

OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

HIGHER
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LET'S GO CANADA

Queens University, Chennai Institute Sign Research Deal

Queens University and the SRM Institute of Science and Technology, a university based in Chennai (Madras), have agreed on a joint research project worth at least \$6.5 million (Cdn.).

Under a memorandum of understanding signed last week, the two universities agree to do collaborative research on population and public health, focusing on areas such as infectious diseases, alternative energy, nanotechnology and biotechnology. The partnership will include exchange of faculty, students and staff as well as collaboration on research and development projects and education.

The Canadian government is supplying \$6.5 million for the project; India is also providing funds.

Source: "[Research Agreement Signed,](#)" *The Hindu*, February 16, 2006

OVER THE COUNTER

Sorbonne in the Desert

The Sorbonne is coming to Abu Dhabi, richest of the United Arab Emirates and UAE capital. An agreement between the prestigious Parisian school and the education ministries of France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was announced this month.

The Emirate of Dubai receives more international recognition and has built a strong brand in its Knowledge Village (where the University of New Brunswick recently established a campus), but does not host an institution as globally renowned as the Sorbonne. The Abu Dhabi Sorbonne branch plans to open in October 2006 with a target of 200 students and offering transfer credits and degrees which are accredited in both France and the UAE.

Source: "[Oil-Rich Abu Dhabi to Get Own Sorbonne,](#)" *Middle East Times*, February 22, 2006

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Scottish Visa Program Draws 1,176 Students

The Scottish Executive and Home Office has approved 1,176 international students for its "Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland" program since it was launched last June.

The initiative, aimed at getting skilled young people to live and work in Scotland, allows students from outside the European Union to stay for two years without work permits. Applicants must have graduated with a Higher National Diploma from a Scottish college.

Scotland plans to continue promoting the program this year, focusing especially on Chinese students. A total of 333 students from China have been approved for "Fresh Talent." Some 4,000 students from China study in Scottish colleges, and the number is rising.

Source: "[Scotland Encourages Talented Chinese Students To Stay,](#)" *China View*, February 20, 2006

GLOBE TIPPING

New Card Makes it Easier to Keep in Touch in UAE

Dubai, one of the world's hottest travel spots, just got a bit easier and cheaper for cell-phone users. Roaming rates in the United Arab Emirates are very high, but there is now a solution. A new card, offered by telecommunications company Etisalat, sells for 90 dirhams (about \$30 Cdn.) and allows the user 90 minutes of local calls and 9 text messages.

The option is spurred on by the recent opening of the UAE cell monopoly, previously held by Etisalat, to competition. The presence of a player in the market, Du, is likely to mean more services for customers. A front-page headline on the February 22, 2006 edition of *Emirates Today*, a prominent UAE daily newspaper, urges readers to "[Get Ready for the UAE's Mobile Phone Revolution.](#)"