

OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

HIGHER
EDGE

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LET'S GO CANADA

CIC Officials to Talk Visa Rules at Kingston Conference

A Citizenship and Immigration session this Friday morning on student visa trends and issues promises to be one of the highlights of this year's Ontario Association of International Educators/Canadian Bureau of International Education - Ontario conference, taking place this week May 10-12 at the St. Lawrence College campus in Kingston. Officials are to discuss, among other topics, the recently-announced international student off-campus work initiative.

Other details on the conference, which is sponsored jointly by St. Lawrence College and Queen's University, can be found on the St. Lawrence College [web site](#).

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

New Numbers Suggest Australia Gearing Up for More Growth

The number of new foreign enrolments at Australian universities and colleges was 6.1 per cent higher this March than last, according to a recently-released Australian Education International report. (March is the cut-off point for the first semester of the academic year, which runs from February to November in Australia.) New enrolments from India were up, but those from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Singapore were down. Total foreign enrolments were up by 5.4 per cent, bringing the number of foreigners pursuing higher education in Australia to 143,000.

The March figures seem to fly in the face of predictions that the country's growth as an international educator was about to grind to a halt, and they should come as a relief to AEI's own analysts, who expressed concerns in another report (also recently released) that total enrolments might be down this year. New enrolments had grown by only 0.8 per cent in 2005.

Sources: "[Overseas Students Rolling In](#)," *The Age*, May 4, 2006

The two reports can be found on the AEI web site, [here](#), and [here](#).

OVER THE COUNTER

New Residency Requirements in Australia

Regulations recently announced in Australia will require students who want to stay as "skilled migrants" to take tougher English tests, to have more vocational training while in school, and to have more on-the-job training. The changes follow a government report that found many skilled migrants in Australia lacked, according to their employers, sufficient English and vocational skills. The government will be creating a new temporary visa program to allow skilled migrant applicants to get their on-the-job training.

The Australian government has also proposed new rules that would require universities to make sure foreign students are attending their lectures. The move follows criticisms that some foreign students have been using their Australian education simply as a means of getting temporary residency.

Sources: "[Tougher Migration Rules for Students](#)," *The Age*, May 8, 2006; "[Lecture Check Plan on Foreign Students](#)," *The Age*, May 2, 2006.

GLOBE TIPPING

Web Sites List Global Holidays, Other Events

The World Wide Web offers a number of easy-to-use resources for world travellers wanting to keep tabs on the holidays of the countries they'll be visiting.

www.bank-holidays.com, for example, lists not only bank and school holidays, but also foreseeable possibly disruptive (and/or fun) events such as strikes and World Cup soccer finals. You can see the current semester for free, or pay a fee to see events from now until 2050. www.intellicast.com shows, by month, major holidays around the world at a glance, for free.

www.earthcalendar.net allows you to search holidays by date, by country, by religion and by other parameters, also for free.