

THE PLAYING FIELD

U.K. degrees more expensive than U.S.

The Global Higher Education Report 2005 from the Washington and Toronto-based Education Policy Institute (EPI) reveals that though the United Kingdom (U.K.) is more expensive than the United States for students, British varsities are better in terms of recruiting students from all socio-economic backgrounds.

The U.K. is the third most expensive place to study in, among the 16 developed countries used in the study. The high cost of living and limited scholarships and grants available to students have increased the cost of studying in the U.K. New Zealand and Japan are more expensive than the U.K while Sweden is one of the countries where one can get a degree rather cheap, followed by Finland and the Netherlands.

According to the Report, "the data and rankings indicate that while continental European countries are generally more affordable than their North American and Australasian counterparts, the gap is less than is sometimes imagined. Despite very high tuition fees, the U.S. is actually on some measures more affordable than some countries with no tuition."

Source:

[Global Higher Education Rankings, Affordability and Accessibility in Comparative Perspective 2005](#)

OVER THE COUNTER

U.S. alert on fake Hawaii university in India

The United States Embassy has warned Indian university watchdog, the University Grants Commission (UGC), that the American University of Hawaii (AUH) is not accredited in the U.S. The American University of Hawaii claims to have offices, study centres and affiliates in 18 countries - India being one of them. According to the U.S. Embassy, the University was punished by a court in Hawaii for awarding degrees against state laws. The UGC has now issued a national alert to Indian students about AUH on its website, www.ugc.ac.in.

The AUH, on its website, www.auh.edu, claims to be "recognized and commanded as a world leader in the field of higher education." It adds: "The aim of the university is to bring quality American education at the most reasonable cost to any person with aptitude for higher learning."

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Pilot entrance examination for U.K. university selection

Universities in the United Kingdom plan on introducing a generic entrance examination that would help select students for university. The test has been designed by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate and the Australian Council for Educational Research and will be piloted in September this year using 1500 British students.

The test is in response to the academic community's disenchantment with the A levels and the inadequacy of the present system which relies on predicted grades. However, admissions officers at several universities feel that a new examination would be an additional burden on students.

Source:

[Universities pilot entrance exam in bid to streamline selection](#)
[The Times Online, April 14, 2005](#)

GLOBE TIPPING

Jet Airways launches new flights

India's private domestic carrier, Jet Airways, expands its presence in the international sector by launching flights to Singapore from April 15 onwards. The airline will introduce direct flights to Kuala Lumpur, New York and London from India between May and June 2005.

In the next three months, the airline plans to open one international station every month. The Chennai-Kuala Lumpur flights start from May 5, the Mumbai-London flights will kick off in May and the Mumbai-New Jersey flights will be launched by the end of June. Jet Airways is also keen on introducing flights to Vancouver and Toronto in the future.