

## THE PLAYING FIELD

### *Russian govt. approves bill on two-tier university education*

The Russian government has approved a draft legislation that will replace the five-year cycle at universities in favour of western-style undergraduate and graduate degrees. Under the new system, effective from September this year, universities will award bachelor's degrees after three or four years of study, and master's degrees after an additional one or two years.

The move is part of Russia's efforts to create a unified higher education area in Europe by 2010 as a member nation of the Bologna Process.

Source: ["Russian govt. approves bill on two-tier university education," Mar. 9, 2007, RIA Novosti](#)

## OVER THE COUNTER

### *Law to repair reputation of Canadian private colleges*

Ontario is pinning its hopes on a new law to help repair the reputation of its private career colleges. China's recent warnings about education scams perpetrated by some of Canada's private colleges has roused the Ontario government into damage control mode. Under the new law, students will be granted a refund or further training if a school closes suddenly. The law will also limit private career colleges to collecting no more than 25 per cent of fees up front and require them to hold visa students' fees in a trust account until they begin studies.

The December 2006 warning on a Chinese government website about unscrupulous operators and substandard programs at some of Canada's private colleges was last reported by Higher-Edge in our [January 31, 2007 issue](#).

Source: ["Reputation of Canada's private colleges takes a hit," Feb. 15, 2007, The Star](#)

## ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

### *Foreign students in UK on the rise*

British universities continue to attract foreign students despite fee hikes and restrictions on entry. According to figures released by UK's Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), in 2005-2006 the total number of students enrolled in higher education in the UK was around 2.3 million, and more than 330,000 of these were international students.

The annual increase of 3.7 per cent has been driven by a 15 per cent hike in students from India. Despite a fall of almost 4%, China remains the country with the single-largest number of students. There has also been an increased inflow of students from Germany, France and Nigeria.

Source: ["Overseas students 'one in seven,'" Mar. 27, 2007, BBC News](#)

## GLOBE TIPPING

### *A taste of India*

Those of you who have never sampled Indian food before - it is not all hot, spicy and oily. I would like to share, as the Delhi-based editor of this publication, that there are plenty of spices that are used to flavour Indian cooking such as garlic, mustard seed, cumin, ginger, saffron to name just a few. The country's varied cuisines have been influenced by its diverse people and religions. For example, while beef is taboo for its Hindu population, Muslims do not eat pork and Jains stay away from meat, garlic and onions. Different regions also have their own cuisines. For example, in Southern India, there is greater use of chillies, black pepper, rice and coconuts. Northern Indians eat more bread with their meals and tend to use more dairy products in their cooking like milk, yogurt and paneer (cottage cheese). People in western and eastern India love fish and seafood