

THE PLAYING FIELD

Top business schools teach in English

English is on its way to becoming the preferred language of instruction at leading business schools and universities across the globe. In the last three years, the number of master's programs offered in English in schools with another host language has more than doubled to 3,300 programs in 1,700 universities. While business schools are driving the trend, undergraduate universities are fast catching on.

France's Essec Business School, whose population of foreign students has leaped by 38 percent in four years, to 909 today out of a student body of 3,700, is now offering 25 percent of its 200 courses in English. Its ambition is to accelerate the English offerings to 50 percent in the next three years. Some South Korean universities are offering up to 35 percent of their courses in English ([see Issue dated February 28, 2007](#)).

While institutions are motivated by the need to increase revenues by attracting international students, the switchover to English is also a consequence of globalisation. Santiago Iñiguez, Dean of Spain's Instituto de Empresa explains, "English is being adapted as a working language, but it's not Oxford English. It's a language that most stakeholders speak."

Source: ["In many business schools, the bottom line is in English," International Herald Tribune, May 14, 2007](#)

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Number of Indian students in Scotland up by 45%

There has been a 45 per cent increase in the number of Indian students studying in Scotland. Currently, there are 3,820 Indian students in Scotland and this positive trend is expected to continue. According to experts, the government's Fresh Talent initiative, which encourages foreign students to work in Scotland for two years after graduation, is a key factor in the huge rise between 2004-5 and 2005-6.

More than 51,000 students at Scottish institutions are from overseas - an increase of 2,995 over the same period - and 71 per cent of these are from non-European countries. The largest numbers are from China, with student numbers

rising by 300 to 5,170, accounting for 10 per cent of all overseas students.

Source: ["Number of Indian students in Scotland surges by 45%," Scotsman, May 17, 2007](#)

OVER THE COUNTER

Nigeria's new private varsities under Govt. scrutiny

Nigeria's newly-licensed private universities have been warned that their licenses would be confiscated if they do not operate within specified limits. Eight new private universities have been issued varsity licenses after being approved by the Federal Government.

The government will be keeping a close watch on the activities of the new universities and any institution that offers its premises for satellite campus programmes of other universities would be shut down. With a shortage of seats at existing institutions, the government has begun licensing new universities to increase access to university education in Nigeria.

Source: ["Nigeria: FG Threatens to Withdraw Varsity Licences," This Day, May 18, 2007](#)

GLOBE TIPPING

Travelling with GSM phones

When travelling overseas with your GSM phone, replace your SIM card with a local one to avoid high roaming charges. Another benefit when using overseas SIM cards is that incoming calls are usually free, depending on which country you are travelling to. Overseas SIM cards can be purchased before you leave, from companies like Cellular Abroad (www.cellularabroad.com) and Telestial (www.telestial.com). These two sites have all the information about prepaid SIM cards in different countries. Just select the name of the country from the list to get started. You can also buy SIM cards from cell phone shops in foreign countries.