

OVER THE COUNTER

Jordan Plans Future as Regional Educator

Jordan, an oil-poor Arab state, is planning to boost its revenues by serving as a higher education hub.

Last April, Jordan announced plans to raise the number of foreign students in the country to 100,000 by 2020. Since then, the country has begun expanding and improving the offerings in science, technology and scientific research at its 10 public and 13 private universities.

Jordan's total student enrolment is now about 192,000, so the government's goal is not modest. However, the country is already a popular destination for students from other Arab countries. The reasons include low tuition, an atmosphere of political openness on campuses, and a more Western-style approach to teaching than is found in some Arab countries.

Source: "[Jordan's Ambitious Plan](#)," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Oct. 6, 2006 (available to paying subscribers)

THE PLAYING FIELD

Tighter Visa Rules Planned for Germany

One of the world's leading international student host countries is set to introduce tougher new student visa rules. The German government is planning changes to its immigration laws in order to check visa applications from foreign students more carefully. Students, their sponsors and their guarantors will all be reviewed more thoroughly after the new laws are in place. As well, student resident permits will expire after a year rather than two years, and foreign students will have to report more regularly to government offices.

The plans follow a botched train bombing in western Germany involving two foreign students last July. The students' guarantors had included two men with criminal pasts. The new visa bill is expected to be presented before the German parliament this fall.

Sources: "[Germany to be Tougher on Foreign Students](#)," UPI, Oct. 23, 2006 "[Visa Regulations Tightened in Germany](#)," WorkPermit.com, Oct. 30, 2006

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

U.S. Enjoys 12-Per-Cent Jump in New Foreign Grad Students

The number of new foreign graduate students in the U.S. in 2006 was up by 12 per cent over 2005, according to a report released recently by the U.S. Council of Graduate Schools (C.G.S.). The jump in new enrolments was enough to edge the total number of foreign graduate students in the U.S. up by one per cent—ending three years in a row of declines.

Chiefly responsible for the increase were a 32 per cent jump in new students from India and a 20 per cent climb in new students from China, C.G.S. said. The increases reflect changes to post-9/11 visa restrictions and stepped-up marketing efforts by American universities, the report's author said.

The findings are based on responses from only 177 participating U.S. colleges and universities. But these 177 include 80 per cent of the 25 institutions in the U.S. with the largest international student enrolments, C.G.S. said, so the findings can be taken to be representative of U.S. graduate schools as a whole.

In September, C.G.S. reported new enrolments in 2004 had climbed by four per cent over 2005, with total enrolments edging down by one per cent.

Source: "[U.S. Graduate Schools Reverse Trend as Foreign Enrollments Rise](#)," *International Herald Tribune*, sourced from Bloomberg News, Nov. 1, 2006 The report can be downloaded for free from the [CGS web site](#)

GLOBE TIPPING

Getting Cash in Brazil

As in many Latin American countries, it's important to be careful with your cash in Brazil. Avoid handling or otherwise displaying your wallet or your money in public places—especially since you may be more conspicuously foreign-looking than you realize. Be very careful when keying in your PIN at ATMs. And note, as well, that many ATMs are closed in Brazil after dark to prevent muggings or other assaults—so get your cash while it's light outside.

A final note on cash in Brazil: unlike some Latin American countries, Brazil is not dollarized, so you should be prepared to pay in the Brazilian currency, the *real*.