

THE PLAYING FIELD

Falling dollar draws students to the U.S.

Global currency shifts have led to a renewed interest in MBA programs in the United States. According to research conducted by the MBA Tour, a company focusing on business school admissions, rising currency values in Europe and China, combined with the lower U.S. dollar, have contributed to an increase in applications to U.S. business schools.

The Graduate Management Admissions Council, which administers the GMAT entry test for many business schools, says there has been a 21 per cent increase in registrations from students outside the U.S. The growth in interest is also substantiated by many schools reporting significant growth in applications from overseas students.

Business schools such as the Johnson School at Cornell University have registered a 30 per cent increase in international applications this year over last year. Meanwhile applications from Europeans to the UCLA Anderson School of Management rose 50 per cent this year against last year.

Source: "[Falling dollar draws students.](#)"
[Financial Times](#), July 7, 2008

OVER THE COUNTER

U.K varsities' degree inflation to boost rankings

A leaked email has revealed that several British universities are choosing to promote their public image at the cost of sacrificing academic standards. Financial pressures are pushing U.K. universities to increase the number of top degree grades in order to secure a favorable position in the university league tables. Foreign students usually consult university league tables when applying to British institutes. In such a scenario, universities are fiercely competing with one another for the top spot, often using unfair means, or so the email suggests.

According to the BBC, the internal e-mail from Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) calls for an increase in the number of first class and upper second degrees. Staff are instructed to "bear this in mind" when they do their student assessments. Some British universities have also been alleged to recruit and pass overseas students who did not reach the adequate academic standards.

Source: [E-mail leak of 'degree inflation'](#)
[BBC News](#), July 2, 2008

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

More Swedish students eye Asia for studying overseas

More Swedish students are targeting Asia for studies than ever before. According to Sweden's Higher Education Bureau, the number of Swedish students studying in Asia rose from 400 in 2001-2002 to 1,700 in 2006-07, accounting for one seventh of the Swedish students studying abroad.

Asia's flourishing economy has attracted many Swedes looking for exposure and experience as well as studies. Swedish companies planning to expand their base in Asia are on the lookout for professionals familiar with the Asian market. There has also been an increase in exchanges between Sweden and India and China in the field of education.

Source: "[More Swedish students eye Asia for studying overseas.](#)" [Xinhua](#), June 22, 2008

GLOBE TIPPING

Air ticket fraud

With a rise in instances of air ticket fraud and identity theft in many countries, airlines are on a vigil. If you are buying a ticket online (Indian and Thailand airport check-in counters are two such examples), make sure you carry the credit card used to make the ticket purchase with you or else you may not be allowed to board the flight. In case you have used the services of a travel agent, find out the mode of payment used. In case the agent has used his credit card, ask him to send a copy to you, which you can carry. In the event a passenger fails to provide a copy of the card or the card itself, the ticket is normally cancelled and the credit card will be refunded.

A note on our summer schedule: The next issue of Not-So-Foreign will be published on August 13, before returning to its regular weekly schedule in September.