

OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

HIGHER
EDGE

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LET'S GO CANADA

Canadian Schools Hampered by Dull Image: Recruiter

With competition for the world's international students growing ever-tighter, one challenge facing Canadian recruiters is the perception by people overseas that Canada is a bland place to live, Jennifer Humphries, vice-president for membership and scholarships, at the Canadian Bureau of International Education said recently. Students from other countries, she said, are often more attracted by the beaches of Sydney or the pubs of London.

Source: "[Our University Life: Good and Dull](#)," *Montreal Gazette*, May 23, 2006

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Number of Foreign Students Tops 2.5 Million Worldwide

The number of "mobile" students—those studying in countries where they are not permanent residents—grew from 1.75 million in 1999 to 2.5 million in 2004—a 41-per-cent increase, a new UNESCO report says. The growth spurt, according to the report, has been due not to increased student mobility, but rather the general growth in higher education, since tertiary enrollments increased by about the same percentage in that period.

Among the report's other findings: East Asia, which sent about as many students abroad as Western Europe in 1999, was sending a third more overseas than Western Europe just four years later. The trend is due largely to the growth in demand from China, which sends more students abroad than any other country, and accounts for 14 per cent of the total worldwide. Its students go primarily to the U.S., Japan and the U.K.

The world's most mobile tertiary students, according to the report, are from sub-Saharan Africa; 5.6 per cent of the students from this region study abroad.

Sources: [Global Education Digest 2006](#), available for download free at the UNESCO web site; "[African Students the Most Mobile in the World](#)," (UNESCO news release), May 31, 2006

OVER THE COUNTER

Australia Mulls Tighter Controls on Education for Overseas Students

Recently-proposed changes to Australia's Education Services for Overseas Students legislation would place stricter quality controls on educational institutions offering schooling for international students.

Education Minister Julie Bishop, who introduced the amendments, said they were intended both to protect the reputation of Australia as an international educator and also to "strengthen public confidence in the student visa program."

Australia is also pondering radical changes to its skilled migration program—rules intended to discourage foreigners from enrolling in Australian schools simply to obtain permanent resident status.

The number of foreign students receiving permanent residency status in Australia mushroomed from 5,284 in 2001-2002 to 12,978 in 2004-2005.

Sources: "[Education for Overseas Students Targeted](#)," National Nine News, May 31, 2006; "[Tougher Rules for Student Residency](#)," *The Australian*, May 10, 2006

GLOBE TIPPING

Cab Fares Hiked in Chinese Cities

This spring taxi prices rose in Beijing and Shanghai, due to increasing gasoline costs, our Lisa Roosen-Runge reports after a recent trip to China. The "flag drop" rate—the amount you pay to get into the cab and start your trip—in Shanghai is now 11 RMB, and the rate per kilometre has increased to 2.1 RMB. In Beijing the flag drop rate remains 10 RMB, and the "low" rate per kilometre will be 2.0 RMB by the end of June, 2006. The old 1.2 and 1.6 RMB rates will no longer be available. Flag-drop and per-kilometre rates are slightly higher after 11:00 pm.

There is an additional 10 RMB highway toll from the Beijing or Shanghai Pudong airport to downtown, but not from the Shanghai Hongqiao airport.

Lisa also provided useful information on taxi travel in China for two earlier issues of *Overseas, Overwhelmed*: [Nov. 12, 2003](#) and [Nov. 19, 2003](#).