

## THE PLAYING FIELD

### *Foreign students 'prop up' British universities*

A new report from *Universities UK* (UUK) has revealed that more than a fifth of students studying *strategic subjects* are from overseas. The Government has identified science and engineering as subjects of strategic importance to the British economy.

The numbers of foreign students studying strategic subjects are also high at postgraduate level. Foreign students account for nearly 71 per cent of taught postgraduate enrolments and 48 per cent on research programmes in some key subjects. With relatively fewer local students graduating with these subjects, the pool of potential faculty is smaller and the universities are recruiting foreign academics and researchers to fill posts.

According to *Times Online*, Geoffrey Crossick, of UUK - the umbrella group of university vice-chancellors said "The concern is that should these people return home, the flow of researchers will dry up and that will cause problems for the UK economy. The important thing for UK universities now is not to have fewer researchers from abroad, but to build up more from the UK."

Source: "[Foreign students 'prop up' universities.](#)"  
[Times Online, September 13, 2007](#)

## OVER THE COUNTER

### *China checkmates foreign students*

China has issued a regulation that will reduce the number of Chinese universities which can enroll foreign students and teach medicine in English to 30. The regulation, issued on July 25, 2007, comes as a shock to many Indian students hoping to study medicine in China.

In recent years, China has become an attractive education destination for students from countries such as India because courses and living costs are cheaper compared to those in the West. Over 3,200 Indian students have chosen to study in China recently, with the numbers rising in the past two years. Of these students, 85 per cent are studying medicine.

Source: "[China checkmates foreign students.](#)"  
[Hindustan Times, August 31, 2007](#)

## ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

### *Rising German University Costs Driving Foreign Students Away*

Rising costs are challenging Germany's entrance as a formidable new competitor in the international education arena. Once a big selling feature, times and price tags are changing.

First, high tuition fees have been recently introduced by some federal states. Then, there are additional costs for language courses, placement tests and applications. Scholarships are few and foreign students are not eligible for federal grants.

According to consultants at the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), higher fees are not the main reason for the student decline. They see it as a natural slow down after an earlier boom in the numbers of new foreign students.

Source: "[Rising University Costs Driving Foreign Students Away.](#)" [DW-World, September 15, 2007](#)

## GLOBE TIPPING

### *Seat Guru*

The information at [www.seatguru.com](http://www.seatguru.com) can save you from the next uncomfortable long-haul flight. The website lists most of the world's prominent airlines and has graphics illustrating the seating at each airplane. Travellers can see which seats to ask for at check-in and what to avoid. It will also tell you what facilities are available on board each plane and what to expect in terms of food, entertainment and service.