

## THE PLAYING FIELD

### *Degrees - what are we paying for, U.K. students ask*

According to a report by student focus groups in the United Kingdom, students want clear information about what they are paying for when they go to university and want reassurance that their degree will make them employable. Overseas students, in particular, are concerned about career prospects after completing an education abroad. The report indicates that international students would like a "systematically-embedded path into immediate postgraduate careers," applying for visas made simpler and more "respectful and empathetic" lecturers.

With the introduction of tuition fees in the U.K., students are seen as "customers" of higher education who expect "value for money". They want good teaching, resources, and more information and guidance on how to handle their finances.

The findings from the report will feed into the new national student forum (NSF) which is supposed to hold the government to account on problems in higher education that both local and international students want to see resolved

Source: "[Degrees - what are we paying for, students ask.](#)" [The Guardian, April 9, 2008](#)

## GLOBE TIPPING

### *Cell Phone Dialing Codes*

If you do a lot of overseas calling, you might find that getting through to your international contacts can be a complicated affair. For example, city area codes in many countries begin with zero, but this zero should usually be dropped for calls made from outside the country, and when you're calling a cell phone from outside a country you usually need only the country code and cell number. The website [www.infostation.org](http://www.infostation.org) has a page listing country dialing codes and cell phone dialing codes for countries from Albania to Zimbabwe. The list can be a big help, because it not only shows you that a number you've been given is for a cell phone number, but also gives you exactly the digits you have to dial to reach that number.

## ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

### *Universities Seek to Lure Korean Students from Overseas*

Universities in Korea are keen on enrolling talented Korean students residing overseas. Top domestic institutes held joint admissions briefings in Washington, DC, New York and Los Angeles between March 28 through April 1. More than 500 parents and students attended.

Until last year, the Education Ministry had banned domestic universities from accepting Korean students based on scores on the U.S. Scholastic Aptitude Test and those who graduated from foreign high schools. This effectively barred Korean students residing overseas from entering university in their home country.

Source: "[Universities Seek to Lure Korean Students from O'seas.](#)" [The Dong A Illbo, April 9, 2008](#)

## OVER THE COUNTER

### *Dip in pre-medical exam candidates in India*

Low salaries and the long duration of courses are dissuading many Indian students from entering the medical profession. This year, only 160,000 students appeared for the All India Pre-Medical Test (AIPMT) conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). A significant 25 per cent drop in numbers from last year.

With fewer takers for medicine, more students would be inclined towards studying life sciences both in India and abroad. While this would translate into a boost for the country's developing bio-technology sector looking for skilled human capital, there will now be more pressure on academic institutions and companies to develop the skills required for the industry.

Source: "[25% dip in pre-medical exam candidates.](#)" [The Times of India, April 7, 2008](#)