

OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

HIGHER
EDGE

Issue 8.32
August 23, 2006

A Bulletin for
Canadian International
Education Professionals

LET'S GO CANADA

Canadian Schools Help Students Affected by Lebanese Strife

Several Canadian universities are changing their entrance requirements this year for students—foreign or Canadian, or both—whose plans to study in Lebanon have been disrupted by the recent Hezbollah-Israeli conflict.

The University of Montreal is now making room for Canadian exchange students who had been planning to study at Lebanese universities, waiving their tuition and raising funds for their stay in Canada. The University of Windsor is taking measures including waiving fees for applications, guaranteeing a 48-hour turnaround on admissions decisions, and working with Citizenship and Immigration Canada to fast-track student study permits. Concordia, Dalhousie and Saint Mary's are making similar adjustments.

Sources: "[Canadian Schools Help Students Affected by Lebanese Strife](#)," Chronicle-Herald, August 9, 2006; "[Two Que. Universities to Help Lebanese Students](#)," CTV (sourced from CP), Aug. 8, 2006

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

New Zealand to Boost Overseas Marketing Efforts

Confident his country would soon be turning a corner on its recent education exports slump, New Zealand's Tertiary Education minister announced this month a \$1-million (\$710,000 Cdn.) re-allocation of funds to be spent on promoting and marketing the country's universities overseas.

The government, Michael Cullen said, will be using the money to attract more high-calibre students, especially from North Asia, Northern Europe, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Mr. Cullen also earmarked an extra \$200,000 (\$140,000 Cdn.) to be spent specifically on promoting and marketing work in India.

Education is New Zealand's fourth-largest export industry.

Sources: "[Government's \\$1m to Attract Overseas Students](#)," *The New Zealand Herald*, Aug. 17, 2006

A transcript of Mr. Cullen's speech can be found [here](#).

OVER THE COUNTER

IELTS Gaining on TOEFL in U.S.

The English proficiency test that has traditionally been favoured by universities in the British Commonwealth appears to be making inroads at U.S. campuses as well. In the last three years, the number of U.S. colleges that accept both the IELTS and the TOEFL as English-language tests for their foreign applicants has doubled to more than 800.

In South Asia, the IELTS has clearly emerged victorious over its American rival, says Mel Broitman, managing director of Higher-Edge's Asia head office. "In the Asian sub-continent—where more than 1.5 billion people live, and about 200,000 international students come from—the term 'IELTS' is now synonymous with English language testing," Mr. Broitman says. "TOEFL once stood for that—no longer. IELTS has displaced TOEFL in the realm of English testing much as, say, Internet Explorer has displaced Netscape in web browsing."

The IELTS is reportedly gaining ground in China as well. During one recent three-month period, 17,000 people took the IELTS in Shanghai—7,000 more than the same period of 2005.

Source: "[Taking on TOEFL](#)," *Inside Higher Ed*, August 7, 2006

GLOBE TIPPING

What Can I Bring on Board?

If you travel much by air, you're likely aware of what you can and can't bring on board with you. But as events earlier this month demonstrated, these requirements can change quickly. You might want to bookmark the web site of [Transport Canada](#) to get these requirements at a glance. But it also wouldn't hurt to keep on eye on the requirements of the country you're flying into--news of the bomb plot spurred authorities all over the world to stricter requirements.

Overseas, Overwhelmed is now on its summer schedule. It will be published next on September 13, returning to its weekly schedule thereafter.