

THE PLAYING FIELD

U.K. universities at risk of losing foreign students

A new report from Great Britain's Higher Education Policy Institute has warned that U.K. universities risk losing foreign students due to the Bologna Process. The Bologna Process aims to create a single European higher education area, allowing students and staff to transfer easily from one European university to another by 2010. All the countries that have signed up to Bologna are expected to adopt a standard three-year undergraduate degree, two-year master degree and a three-year doctorate degree.

However, the British system contains one-year one year master and four-year combined undergraduate and master programs (BSc) for some science and engineering degrees. The short-duration courses are hugely popular with international students. The report says "Although there is no doubt that these courses are Bologna-compliant, we are out of step with most European systems, and there are undoubtedly some that are trying to undermine the credibility of our one-year courses. It is important that they should not succeed, since these have become a mainstay of our international student recruitment. To lose this market will be hugely damaging to the financial viability of our universities."

The report also goes on to say that, U.K. universities have increased their income from overseas students despite a drop in market share because international students see them as providing quality education in English and offer relatively short degrees. However England is one of the most expensive countries in which to study. "U.K. degrees are marketed as a premium product for a premium price. So far, we have been able to maintain our position, but if price sensitivity becomes an issue, this may not be sustainable," the report warns.

"UK universities at risk of losing foreign students,"
Guardian, May 22, 2008

GLOBE TIPPING

Losing your luggage abroad

You would think with all the latest bag bar coding and security matching against passengers, lost and delayed bags would be a thing of the past. Alas, for many reasons, bags still go missing and sometimes still get lost.

"Your Rights if Your Bags are Delayed," is an useful article that may help minimize the likelihood and inconvenience to you when your luggage gets lost or delayed, especially when travelling abroad.

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

South Asia University

The South Asia University, a project undertaken by the eight-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), is to be completed by 2010. The university's main campus will be located in New Delhi with linked campuses in other member nations. The Delhi campus will accommodate nearly 25000 students from all the SAARC member states.

Source: "South Asian University dream to turn real by 2010," Thaindian, May 27, 2008

OVER THE COUNTER

Malaysia to clamp down on fake students

With Malaysia marketing itself as an educational hub in Asia, there has been influx of foreign students into the country. However, of late there have been concerns over how many of these students are "genuine."

The Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Khaled Nordin has recently announced measures to ensure foreigners on student visas are genuinely in the country for academic purposes. The new regulations, which are expected to be in place by the end of the year, would require students to provide letters and documents from their sponsors or parents showing income and financial details.

Source: "Visa deception - 'Students' who come to work," The New Straits Times Online, May 26, 2008