

OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

HIGHER
EDGE

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LET'S GO CANADA

Officials, Students Discuss Internationalization at York Conference

More than 200 people from more than 35 universities and private companies met in Toronto March 2-3, 2006 for York University's fourth annual conference on the internationalization of Canada's universities.

Speakers discussed a host of benefits of the internationalization of universities, besides the oft-cited revenues foreign students bring Canadian universities. Keynote speaker Madeleine Green, for example, cited academic excellence, job preparation, global citizenship and university positioning as some of the reasons for wanting to increase internationalization.

Organizers are planning to put together a publication including many of the papers presented at the conference. In the meantime, many conference materials can be found at the [York International web site](#)

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Bursting Foreign Student Bubble Would Push Many English Schools Into Deficit: Study

Some of England's leading universities, including the London School of Economics, the School of Oriental and African Studies and the London Business School will be pushed into the red if Britain's current foreign student slump continues, a new study claims. The paper, released by the Higher Education Policy Institute, warns that the dramatic growth in Britain's higher education exports up to 2003-2004 led to "very ambitious" expectations of future growth among a number of the country's schools. This year's downturn, it adds, may point to a permanent reversal of the growth trend.

Sources: "[Don't Rely on Foreign Student Fees, Universities Warned](#)," The Guardian, March 30, 2006 "[How Exposed are English Universities to Reductions in Demand from International Students?](#)", Higher Education Policy Institute, March 30, 2006, available on the Institute's web site

OVER THE COUNTER

Study Reports Indian Students Using Australian Universities as "Permanent Residency Factories"

Many of Australia's universities are attracting large numbers of South Asians interested in getting permanent residency status, rather than an education, claims a study released recently by Monash University. The author, anthropology PhD student Michiel Baas, argues these schools are designing their programs to fit the criteria of Australia's immigration rules, and that their overseas recruiters are using immigration as a tool to attract students.

If there is demonstrable evidence that the programs are of poor quality or misrepresent the degree in any way, that is a serious issue. But if, in fact, it is simply that these programs advance students' likelihood of obtaining permanent resident status, we fail to see the problem in that per se. The Australian legislation clearly intends this result as an expression of government policy. It is the very government policy that U.S., Canadian and other governments are revisiting at the present: how to attract and retain highly educated persons to their economies.

Sources: "[Universities Being Used as Immigration 'Factories'](#)," Sydney Morning Herald, March 30, 2006; Mr. Baas's paper can be read (for a fee) on the [Monash University web site](#)

GLOBE TIPPING

Getting Around in Beijing

Transportation in China's capital is reported to be slowly getting better as the country ramps up for the 2008 Olympics; the city is building and repairing streets and highways and new taxis, buses and trains are being put into service. Few Beijing taxi drivers speak much English, so it's a good idea to have your destination—and the address of the hotel where you're staying—written down beforehand.

Source: The Economist's "[Cities Guide](#)" for Beijing