

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Language Problems Driving Chinese Students to Cheat, U.K. Academics Say

Many Chinese students at British universities are so poor at English that they're cheating on exams and essays out of desperation, university officials told a U.K. newspaper recently.

According to a lecturer at one of Britain's biggest recruiters of Chinese students, the School of Combined Studies at Hertfordshire University, officials are sometimes baffled at how students from China came by their English language credentials, given their low level of skills.

"There are some who should not be here—where we do not know how they got the required scores on their English tests. Sometimes we just want to say 'go home, and save your parents' money'," Andy Gillett said.

Others say many U.K. schools have brought the alleged problem upon themselves by using "unscrupulous" strategies to recruit lucrative overseas students.

"The university is recruiting these students as cash cows and therefore accepting them with a level of linguistic competence that presents a major problem," one observer said.

Source: "[English Deficit Leads to Cheating](#)," *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, July 7, 2006

THE PLAYING FIELD

Malaysia Looking to Educate More Indonesians

Indonesia is expected to be Malaysia's biggest new source of foreign students in the next few years, Malaysia's Higher Education minister said recently. Indonesian students, Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said, will be the key factor in helping Malaysia achieve its goal of having 100,000 foreign higher-education students by 2010.

There are now 8,000 Indonesian students at Malaysian colleges and universities, Mr. Mohamed said, but that number is expected to grow as Malaysia intensifies its marketing efforts in Jakarta and other key Indonesian cities.

Source: "[Indonesia To Send Most Number Of Foreign Students To KL By 2010](#)," Bernama (Malaysian national news agency), June 30, 2006

OVER THE COUNTER

Australia to Look at Boosting Overseas Study

One of the world's big education exporters now wants to increase its imports as well. Julie Bishop, Australia's Education minister, said recently she wanted to get more Australians studying overseas, and is looking at bringing in new scholarships and exchange programs.

Australia has an education "trade imbalance" with countries such as China, Ms. Bishop said. About 80,000 Chinese students study at Australian universities, but only some 1,000 Australians study in China.

Ms. Bishop also warned that global competition for students in some fast-growing economies is likely to get tougher as these countries expand their own education systems.

"Countries that traditionally looked to the developed world for further education, such as Turkey, South Korea and Indonesia, are becoming established economic powers with the growth of affluent middle classes and a consequential growth in the education sector," she said.

Source: "[Push to Encourage Study Abroad](#)," *The Australian*, June 13, 2006

GLOBE TIPPING

Cyber-Phrasebooks

Computers may not (yet) be as portable as paperback books, but the Internet has a number of advantages over paper and ink when it comes to learning foreign phrases. A number of web sites, for example, list common useful foreign phrases for free—and some of them include audio files to help with your pronunciation.

If you don't mind the occasional pop-up ad, for example, you might want to try [TravLang](#), which includes words and phrases in some 80 languages, many of them with sound files. You have to scroll down a bit to get past the ads. Omniglot, a site for language enthusiasts, features a "[phrases](#)" page, which includes not just handy phrases but a list of links to other foreign phrase sites.

Not-So-Foreign is now on its summer schedule. It will be published July 26 and August 23, returning to its weekly schedule in September.