

THE PLAYING FIELD

New Zealand to spend \$10m on education exports

The New Zealand government will spend \$ 10 million (\$ 7.1 million U.S.) over the next four years as part of an ambitious strategy to boost education exports. More than 93,000 international students from 150 countries are studying in New Zealand, earning the country revenues of nearly \$2 billion (\$ 1.4 billion U.S.) a year.

According to Tertiary Education Minister Michael Cullen, the funds would be used to “enhance the international recognition and value of New Zealand qualifications for study and employment purposes; to develop and implement the New Zealand Education brand strategy for the sector in 2007/08 and 2008/09, and provide an ongoing increase in the budget for generic education promotions activities. A portion of the fund would also be used to fund an education counselor in the Gulf states. This counselor would join a network of education counselors based in Washington DC, Brussels, Kuala Lumpur, Beijing, Santiago and Delhi.

Source: [“Boost of \\$10m to encourage overseas students.”](#)
[The New Zealand Herald, Aug. 10, 2007](#)

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Indian engineering degrees accredited in the U.S.

With India’s induction into the Washington Accord, Indian engineering degrees will now be accredited in the United States and recognised globally. The Washington Accord is an international agreement between registering organizations of member countries accrediting academic engineering programs, at the university level.

India’s National Board of Accreditation (NBA) of the All India Council for Technical Education has been elected a provisional member. The NBA is responsible for accreditation of technical education programs and all programs on technical education, including those offered by university departments.

Source: [“Indian engineering degrees now accredited in the US,”](#) July 5, 2007, Rediff

OVER THE COUNTER

U.K. crackdown on fake schools

With an increase in the number of fake schools allegedly operating as fronts for people to enter and work in the U.K. illegally, the Government has swung into damage-control mode. From 2009, private colleges outside the public review system need to obtain formal accreditation. These institutes will also be expected to report students failing to attend classes.

According to Higher Education Minister Bill Rammell: “These improvements will mean we are better equipped to protect the U.K. against those individuals and colleges who want to misuse the student route of entry to this country.”

Source: [“Fake schools targeted by visa law.”](#)
[BBC News, July 24, 2007](#)

GLOBE TIPPING

Credit card safety

If you are planning on using your credit card during the next overseas trip, it might be a good idea to let your bank or credit card company know about your travel plans in advance. For instance, if you are travelling to countries where the incidence of credit card fraud is high, your bank may de-activate your card if it finds a change in spending patterns and has not been informed about your travel plans. The other option is to carry another credit or debit card as backup. This is very useful in case the magnetic strip in your first card does not work, or the card gets swallowed up by the ATM machine.

Higher-Edge thanks Peggy Watts, Director, Distance Learning and Continuing Education, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Canada for this article suggestion.