

## THE PLAYING FIELD

### *High university fees 'damage economy'*

A study by Britain's Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) has highlighted the damaging effects of high tuition fees charged by U.K. universities to overseas students. According to the HEPI's research, overseas students bring economic benefits to the tune of £18,000 a year (\$ 36,594 U.S.). Hence, a lower fee for overseas students - or one subsidised by the British taxpayer - would encourage more students to come to Britain, providing a significant boost to the economy.

At a time when British and Scottish universities are aggressively wooing the international student market, the report warns that a change in strategy is required to keep the student numbers on the increase. "As other countries begin to use English as the language of instruction and as better information becomes available that enables students to compare the value they receive for their money, then it is quite possible that U.K. universities will begin to struggle to maintain numbers while charging the sort of prices that are charged at present."

Source: "[High university fees 'damage economy'.](#)"  
[The Herald, September 11, 2007](#)

## OVER THE COUNTER

### *Plagiarising = Permanent Residency*

The race to claim an Australian passport has been a major factor in driving up the numbers of foreign students in the country, and now it's also motivating students to cheat. Completion of the Master of Information Technology (MIT) course at the University of New England (UNE), in northern New South Wales, virtually guarantees students permanent residency in Australia. A large number of overseas students at UNE are being investigated for plagiarism. Students of the MIT honours course are reported to have lifted material from the Internet for their thesis between 2004 and 2006.

Source: "[Uni 'cheats' may be deported.](#)"  
[ABC News, August 22, 2007](#)

## ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

### *New Zealand losing ground*

New Zealand is facing stiff competition in the international student recruitment arena. Schools and tertiary educational institutions in the country have registered a drop of 14.6 per cent in foreign students. The number of international students at schools has decreased by about 37 per cent over five years.

*The New Zealand Herald* reports Education New Zealand chief executive Robert Stevens saying that the competition for overseas students had risen dramatically in the past three years. "We had a big bubble starting in 2002 and 2003, simply because New Zealand was the first to open up or relax immigration policies," said Mr Stevens. "Now we've got a very intense competition with Australia and just about every other country [for students] in China."

Source: "[Schools losing foreign students in face of rivalry from abroad.](#)" [The New Zealand Herald, September 4, 2007](#)

## GLOBE TIPPING

### *Business Travel Website*

MSNBC's [Business Travel website](#) offers a host of business travel tips and advice. From finding the best airfare to getting an upgrade or the best seat on a plane, staying at foreign hotels to being safe while travelling abroad, this online collection of tips and articles is an useful resource while planning that next trip.