

THE PLAYING FIELD

U.K. degree not worth the money

Nearly 30 per cent of Britain's foreign students believe that a British degree is not worth the money spent on acquiring it. This was revealed by the Higher Education Policy Institute's (HEPI) report on student academic experience released last month. Across Britain, 330,080 foreign students were on degree courses last year. Almost all - apart from those from the European Union or on scholarships - were paying the full cost of up to £12,000 (\$ 24,465 U.S.) a year in fees, raising more than £1.5 bn (\$ 3 bn U.S.) for universities.

According to Bahram Bekhradnia, director of the institute, "Competition from other countries is increasing and information on what students get for their money is increasing. So our unique selling points are being eroded, and our status in the international market is under threat. Although the number of international students has increased overall in the U.K., our share of the market has fallen from 16 per cent in 1998 to 11 per cent in 2004, with Chinese students in particular heading to the U.S. instead."

Source: ["Costs deter foreign students."](#)
[The Guardian, September 16, 2007](#)

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Australia: Growth in Foreign Student Enrolments Slows Down

While Australia continues to be a popular education destination for foreign students, latest figures indicate that growth in foreign enrolments has slowed down from 18 per cent growth per year in 2002 to 9 per cent in 2004, to currently at just 4.7 per cent.

More than a quarter of total Australian university enrolments are now constituted by international students. Almost half of the foreign students on campus were studying postgraduate courses.

Source: ["Uni enrolments to reach record levels."](#)
[The Age, October 4, 2007](#)

OVER THE COUNTER

More Scholarships for Foreign Students in Russia

After receiving bad press regarding unsafe living conditions for foreign students, Russia is pushing for an image makeover. The Government plans on increasing the number of scholarships awarded to foreign students in the country. At present, the Russian government allocates funds for more than 7,000 scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Russia each year.

Besides providing financial aid, Russian authorities are also making an effort to solve issues related to improving foreign students' living conditions, including assistance with their employment during the course of studies.

At present, there are over 200,000 foreign students in Russia representing 160 countries. Approximately 80 percent of them come from the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Source: ["Russia to Provide More Scholarships to Foreigners."](#) [Moscow News, October 4, 2007](#)

GLOBE TIPPING

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