

OVER THE COUNTER

U.S. Dominance at Risk: A.C.E.

America's leadership as an international educator is being "significantly challenged" and "may not be sustainable if current trends continue," warns a recent report by the American Council on Education.

The report underscores America's shrinking share of the international student market compared to its closest rivals. From 1999-2000 to 2004-2005, international student enrolment grew by 17 per cent in the U.S., but by 29 percent in the U.K., 46 percent in Germany, 81 percent in France, 42 percent in Australia, and 108 percent in Japan. The relative decline of the U.S., the report says, is likely due to post-9/11 perceptions of the U.S. as unwelcoming to foreigners, plus successful strategies on the part of competing countries.

Sources: "[Foreign Students Begin to Look Away From U.S.](#)," MSNBC, sourced from Financial Times, Oct. 18, 2006 The report is available for free download on the [A.C.E. web site](#).

THE PLAYING FIELD

Non-European Foreign Enrolments Dip in U.K.

The number of overseas students at British universities and colleges, other than those from the E.U. and Ireland, is down by 2.6 per cent from last year, according to preliminary figures released this month by the British Universities and Colleges Admissions Service.

According to the report, there are 27,096 foreign non-E.U. students in the U.K. this year, compared to 27,823 last year. Among the countries sending fewer students to Britain are China (down by 8 per cent), Nigeria (33 per cent) and Malaysia (10 per cent); increased numbers of students came from Hong Kong (up by 10 per cent), Cyprus (17 per cent) and India (15 per cent). Bucking the British trend was Scotland, which saw the number of foreign non-E.U. enrollments rise by 21 per cent. Overall student enrolments fell by 3.7 per cent; the decline has been blamed on an increase in fees.

Sources: "[Number of New Students Falls](#)," *Guardian*, October 18, 2006 The report can be found on the [U.C.A.S. web site](#).

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Hyderabad a Source of Promising Students—and Fake Papers

One of India's biggest markets in the competition for international students is also its main source of falsified visa documents, at least for the U.S. Embassy. More false documents are submitted in U.S. visa applications from Hyderabad than from any other city in India, Peter Kaestner, an official with the U.S. Embassy in India, said recently. However, the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, of which Hyderabad is the capital, was also the source of 20 per cent of all the temporary U.S. visas issued in India last year, the official said.

The problem is not confined to visa papers but applies also to university entrance documents, says Asha Shankar, a counsellor working for Higher-Edge in Hyderabad.

"Students wanting to get into top universities in the U.S. resort to fake documents, and since most U.S. universities find it difficult to verify the documents, students have been getting away with it," Ms. Shankar says. "As a result this has flourished as a business for people making the fake documents."

Higher-Edge staff, she adds, are well trained to identify fake academic documents. University officials can also try to check the veracity of submitted documents by contacting the appropriate officials at universities in India, she says, but this can be a lengthy process.

Source: "Most False Visa Papers From City," *Deccan Chronicle*, Oct. 19, 2006 (unavailable on the web)

GLOBE TIPPING

Boeing Cuts Connexion Service

A high-speed Internet service which has been offered by some airlines using Boeing jets is about to be discontinued. The company announced recently it would begin phasing out its Connexion by Boeing service. The phase-out, Boeing said, will occur at different times in different airlines, and should be complete by the end of the year.

The global market for Connexion, Boeing said, has not developed as the company had hoped.

More information on the phase-out, with answers to frequently asked questions, can be found on the [Connexion by Boeing web site](#).