

THE PLAYING FIELD

Government U-turn on overseas scholarships

The British government has had a change of heart regarding its decision earlier this year to cut a significant part of the Commonwealth Scholarship scheme. In our issue dated March 26, 2008, Higher-Edge had reported that the British government's decision to axe two major international scholarship schemes had come under fire.

The cuts involved a reduction in the Chevening scholarship programme from £27.3m (\$ 54.5m U.S.) in 2007/08 to £18.86m (\$ 37.67m U.S.) this year and an end to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) contribution to the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship plan from 2009/10. The funding for these scholarships enables more than 1,500 international students to study in the U.K. each year.

University heads had criticised the move as they feared it will not only deter foreign students from applying to U.K. universities as well as jeopardise opportunities for U.K. students to study abroad.

Source: ["Government U-turn on overseas scholarships," Times Higher Education, October 16, 2008](#)

[Not-So-Foreign, March 26, 2008](#)

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

U.K. varsities set up overseas campuses in Malaysia

Many British universities are looking at Malaysia as a hub for setting up overseas campuses. The University of Nottingham has set up a campus in Semenyih, Selangor and Newcastle University is in the process of setting up a medical school in Johor.

Commenting on the development, British High Commissioner to Malaysia Boyd McCleary said "We need to develop collaborative arrangements with countries that place a high priority on education and human capital development like Malaysia, which is targeting 100,000 foreign students by 2010,"

Source: ["More British Varsities Eyeing Malaysia As Location For Overseas Campuses," Bernama, October 15, 2008](#)

OVER THE COUNTER

Minister plans ban on shaky visa deals

Australia's Immigration Minister, Chris Evans, wants stricter legislation in place to prevent unscrupulous education agents from duping overseas students. According to a recent Senate committee hearing, there is a rise in the number of agents selling dubious study packages offering tuition, work experience and an Australian visa.

According to Senator Evans, "If someone gets induced and sold a package in their home country, there's very little we can currently do about that. They arrive with expectations that can't be delivered." Senator Evans said a lot of the promotion of such packages happened overseas. They purported to glean favourable visa outcomes for would-be students when in fact education agents could not provide immigration advice.

Senator Evans is working with the Education Minister, Julia Gillard, to increase the legislative powers available to Australia in tackling the problem.

Source: ["Minister plans ban on shaky visa deals," The Sydney Morning Herald, October 22, 2008](#)

GLOBE TIPPING

Shipping Know-how

When heading overseas, remember to get the local addresses for FedEx, UPS and DHL in case you need to ship any papers or goods back home. You can click on these websites and find addresses of local offices and customer services numbers in various countries across the globe.

www.fedex.com

www.ups.com

www.dhl.com

The DHL website, in particular, has useful tips on packaging. There are separate sections on external, internal packaging as well as tips on packaging specific types of products such as leaflets, documents and books.