

THE PLAYING FIELD

UK offers foreign students work permits

The UK Government has announced a new scheme that will allow international students to stay back and work for an extra year after graduation. If Scotland's Fresh Talent Initiative was aimed at increasing the country's dwindling population, UK's International Graduates Scheme is a move to position the country as a top study abroad destination. The Scheme replaces one that had previously only been open to science and engineering graduates in the UK. From May this year, students who complete a bachelor degree or a postgraduate qualification in any subject can apply to extend their visas.

Having faced much criticism for increasing foreign student visa fees from £85 (\$ 168 U.S.) to £99 (\$ 196 U.S.), the Government may appease UK's higher education sector with this move. Universities UK (UUK), a higher education action group, has been quoted by *The Guardian* as saying "UUK has been calling for some time for a more co-ordinated and consistent approach to international student employment opportunities in the UK post graduation."

Source: "[Foreign students to get graduate work permits.](#)" *Guardian*, Apr. 2, 2007

OVER THE COUNTER

TV show offers university places

Five British universities are using a new tool to market themselves in India - reality television. The Universities of Leeds, Sheffield, Warwick, Cardiff and Middlesex will give away scholarships worth up to £80,000 (\$ 158,257 U.S.) to Indian students in a TV reality show titled *Scholar Hunt*.

Given India's fascination with reality TV, the programme has the potential to be an excellent branding exercise for UK higher education. Ruchika Castelino, Head Education Promotion-India, British Council told Higher-Edge, "This show will help British universities position themselves in the Indian market."

Thousands of student contestants will be screened according to the universities' admission guidelines before they can take part in the show. The show will be broadcast twice weekly from July and runs to November, and will follow the

winners to their universities in September. The programme will be shown on BSkyB as well as across the Indian subcontinent.

Source: "[TV show offers university places.](#)" *BBC News*, 5 Apr, 2007

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

ETS scraps new GRE

The Educational Testing Service (ETS) has cancelled plans to launch the revamped Graduate Record Examination (GRE) in September this year. The new test was to be based on a more secure Internet-based system compared to the current computer-based version. Also, the new version would be offered around 30 times per year.

Registrations in India and China had been closed in anticipation of the new test in March. Following ETS' plans to cancel the launch of the revised GRE, registrations in India and China have been reopened. The GRE is taken by between 550,000 and 600,000 applicants to graduate programs annually.

Source: "[Testing service cancels plans for new GRE exam.](#)" *CNN*, Apr. 4, 2007

GLOBE TIPPING

World Electric Guide

Have you ever wondered what power adaptors to take on your next trip? Some countries can pose real challenges with a hodge-podge of different electrical outlets. The World Electric Guide is a useful website detailing electrical systems in use across the world. Just click on the country icon, and you will find details of voltage, plug adaptors required in that region. Take a look at www.kropla.com/electric2.htm to get started.