

OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

Issue 3.2
January 22, 2003

A Bulletin for Canadian International Education Professionals

Abroad Perspective – Student Fraud from China at Seoul National University

After the discovery of a fraudulent case, Seoul National University (SNU) is taking measures towards more stringent screening processes for its foreign applicants. The student, an ethnic Korean from neighbouring China, had forged her high school records to disguise the fact that she had not actually graduated. 104 out of 240 international students who applied to SNU this year hail from China.

“We will ask experts on China’s education system to check the authenticity of the records,” reported an SNU representative. The university has put its admissions schedule on hold, saying that it needs to examine all applications from overseas students before releasing its list of acceptees for 2004.

Source: <http://times.hankooki.com/lpage/nation/200301/kt2003011918085211990.htm> •

Let’s Go Canada - The U.S. in the International Education Market

Fears that the Americans are slipping from their once-solid position in the international education market are hitting home with the major planners in this arena. A recent report released by NAFSA, the Association of International Educators, points to the realisation that U.S. universities and colleges must cohere to form a stronger national student recruitment and verification front.

“There’s a disconnect between what policy makers are saying and what people who implement day-to-day decisions on ground are doing,” says Victor Johnson, NAFSA Policy Director. In the same way that Canada’s policy makers seem to suffer from a lack of affinity with on-the-ground realities, U.S. visa issuers are failing to act efficiently in the face of so many security challenges.

As the NAFSA report calls on the U.S. government to spearhead a collective vision, we might ask ourselves - what is the best approach in Canada? Is it a single national organization as spearhead? A consortium of national organizations?

Stay tuned for next week’s issue when we look at why this concern is opening Canada up as an option amongst pools of soon-to-be international students.

Source: http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/019/learning/US_urgd_to_form_strategy_to_lure_students_from_abroad+.shtml •

Over the Counter - Fraud is Big Business in Malaysian Private Colleges

With the projected revenue of RM 1.5 billion per year in 2010, some Malaysian institutions find themselves caught up in the race for international education bucks. In past Higher-Edge reports, the closure of prominent private colleges affects Canadian institutions that take applications from, and seek partnerships with Malaysian counterparts.

Of the 536 private educational institutions operating in Malaysia, only 277 are registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs to bring in international applicants. What are the rest doing to get their piece of the market? Everything from allowing foreign students to work illegally, failing to track applicants upon arrival, registering students in courses not having been approved by the Ministry of Education, and offering distance education courses on Malaysian college campuses.

Refer to Overseas, Overwhelmed Issue 2.35 to track this plaguing problem in Malaysian private colleges: www.higher-edge.com

Source: Malaysian Business, December 1, 2002. “Private Education Travails,” by Seelen Sakran, pp. 66-69. •

Globe Tipping - Railed up in India

Travelling within India is a snap with the India Railways website at www.indianrailways.com, where visitors can look up timetables and ticket prices. The trains are a great way to travel short distances within India, for example from Delhi to Chandigarh, or Pune to Mumbai.

India Railways also has a tourist quota on their trains, reserving a number of seats on any trip for foreigners. This means that even if a train is booked up for Indians, foreigners can still get seats. Visitors to India may obtain assistance at the Indira Gandhi International Airport Arrival Lounge Foreign Tourist Rail Reservation Counter, or at the New Delhi Train Station International Tourist Bureau located on the first floor (up one flight of stairs). As our colleague Luciana Rodrigues recently found out, locals will often (wrongly) advise that the office has either moved or closed.

Please direct questions and comments to editor@higher-edge.com

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