions will find it easier to get their courses recognised in the country as well by international higher education institutions should they choose to study abroad. Credit transfer from one institution to another will also be facilitated by CHE's approval.

The Rules for Coordination for Post Secondary School Institutions for University Education state that it would be an offence for post secondary school institutions to collaborate in offering university diplomas without the CHE's approval.

THE PLAYING FIELD

International graduate applications to the U.S. on the decline

The United States (U.S.) could be losing its competitive edge in the higher education market due to increased competition from countries such as Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Data released by the Council of Graduate Studies (CGS) early this month revealed that graduate student traffic to the United States has been on the decline since September "9/11." The CGS reported a 5 per cent decline in graduate student applications from 2004 to 2005. According to a report published in *Reuters*, "more than 570,000 foreigners study in the United States, earning the U.S. economy about \$13 billion a year, but the numbers are in decline."

In a survey conducted by CGS using information supplied by 450 of its U.S members, 60% of responding graduate schools reported a fall in international graduate student applications. There has been a significant drop in student applications from China (-13%) and India (-9%) and students in the fields of engineering (-7%) and business (-8%).

Despite the U.S. government's attempts to streamline the student visa process by introducing changes such as extending Visa Mantis to four years and reduction in visa processing timelines, competition from countries such as Canada, Europe, Great Britain and Australia have eroded the U.S.' market share in the global education industry.

Source: [Council of Graduate Studies press release, March 9, 2005](#)
["US Loses Foreign Students to Post-9/11 Competition," Reuters, March 24, 2005](#)

GLOBE TIPPING

Getting around China

First time travelers to China should remember to carry a map with directions on how to get to important places like say the hotel, appointment locations, seminar venues etc, printed in Mandarin Chinese (also called *Putonghua*), the official spoken language of China. Soon after one clears immigration, the map should be kept handy so that it can be shown to people if required. If one is relying on public transport to get to places, this becomes a necessity as few in China can get by in English.