

THE PLAYING FIELD

Britain to clamp down on student visa abuse

Britain's Home Office has unveiled a pilot project meant to tackle abuse of the student visa system. Under this project, universities have been asked to inform the Government if overseas students fail to turn up on campus after they have been granted a visa.

According to the *Education Guardian*, 17,000 non-EU students failed to take up a place at university after accepting an offer last year. Universities UK, the Association of Colleges, the Independent Higher Education Providers and English UK, which advertises British education abroad, are all working on the pilot. While the project will be run in over 40 institutions initially, the Government will eventually make the scheme compulsory for all universities.

Education Guardian reports that the Home Office believes that around 5,000 people every year use student visas to enter Britain, then fail to take up their place at university.

Source: "[Crackdown planned on student visa abuse](#)," *Education Guardian*, September 5, 2005

GLOBE TIPPING

Travel safety on Indian roads

When traveling to India, make sure you get an airport drop and pickup service from your hotel. If this is not possible, you can hire a pre-paid taxi from the counter inside the airport.

The rates for the different destinations are mentioned on the fare chart at the counter and you need to pay accordingly. Do not hire a taxi off the road unless it is an emergency. Also, try not to reveal your travel details to anyone other than airport officials.

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Tuition fees for international students in Finland

The Government of Finland is planning to introduce tuition fees for international students in the country. International students studying in Finland may be required to pay tuition fees ranging from 3,500 Euro (US \$ 4,275) to 12,000 Euro (US \$ 14,659) per academic year. A working group under the Ministry of Education has proposed the introduction of tuition fees for all non-EU and EEA students from the academic year starting 2007.

Finnish tertiary education institutions will be encouraged to increase international student recruitment once the tuition fee requirement comes into effect. Individual institutions will be allowed to decide on the level of tuition fees and on how the income generated should be used. The Ministry working group has also proposed the establishment of a scholarship scheme to assist international students.

Source: "[Term fees may be introduced for foreign students](#)," *University of Helsinki*, September 5, 2005

OVER THE COUNTER

Irish exams body cracks down on cheating

Instances of cheating during examinations has increased in Northern Ireland from 47 to 53 in the last year, according to Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA). The CCEA has indicated that students who bring mobile phones into examination halls are most likely to cheat and plagiarism from the internet for coursework and assignments is also on the rise.

According to the *BBC News* website, one A-level student and two GCSE pupils have each been disqualified in one subject. With the CCEA taking a serious stand on the problem, students caught cheating during examinations are likely to be disqualified or lose all marks in a particular examination.

Source: "[Crackdown on hi-tech exam cheats](#)," *BBC news*, August 17, 2005