

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Canada Allows Foreign Students to Work Off-Campus

In a bid to make the country a “destination of choice” for scholars, Canada’s Citizenship and Immigration minister announced last week a new measure allowing international students to work off-campus.

Effective immediately, some 100,000 eligible full-time foreign students in Canada will be allowed to apply for off-campus job permits, Monte Solberg said. The permits will allow them to work for up to 20 hours during the school year and full-time during the four-month academic summer.

The long-awaited initiative was planned by the former Liberal government, but survived their ouster by the Conservative party in Canada’s recent winter elections.

Canadian schools and students’ groups had been warning for some time that unless the government allowed foreign students to earn Canadian currency, the country risked losing its competitiveness internationally because of rising tuition costs.

Source: “[Foreign Students Can Work Off Campus](#),” *The Globe and Mail*, April 28, 2006; the “What’s New” page on the [Canadian Citizenship and Immigration web site](#), which contains a news release, backgrounder, FAQs and an application kit

OVER THE COUNTER

U.S. Enjoys South Korean Boom

The number of South Koreans studying in the U.S. reached 86,626 last September—an 18-per-cent increase over the 73,272 recorded in December, 2004, according to statistics recently released by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. South Korea remains the number-one source of foreign students in America, followed by India (77,220) and China (59,343).

Sources: “[Koreans Top List of Foreign College Students in US](#),” *The Korea Times*, April 26, 2006 and [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement web site](#)

THE PLAYING FIELD

Russian Racists Stand in the Way of Country’s Education Exports

Earlier this year, Russian President Vladimir Putin told members of the country’s State Council on Education he wanted to see Russia’s education exports increased. More Russian schools should set up shop overseas, he said, and it should be made easier for foreign students and professors to attend Russian colleges and universities.

However, Russia faces a big hurdle in projecting a welcoming image of itself to international students, given recent, widely-publicized attacks against foreign students in the country. In one of these of these, Anjar Kishore-Kumar, an Indian medical student living in St. Petersburg, was stabbed in the throat by two skinheads shouting racist insults at him. Earlier that same month, Samba Lampsar Sall, a 28-year-old Senegalese student, was fatally shot by a man armed with a swastika-emblazoned shotgun. According to Sova, a Russian non-governmental organization, racist attacks in the country—many of them against students and other foreigners—have resulted in the deaths of seven people and injuries to 79—and some estimate the real number to be considerably higher.

Sources: “[Foreign Students Should Be Given Greater Access to Russian Education – Putin](#),” Interfax, March 24, 2006; “[Indian Student Latest Street Violence Victim](#),” *The St. Petersburg Times*, April 21, 2006; “[Swastika Vigilantes Kill Foreign Students to Keep Their City ‘Clean’](#),” *Times Online*, April 8, 2006

GLOBE TIPPING

You Speak Singlish, Is It?

If you’re planning on travelling to Singapore, you might want to brush up on your “Singlish”—a kind of pidgin English widely spoken by taxi drivers and other service people you might come across. Singlish bears the imprint of a number of other tongues, including Indian English, Baba Malay, and southern Chinese dialects. [Talking Cock](#), a Singaporean satirical web site, is laced with Singlish and even has a “Coxford Singlish Dictionary.”