

OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

OVER THE COUNTER

Saudi, Kuwaiti Enrolment Climb in U.S.

There are more signs the U.S. is turning the corner on the post-9/11 slump it suffered in international enrollments, especially when it comes to Arab students. A record 10,936 Saudis are now studying at higher education institutions in the U.S., and according to one official with the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in the U.S., some 3,000 more are due to arrive in the U.S. next semester. The surge is being traced largely to a recently-initiated Saudi scholarship program.

Meanwhile, the number of Kuwaitis studying in the U.S. has grown by 19 per cent in the last two years, the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait said recently. The U.S., he said, has been streamlining its student visa procedures, with most now processed in less than one week.

Sources: "[Record Number of Students Pursue Education in U.S.](#)," *Gulf News*, Nov. 12, 2006, sourced from *Los Angeles Times*; "[Kuwaiti Students Studying in U.S. Increase 19pc in 2 Years](#)," *Arab Times*, Nov. 13, 2006

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Canada Enjoys Record Foreign Enrolment

More foreign students than ever before were studying at Canadian universities in 2004-2005, according to a report released recently by the country's federal government.

The number of international enrolments in Canada last year topped 75,200—7.3 per cent more than the previous year, and nearly twice as many as a decade earlier. One quarter of the total growth in university enrolments over the previous year was due to foreign students. The number of university registrants from China rose by 60 per cent to 17,600. Other significant source countries were India, South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong.

Sources: "[Women Still Lead the Charge into University](#)," *The Globe and Mail*, Nov. 7, 2006; A detailed summary of the report can be found at the [Statistics Canada web site](#)

LET'S GO CANADA

Canadian "Slippage" Dominates Talk at C.B.I.E. Conference

Canada's fall from being in the top five international student host countries to its current position in ninth place is reported to be one of the hot topics at the Canadian Bureau for International Education's 40th annual conference, taking place in Quebec City this week.

Despite gains in the total number of foreign enrolments here (see "Abroad Perspective"), many conference attendees are concerned Canada could lose more of its share of the multi-billion-dollar international education market, and that the cultural diversity of Canadian campuses could suffer. One new trend worrying many international education officials is the emergence of former "source" countries as "host" countries. For example, China, which continues to send many thousands of students overseas, is also recruiting students from other countries, including Canada.

Some attendees say Canada's competitiveness would be improved if the country had a national quality assurance system for its higher-education institutions, including its private career colleges.

Source: "[International Educators in Canada Discuss Responses to Increasing Competition for Students](#)," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Nov. 14, 2006, available to paying subscribers

GLOBE TIPPING

Moscow Cabs not Always the Best Choice for Local Travel

In Moscow, taxis can be very expensive and also difficult to find. If you do wish to take a taxi, get used to standing by the road with your arm out, and do not be surprised when an unmarked vehicle stops to negotiate a fare with you.

Alternately, get a good subway map in English and Cyrillic and learn to get around this extensive system. The subway can often save one hour or more in Moscow's common traffic snarls. Higher-Edge's Dani Zaretsky was recently in Moscow when one of the Moscow football clubs had to abandon the highway in favour of the subway to get to its own game on time!