

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

China to Fund U.S. Studies of 5,000 Chinese Students Per Year

Starting next year, the Chinese government will be funding the U.S. studies of 5,000 Chinese students every year—provided they sign an agreement promising to return after graduation.

The Government-Sponsored Overseas Students Five-Year Program, delivered by the China Scholarship Council, will grant 12,000 yuan (\$15,000 U.S.) per year to students accepted under the program, to cover their living expenses overseas and one return trip. To qualify, students must receive admission letters from American colleges with the tuition waived. Eligibility also depends on other factors, including the students' majors and their chosen college.

The program appears geared at least partly to Chinese PhD candidates. Winners will be selected from three groups: students sent overseas by the state under existing programs; those headed to the U.S. under cooperation programs between Chinese and U.S. universities; and students applying to U.S. colleges on their own.

Source: "[Overseas Students to Get Subsidies on Return Commitment](#)," Rednet.cn, Dec. 26, 2006

OVER THE COUNTER

New Incentive for Foreign Students in France

A program recently introduced by the French government allows foreign students to stay in France for six months after completing their studies in order to find a suitable job. The program was begun last year, and is intended to draw to France bright foreign students in science and technology, an official with EduFrance said recently. France, the official said, wants more Indian students, and is planning a series of education fairs in India in February, as well as meetings between Indian and French universities.

EduFrance is an organization for attracting foreign students to France; its members are drawn from French educational institutions and government departments.

Source: "[French Offer for Foreign Students](#)," *The Hindu*, Dec. 19, 2006

THE PLAYING FIELD

NAFSA Presents Plan to New Congress

The principal voice for international education in the U.S. is calling for Congress to take a three-pronged approach to boosting the movement of students between the U.S. and the rest of the world.

NAFSA: Association of International Educators issued last month its "Bipartisan Legislative Agenda for the 110th Congress," a proposal calling for, first, a set of new laws for enhancing U.S. competitiveness as a host country for foreign students; second, implementation of the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program, for encouraging U.S. students to study overseas; and, third, reforms to the country's immigration system to make it easier for talented foreigners not just to study in the U.S., but to work there as well.

Specific recommendations of the Agenda include a requirement that the president submit to Congress a strategy for improving U.S. competitiveness as an international educator, and the creation of an International Education Council, chaired by the White House.

Sources: "[NAFSA Proposes Bipartisan Legislative Agenda on International Education](#)," *Diverse*, Dec. 21, 2006; a three-page summary of the agenda is available on the [NAFSA web site](#).

GLOBE TIPPING

Going Vegetarian in India

Despite India's rapid development of late, some things taken for granted in Western countries—consistently working phone lines, for example—cannot always be counted upon, and amenities considered "extras" here may not be available at all.

An exception, however, is vegetarian menus. Unlike in the West, where vegetarian items tend to be more prevalent in trend-conscious eateries, vegetarian food can be found in all walks of life in India. The practice is common among Hindus, and is also favored by many Buddhists and Jains. It has had much more time to get established in India than in the West, of course, and often vegetarian meals (which in India contain no dairy products) are easier to find there than those with meat.