

# OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

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## Abroad Perspective - Destination Europe For MBA Hopefuls

Some Latin Americans are looking to Europe, instead of the United States, to earn their MBAs. The main attractions include length (one year vs. two) and cost (two-thirds the price). Leading schools such as the Wharton School of Business, are not concerned given the profiles they have in offering very high quality education. Some Latin Americans believe Europe to be more open to cultures and attitudes and consequently a learning experience in Europe appears more attractive.

With the increased security precautions taken in the US, Nicolas Scarfuro, a current MIT student, admits, "it is perhaps not the most favorable moment to go study in the United States," a sentiment echoed by other foreign students (*The New York Times*, 18 July 2003). With foreigners comprising about 70% of students in European business schools, a global experience is achieved with a European MBA. The value of an American education is still high, but with declining interest in the past few years, adjustments could be made to the marketplace.

Source: "[Allure of Europe Is Drawing Students.](#)" *The New York Times*, 18 July 2003 •

## Let's Go Canada - Changes To Syria's Education

Syria is opening its education system to private universities, originally licencing three institutions and looking for investment to open more. According to Ms. Rouba Khouri, of the Canadian Embassy in Damascus, Syria, foreign student recruitment is difficult in the country (in 2002, about 136 students applied for a visa to study in Canada). She recommends instead that "the major opportunity for Canadian educational institutions would be the export of Canadian educational expertise to the newly open [sic] private universities/vocational institutes." With a large Syro-Canadian community keen on Canadian higher education and with 65% of the population under 24 years old, a Canadian university establishing a joint venture with the new Syrian universities would significantly contribute towards Syria's modernisation efforts. •

## Over the Counter - Foreign Student Recruitment Limited In Malaysia

Malaysian authorities have instituted a "re-registration process" for private institutions of higher learning looking to recruit foreign students. When granted these licences, colleges will have to follow a new set of guidelines, in an attempt to prevent the "rampant and blatant" abuse of student visas in the country. According to Dr. Molly Lee of Universiti Sains Malaysia who spoke to Higher-Edge, the procedure allows a tighter control over the types of students, such as those with the intention of working and not studying, who enter the country. With a growing number of international students choosing Malaysia as their place of study (a 69.4% increase from last year), the guidelines that accompany the new licence include the establishment of an international office to deal with foreign student affairs.

According to the Malaysian government, Chinese nationals represent a large majority of student visa violators. The Chinese government stated that their embassy will also approve any private institution looking to recruit Chinese students. With these measures in place, it is believed that the quality of higher education in Malaysia will improve, although critics say that the government needs to take more steps to protect the interests of the international student population, by investigating the way colleges handle complaints from foreign students.

Source: "[Only 100 to get licences to recruit foreign students.](#)" *The Star*, 12 June 2003 (Registration required to view online) •

## Globe Tipping - Tourist Police

When travelling in a foreign country, it is advisable to know the contact information of the local Tourist Police. Usually stationed in popular tourist spots, officers of this law enforcement branch are usually multilingual.

Some popular destinations:

[Thailand Tourist Police](#)

[Sri Lanka Tourist Police](#)

[Greece Tourist Police](#)

[Malaysia Tourist Police](#) •

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