

# OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

HIGHER  
EDGE

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## LET'S GO CANADA

### *Fake B.C. College Transcripts Cropping up Across North America*

There are signs the use of forged transcripts may be on the rise in Canada.

Within the last year, a score of fraudulent transcripts bearing the letterhead of Vancouver-based Columbia College have been showing up at the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University, Columbia principal Trevor Toone told *Overseas, Overwhelmed* this week. Another 8-12 have appeared at Upper Iowa University in the U.S.

"They're quite a good copy," he said. Not only the transcripts but also the envelopes they come in bear Columbia College letterhead, Mr. Toone added.

With its university-preparatory and ESL courses, Columbia is popular with international students hoping to improve their Canadian university qualifications.

About 18 months ago, he said, the RCMP approached Columbia after intercepting a parcel containing forged transcripts for four schools, including Columbia. Some people appear to be using such pre-made transcripts; others are buying them made-to-order over the Internet, he said, at a price of \$500.

According to an official with the University of British Columbia, false transcripts from other schools have been showing up as well.

Source: "[Forged Transcripts Plague Vancouver College](#)," CBC, September 7, 2006

## ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

### *Student Enrollment Approaching 3 Million Worldwide: OECD*

The number of the world's international students pursuing tertiary education outside their home countries grew by 8 per cent from 2003 to 2004, when it reached 2.7 million, according to "Education at a Glance," an OECD publication released this week.

Source: A news release, chapter summaries and instructions for obtaining the full copy of "Education at a Glance" can be found on the [OECD web site](#). An executive summary is available free [here](#).

## OVER THE COUNTER

### *Saudi Students in U.S. Projected to Quintuple with New Scholarship*

A new Saudi-U.S. education program has spurred a flood of U.S.-bound students from the kingdom—and has American universities jostling with one another for the biggest slice of the Arabian pie.

By January, 15,000 new Saudi students are expected to be in the U.S. on full scholarships thanks to the program, which is being paid for mostly by the Saudi royal family. Their arrival will put Saudi Arabia above Mexico and Turkey as a source of international students for the U.S.—and the program is only expected to grow as funding increases. The Saudi government hopes it will curb unrest in the Kingdom by creating new opportunities for young Saudis; the American State Department hopes it will strengthen ties with future Saudi leaders.

The numbers of Saudis studying in the U.S. fell sharply after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Of the 19 terrorists, 15 were Saudi.

Source: "[U.S. Schools Compete for Thousands of Saudi Students](#)," Associated Press, sourced from *International Herald Tribune*, September 9, 2006

## GLOBE TIPPING

### *Keyboarding Abroad*

Foreign keyboards can be frustrating—especially if you find yourself pressed for time in a busy Internet cafe. Even keyboards using Western-style letters can differ in important ways from standard North American English keyboards. For example, the @ symbol doesn't appear on German, French and other keyboards—critical if you're trying to e-mail someone!

A few tips:

-Generally pressing the ALT key and 64, on the numbers pad on the right-hand side of a keyboard, will yield the @ sign (although on a German keyboard you hit the ALT GR key and the letter Q).

-You can get a question mark sign on a French keyboard by hitting SHIFT and 6; hit SHIFT and the comma key to get an apostrophe.