

THE PLAYING FIELD

Internationalizing Canadian campuses

Internationalization is the new buzzword on Canadian campuses. More and more universities and colleges are in the process of "internationalizing" their campuses by increasing foreign student intake, faculty members teaching overseas, study abroad programs, international partnerships and curriculum changes. While this trend is being viewed as a positive signal, educators feel there is more to be achieved.

According to an internationalization survey conducted in 2006 by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), there has been steady progress on the overall rates of student mobility, including modest growth in the number of Canadian students undertaking short-term study abroad for credit, as well as significant growth in international student recruitment to Canadian universities. According to AUCC statistics, the number of visa students on Canadian campuses has grown rapidly to approximately 70,000 full-time and 13,000 part-time visa students in 2006.

However, financial considerations are a major hurdle for the success of this trend. Universities attribute student financial constraints for the lack of student participation in study abroad programs and the institutions' own financial limitations on their inability to more extensively increase the Canadian share of the global market of international students.

OVER THE COUNTER

80 per cent Chinese university students want to study abroad, says study

An online survey conducted by the *China Youth Daily* has revealed that more than 80 per cent of university students in China want to study abroad. The study, which involved around 2,400 university students, has revealed that 42 per cent believe that an overseas qualification will help improve career prospects. Nearly 66 per cent students were of the opinion that candidates with a foreign degree had an edge over locally educated ones when it came to job searches. Popular foreign education destinations were the United States, Britain, France, Australia and Canada. According to statistics from the Ministry of Education, in 2006 more than 130,000 Chinese went abroad for further study.

Source: [Survey: "More than 80% Chinese university students want to study abroad," Xinhua, December 7, 2007](#)

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

British academics urge caution over Chinese collaboration

Academics have cautioned British universities about collaborating with institutions in China in a new report. In the report from the higher education think tank Agora entitled "*British universities in China: The reality beyond the rhetoric*," six key British academics outline their personal experience of higher education partnerships in China and other countries.

According to the former head of Nottingham University's Chinese campus Prof Ian Gow, "When it comes to higher education, China may be more of a threat than an opportunity. British institutions must stop viewing this aggressively ambitious country through rose-tinted spectacles. Make no mistake, China wants to be the leading power in higher education, and it will extract what it can from the UK."

Dr David Pilsbury, chief executive of the Worldwide Universities Network said, "There is a lot of excitement about overseas campuses, but I do not think people should underestimate how difficult it is to make these ventures a success."

Source: ["Academics urge caution over Chinese collaboration," Education Guardian, December 6, 2007](#)

GLOBE TIPPING

The 12 tips of Christmas

For those of you who are travelling this Christmas, [MSNBC's The 12 tips of Christmas travel](#), a collection of travel tips, is a must read. The article will surely help your journey be as safe and smooth as possible. From lost luggage to packing problems, there is a tip available, with a host of online guidebooks and web resources too.

Note: Not-So-Foreign is taking a break for the holidays. Our next issue is slated to come out January 9, 2008. Happy Holidays from all of us at Higher-Edge!