

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Visa Law Will Block Foreign Students: Universities U.K.

British universities could lose out on the tuition fees of hundreds of thousands of international students if the U.K. government goes ahead with a bill on visas, British university and business leaders warned this week.

The proposed law would limit foreign applicants' rights to appeal the British government's decisions on their visas. Nearly a quarter of those whose applications initially fail succeed in winning their appeals under the current system, according to Sir Digby Jones, director-general of the CBI employers organisation, and Professor Drummond Bone, president of Universities U.K. The bill is now before the House of Lords.

The U.K. brings in roughly £ 1.25 billion in fees from foreign students each year.

Source: "[Warning that Visa Shake-up Will Cost Colleges,](#)" *Financial Times*, February 6, 2006

OVER THE COUNTER

Australia Wants Fewer IT Workers, U.S. More

In the wake of lobbying by Australia's information technology sector, the country's immigration minister is now planning to make it harder for foreign students studying IT in Australia to get work visas, with a plan for tightening the points system used in assessing foreign IT students' work visas. A study published last month found that Australia's IT industry suffered from high unemployment among recent graduates—and pointed the finger at the awarding of work visas to many international students on their graduation from Australian universities.

Meanwhile, U.S. president George Bush said he would ask Congress to approve a plan allowing more technology workers into the country.

Sources: "[Vanstone to Cut Back Skill Visas,](#)" *Australian IT*, February 7, 2006; "[Bush Urges More Visas for Tech Workers,](#)" *The Seattle Times*, February 6, 2006

THE PLAYING FIELD

New Law and Technical Schools on the Way for Pakistan

Five new federally-managed law schools and six new technical schools will be established in Pakistan over the next 10 years, the chairman of the country's Higher Education Commission announced last week.

The law schools, to be built in each of Pakistan's four provinces and in its capital, Islamabad, will feature courses in the social sciences and economics as well as law. The engineering schools will be built with help from Germany, France, Austria, the Netherlands and South Korea. Foreign countries will also control their examination system.

India and China are also moving to build more professional schools in order to educate more of their own students. Pakistan, like India, is said to be concerned by the recent spread of substandard, for-profit universities.

Source: "[Sindh to Get New Law University,](#)" *Daily Times*, February 4, 2006

GLOBE TIPPING

Who Wants to be a Crorepati?

Plan on traveling to South Asia? You should know that people in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh (and, until a few decades ago, Iran) differ from Westerners in the terms they use to describe large numbers. Instead of thousands, millions and billions—or sometimes alongside of them—expect to see lakhs and crore. A lakh is equal to 100,000, and a crore is 100 lakhs, or 10 million.