

## THE PLAYING FIELD

### *U.K.'s new visa rules under fire*

The U.K. Border Agency's new visa regulations for overseas students has drawn flak from the country's academic community, who fear the move will cost them dearly. Many British universities draw a sizeable portion of their income from foreign students.

Under the new rules, overseas students will have to pay their fees upfront. In addition, international students will have to show that they have at least £9,600 (\$17,007 U.S.)

in savings and an income of £535 (\$ 948 U.S.) per month for each child they have. 'Many international students may be deterred from or denied the opportunity to come to study in the UK if the required maintenance levels remain at £9,600,' said Diana Warwick, chief executive of Universities UK. 'We have expressed concern about this figure to the Home Office, as it appears to be set at too high a level for students.'

There are concerns that students from countries such as India and Nigeria, who finance their studies by working part-time, may not qualify for a visa under these new rules.

Source: ["Universities face cash crisis."](#)  
[The Guardian, August 17, 2008](#)

## ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

### *China hopes to attract more U.S. college students*

China is hoping the Summer Olympics will boost its position as an attractive overseas education destination. The country is hoping to draw sizeable numbers of foreign students from the United States, in particular. In the past, Australia and Greece have enjoyed similar success in 2000 and 2004.

However, China is already a popular destination for students from the United States, There are nearly 10,000 U.S. students now enrolled annually in programs in China, up fivefold from a decade ago. China is the seventh most popular destination for U.S. students, according to the Institute of International Education. If growth trends continue, China may well prove to be stiff competition for countries such as Britain, Spain and Italy.

Source: ["China hopes to attract more US college students."](#)  
[Associated Press, August 21, 2008](#)

## OVER THE COUNTER

### *Overseas students detained in Australia*

An investigative report published by *The Australian* has revealed that nearly 300 foreign students have been incarcerated in the last three years for violating the country's immigration laws. University, TAFE and secondary school students from 24 countries were held at detention centres in Sydney and Melbourne. Most of these students were from China, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Of the detainees, 207 were held for overstaying their visas, 30 for attendance breaches, 14 for failing their courses, seven for not starting their courses, four for withdrawing from their courses, one for a work breach and 36 for other reasons.

University of Sydney senior psychology lecturer Christopher Lennings has been quoted in the media report as saying "overseas students could be easily overwhelmed by conditions in Australia, leaving them vulnerable to breaches of migration law. People's English is not as good, they get overwhelmed, have financial problems or illness. They get depressed and fail their studies, and next thing they know they are on a rollercoaster and have lost control of their lives," According to Eric Pang, National Liaison Committee president for the country's 250,000 international students, "it was shocking to know that it's such a big export industry for Australia, where students are treated as cash cows, yet others are receiving such harsh treatment in detention ... If they overstay they should be deported."

Universities Australia chief executive Glenn Withers said, that while illegal residency should be dealt with by deportation, these processes "should minimise the need for detention and ensure a proper allowance for associated refugee claims".

Source: ["Overseas students held like terrorists."](#)  
[The Australian, August 28, 2008](#)

## GLOBE TIPPING

### *Credit card safety*

With incidents of credit card fraud on the rise, it is advisable to take some precautions while using your card on the next overseas trip. Inform your bank or credit card company about your travel plans in advance. This is useful because banks have been known to de-activate a client's card if they find a change in spending patterns. You may also find it safer to have another credit or debit card as backup, just in case the magnetic strip in your first card does not work, or the card gets swallowed up by the ATM machine.