

OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

LET'S GO CANADA

New Rankings may rattle Maclean's

A recent study of national university guides rates Canada's *Maclean's* magazine as the worst of four services which rank universities. In the current edition of *Higher Education*, researchers from the University of North Carolina published the results of their comparative analysis of the rating systems of the *Good Universities Guide* (Australia), the *Guardian* (United Kingdom), *Maclean's* (Canada) and the *U.S. News and World Report* (United States).

The researchers used a scoring system of from three stars (very good) to no stars (inadequate), and graded the various publications' rating systems according to the following criteria: validity, comprehensiveness, comprehensibility, relevance, and functionality.

The Canadian publication *Maclean's* fared the very worst, garnering four single star ratings (adequate) and one no star rating for functionality. The *U.S. News and World Report* barely fared better at least gaining a 2 star rating (good) for comprehensibility. In marked contrast, the *Australian Good Universities Guide* scored 2 stars in two categories, and three stars in the other three, while the *Guardian* scored 2 stars across the board.

Source: Dill, D. D & Maarja Soo, (2005) 'Academic quality, League tables, and Public Policy', *Higher Education* 49: 495-533

Marketing Circular, Anna Kula, Marketing Coordinator,
Hobsons Australia t/a Hobsons Guides

OVER THE COUNTER

Britain, Africa universities to strengthen links

Britain's higher education minister, Bill Rammell, has provided funds to the tune of £250,000 (CAD \$ 502,000) to improve relations between African and British universities. With the funds, a £200,000 (CAD \$ 401,522) Africa unit will be set up within the Association of Commonwealth Universities to build partnerships between African universities and the UK for research, teaching and management training.

The additional £50,000 (CAD \$ 100,388) will be spent on the start-up costs to establish the Tabeisa Enterprise Centre in Ghana, in West Africa, which will offer vocational and business training for young people.

Source: [Rammell announces more money for Africa Guardian, November 29, 2005](#)

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Bill seeks to end examination fraud in Africa

A new bill seeks to put an end to examination malpractice in Nigeria by punishing teachers who leak examination papers and help students cheat in other ways. Punishment could mean a five-year jail sentence for guilty teachers. The Examination Malpractice Prohibition Bill, if cleared by the Government, will help prevent teachers and examination supervisors from examination malpractices in future.

Source: [Teachers Face 5-Year Imprisonment AllAfrica, November 24, 2005](#)

GLOBE TIPPING

Visa rules for Dubai

Despite being one of the hottest new destinations for international education professionals, many travelers still don't know much about visa requirements in Dubai. Canadians, Americans, most Europeans and Australians are given visas at no cost at the point of entry. The duration is usually 30 days (British passport holders get 60 days). Business class travellers have special queues which are normally speedier. The Department of Civil Aviation in Dubai has created a website for visitors to the city. The website provides useful information on the Dubai International Airport, flights, visas and travel tips.

www.dubaiairport.com