

THE PLAYING FIELD

Corruption 'damaging education'

An UNESCO report has highlighted how bribery and corruption has weakened organisations in the global higher education space. Across schools, colleges, universities and even governments, rigging and academic fraud are becoming more common.

Ironically, the problem is not restricted to third world countries alone. Corruption is a malaise that afflicts countries such as United States, where fake degrees are more common than in developing countries. The report also provides instances of countries such as Uganda and Azerbaijan where corruption and fraud have been curbed by regulatory processes.

The director-general of UNESCO, Koichiro Matsuura, said the report was a call to action. "Such widespread corruption not only costs societies billions of dollars, it also seriously undermines the vital effort to provide education for all."

Source: "[Corruption 'damaging education'](#),"
[BBC News, June 7, 2007](#)

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Netherlands reports rise in foreign students

The Netherlands is becoming a popular education destination for international students. According to the *Volkscrant*, 6,315 international students enrolled in Dutch universities and colleges this summer, an increase of around 1,000 from last year. The number of foreign students registering in the Netherlands was about 4,000 annually in the preceding years.

According to the Immigration and Naturalisation Service, a simplified visa application process has helped increase the inflow of international students.

Source: "[More Foreign Students Choose NL](#),"
[Volkscrant, August 30, 2007](#)

OVER THE COUNTER

Australian university cleared of misconduct

Australia's Central Queensland University (CQU) has been cleared of charges of misconduct by a government review panel. The university was accused of defrauding international students when some foreign students complained that they were being intentionally failed by the CQU as a "revenue-raising exercise." ([see issue dated May 30, 2007](#))

The university, however, has been ordered to remove any online marketing collateral that could mislead potential students about its Melbourne campus. On the basis of students' complaints, the panel has also instructed the institute to review its postgraduate business curriculum.

Source: "[University cleared of misconduct](#),"
[The Australian, August 24, 2007](#)

GLOBE TIPPING

In search of vegetarian food

For those looking for vegetarian eating options while travelling abroad, the [Happy Cow's Global Guide to Vegetarian Restaurants and Shops](#) is a searchable online dining guide to vegetarian restaurants and natural health food stores. The guide lists vegetarian and vegan eating places in countries such as India where most vegetarian recipes use dairy in the form of ghee, curd and milk.