

OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

LET'S GO CANADA

First Ever Canadian-Kazakh Education Fair Slated for October

The Canadian Embassy in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in partnership with Globus Education Agency, a local company, is planning an education fair in two Kazakh cities next fall: Almaty from Oct. 8-9, and Astana from Oct. 10-11. The fair follows an international fair held in February and attended by the embassy and five Canadian schools.

The embassy believes Kazakhstan comprises a growing market for Canadian education, Raushan Nigmatova, assistant trade commissioner, said in a recent letter.

“With the growth in income of the general population there is a big interest of local students and their parents in undergraduate and graduate studies in the UK, USA, Western Europe and Canada,” she said.

Ms. Nigmatova can be contacted by e-mail at raushan.nigmatova@international.gc.ca. A short description of February’s education fair can be found on the Canadian Embassy’s [web site](#).

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

U.K. Plans Deals with India, Russia, South Africa and China

Britain is planning to triple its exports in education through a slew of partnerships with some of the world’s most economically dynamic, populous and education-hungry countries: India, Russia, South Africa and China, Gordon Brown, chancellor of the exchequer, announced in his budget speech last week.

The new budget, which followed warnings from many British universities that the U.K. is attracting fewer and fewer students from outside the European Union, also included incentives in the form of new, easier-to-get work permits for graduates of English universities. “From May this year, we will make it easier for those with specialist skills who graduate from English universities to work here for one year,” the chancellor said. Source: Chancellor of the Exchequer’s 2006 Budget statement, available on the [U.K. government website](#).

OVER THE COUNTER

International Graduate Applications Up in U.S.

American graduate schools may have turned the corner on the post- 9/11 slump. According to a report released last week by the Council of Graduate Schools, foreign applications were up by about 11 per cent last fall.

“Clearly the broad gains are welcome news,” said CGS President Debra Stewart. “Applications are up from all countries and regions that we study” including India (up by 23 per cent) and China (21 per cent).

Ms. Stewart cited improvements in universities’ admissions systems and better self-marketing, as well as improvements in the U.S. government’s visa processing system, as likely reasons for the increase. She cautioned, however, that “it would be a mistake to presume that things are back to normal,” as numbers are still down from 2003. U.S. graduate schools suffered a 32-per-cent drop in applications from 2003 to 2005.

Sources: “[International Students Show New Interest in Coming to U.S.](#),” Associated Press, reprinted by *Houston Chronicle*, March 22, 2006 and “[International Graduate Applications Up, but Still Below 2003 Levels](#),” *Research Research*, March 23, 2006

GLOBE TIPPING

Gratuities Around the World

Conventions regarding tipping are far from universal. In many eastern Asian countries, such as Japan and Korea, it is never done, and restaurant-goers leaving change behind on a table may well end up being chased by a waiter trying to return their money. In Egypt it’s common for local people to ask for *bakshish* (which also means “bribe”) for all sorts of services. Useful tips on tipping around the world can be found on the web sites of the [BBC](#), [Wikipedia](#) and [Time Asia](#).