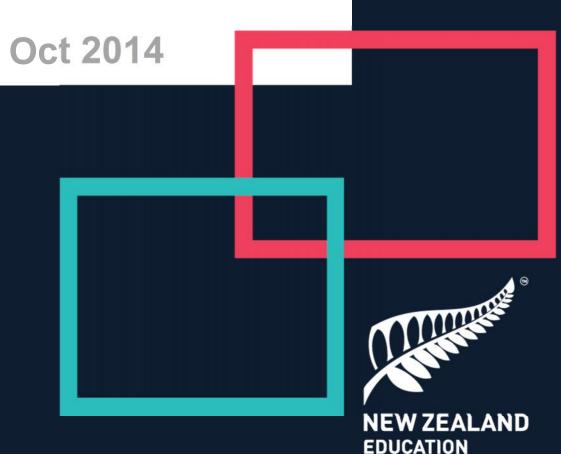


# International Education Scanning Report







Authored by Dave Guerin of Education Directions (Services) Limited (with research by Stuart Peters)

If you need further information on international education please contact:

**Business Development Team** 

**Education New Zealand** 

Phone: 04 472 0788

Email: ebd@enz.govt.nz

Disclaimer: Any views or opinions presented in this document are solely those of Education Directions Limited and the author and do not necessarily represent the views of Education New Zealand





# Contents

October 2014 Executive Summary	2
Markets	2
Markets Government	2
Markets	3
Market Size & Value	3
Market Events & Commentary	4
Fransnational Education	5
400Cs	6
Recruitment	6
Study Pathways	7
Retention & Achievement	
Post-Study Outcomes	8
Study Abroad	9
Study Abroad Rankings & Indices	9
Government	10
Overarching Strategies	10
Regulatory Issues	10
Quality Assurance	. 11
Fransnational Education Regulation	. 11
National Scholarship & Research Schemes	12
mmigration	12
Political Risk	13

Education New Zealand (ENZ) has contracted Education Directions (ED) to provide this monthly scanning report of the international education environment. The purpose of the reports is to develop a better shared understanding of the international education industry. Reports are intended to facilitate, not lead, discussion.

Feedback is welcome - contact Dave Guerin (ED) Directions, at 0800 500 552 or <u>dave@ed.co.nz</u>. If you wish to contact ENZ, please contact the Business Development Team <u>ebd@enz.govt.nz</u>.



# **October 2014 Executive Summary**

# Markets

- The British Council forecast postgraduate student mobility through to 2024. Changes in key age cohorts will be a key influence, with China's 18-22 year old age group to drop by 30m, and India's to rise by 4m. China will remain the largest source for outbound postgraduate mobility, still much bigger than India together they will be much bigger than the next 21 source countries combined.
   87% of US international postgraduate enrolment growth is expected to come from China and India over the period.
- 2. Singapore seems likely to miss its ambitious international education enrolment targets, as high fees and competition have an impact. Local support for international students is also declining.
- 3. An academic paper on the UK market found no evidence that international students were crowding out local ones, but some evidence that they were subsidising (and therefore expanding places for) domestic postgraduate students. The latter point has been promoted by Universities UK recently.
- 4. A UK study on the use of agents recommended more self-regulation by UK universities, with topics covering legal requirements, audits, due diligence, training and more. It is a good resource for those in universities dealing with agents.
- IDP's International Student Buyer Behaviour Study 2014 showed NZ leading the pack for visa policies, in a survey of 1,000+ students from the 5 main English-speaking destinations. NZ performed less well on quality of education and graduate employment opportunities.
- 6. A StudyPortals survey of 7,000 European students provided a useful picture of short-stay students' views (<12 months). City and culture were the top reasons for recommending a university, while academic factors were the top reason for not recommending a university.
- 7. International graduates find it difficult to break into the Australian labour market, even though they may have high expectations of doing so. The problems are mix of student preparation and employer bias, but they add up to a potential marketing problem for education providers.

# Government

- 8. The Japanese government announced new funds to support internationalisation by universities, but their progress in the area is dwarfed by that of China.
- 9. The Australian government said a new international education strategy would be out soon.
- 10. Australia plans to simplify the regulation of international student marketing, agent use and tuition fee protection. Ireland is starting to regulate the same areas, after its recent experience of poor provider behaviour.
- 11. A PhD thesis compared NZ and Australian study and migration pathways.
- 12. The number of UK private colleges losing their visa licenses continued to rise, reaching 46, with more currently suspended. The affected students also seemed to be in a difficult situation, with few incentives for other institutions to enrol them. While a debate continued over government policy, student numbers were holding up overall.

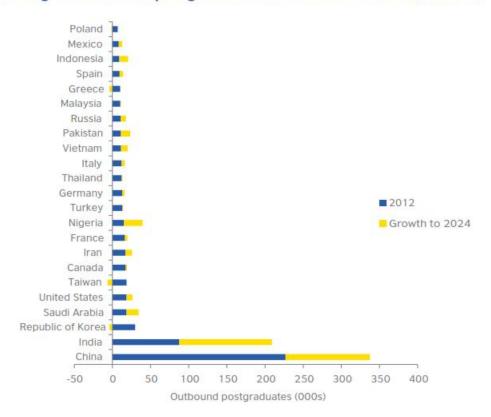


# Markets

# Market Size & Value

**Postgrad Mobility** The British Council forecast the key drivers of student mobility and postgraduate student flows in <u>Postgraduate student mobility trends to 2024</u> (44 pages). An <u>interview with the report's</u> <u>author</u> was also published. The forecasting model included students coming from 23 source, and going to 6 destination, markets. The key trends are noted below.

- While India's 18-22 year old population will grow slightly from 2013-2024 (+3.6m), China will face a 30.0m drop.
- Population changes influence tertiary education enrolment expectations, with Indian enrolments (+19.8m) expected to grow much more than those in China (+4.5m). Indonesia's enrolment growth is predicted to be 5.4m. Russia, South Korea, Taiwan and Poland are amongst those expected to have lower enrolments in 2024 than in 2012, with Russia dropping by 1.5m people. Almost all countries will still experience an increase in the proportion of young people enrolling in tertiary education (Greece is the exception).
- China will remain the largest outbound postgraduate source market until 2024, still 62% bigger than India together the two markets will be much bigger than the other 21 source countries combined. The outbound postgraduate source markets with the highest average annual growth will be Nigeria (8%), India (8%), Indonesia (7%), Pakistan (6%) and Saudi Arabia (5%). South Korea, the current third-biggest source market, will decline from 2012 to 2024. The report included an examination of each of the 23 source countries (pp.22-29).



### Change in outbound postgraduates to selected markets (2012-24)



The US will remain the largest postgraduate student destination market, followed by the UK, Germany and Australia. 5 of the 6 destination countries examined were predicted to have 3.5%-4.1% annual average growth from 2012-2024. Japan's annual average growth was predicted to be just 1.6%. 87% of growth for the US in the period is predicted to come from India and China. The report included an examination of each of the 6 destination countries (pp.34-39).

**Singapore** University World News reported that <u>rising fees for international students were slowing</u> <u>enrolments in Singapore</u>. International student numbers had declined in recent years, while fees increased by 11-17% over the last year. The 2015 target of 150,000 international students looks unlikely to be achieved, and political pressures are rising over graduate unemployment and subsidies for foreign students.

#### Snippets

- **Brazil** WES looked at <u>changing trends in Brazilian student mobility</u>, with possible growth ahead for the US.
- UK VisitBritain and the Office for National Statistics <u>published a report on inbound visitors who</u> <u>undertook an English language course while in the UK</u> (7 pages), based on border exit surveys.
   1.1m visitors took such a course in 2013, spending £1.2bn in total expenses. It's an informative report.
- 2015 Applications The UK's Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) <u>published</u> <u>applicant statistics for 2015 courses in the UK with a 15 October deadline</u> (7 pages). Overall applications were down 3% but international applications from the EU (+2%) and outside the EU (+1%) were up.
- United States Shorelight Education <u>published an interactive map of the top 100 origin countries</u> <u>of international students studying in the US in the 2012/13 academic year</u>. The map is new, but not the data.
- Australia Research snapshots by Australia's Department of Education covered <u>Australian</u> tertiary student mobility in a global context, and <u>students educated by Australian institutions</u> <u>outside Australia</u> (who made up 33.5% of all international students enrolled by Australian institutions).

### **Market Events & Commentary**

**Crowding Out?** A new academic paper <u>explored links between the increases in the numbers of British-</u> born, and overseas, students in UK higher education institutions (47 page report). They looked at whether domestic students might be crowded out, or subsidised by, non-EU students. They found neither effect at undergraduate level. At postgraduate level (especially taught postgraduate) they found some evidence of subsidisation – non-EU enrolment increases were correlated with UK student increases. That finding is aligned with <u>recent Universities UK claims</u> that a decline in non-EU postgraduate STEM enrolments was putting the sustainability of some programmes at risk.

The paper explored important issues that are often discussed in countries hosting many international students. While the paper cannot settle the matter, it is a helpful contribution to the policy debate.



London School of Marketing... has unveiled plans to open over 310 international study access points for their portfolio of British qualifications over the next 3 years. They were hit hard by UK visa restrictions, so have decided to train students in their home countries. If the plan works, it will be a very impressive achievement.

Snippets

- **Student Motivations** Universities Australia (UA) reviewed various ratings and surveys to identify student motivations they found quality was the top criteria for many students, which meant (in UA's view) Australia needed to improve research quality.
- **Canada** Study Travel Magazine looked at <u>declines in English language enrolments in Canada</u> after an "English and work" visa option was removed. Canadian high schools were likely to <u>benefit from other immigration changes</u>.
- **Germany**... is now entirely fees-free (for domestic and international students), after <u>Lower</u> <u>Saxony became the last state to abolish fees</u>.
- India Inside Higher Ed explored the <u>state of internationalisation of higher education in India</u>. UK business secretary Vince Cable <u>made a week-long visit to India "to dispel myths that the</u> <u>UK is not welcoming to Indian students</u>".
- English Test Pearson announced it is <u>partnering with language learning platform busuu to</u> <u>launch GSET</u>, a new online English language assessment test. busuu <u>passed 50m users</u> in Oct 2014.
- British Groups The inaugural meeting of the British Council's new Education Advisory Group was held. The British Association of International Schools and Colleges (BAISC) rebranded as the British Association of Independent Schools with International Students (BAISIS).
- **UK Students** The Guardian (UK) <u>looked at where the UK's international students come from</u>, and interviewed 10 students from 10 different countries. It's a good way to explore student experiences and well worth a read.
- **ISIS Rebrand** The UK's ISIS Education <u>rebranded itself as "Oxford International Education</u> <u>Group"</u>. It's understandable, given the other ISIS group's activities in Syria and Iraq.
- English by Octorial Language school group OISE is promoting five of its schools in the UK and Canada as "English by Octorial" (their teaching groups have 8 students).
- Market Snapshots...covered <u>Greece</u>, <u>Egypt</u>, <u>The Philippines</u>, and <u>Panama</u> (another aspiring education hub).

# **Transnational Education**

- **UAE** Al-Fanar Media explored <u>the United Arab Emirates' experience with branch campuses</u> it's a long, detailed piece.
- India UK-based Global Education Management (GEM) <u>signed an MOU with Delhi-based Amity</u> <u>University</u> to offer exchanges of up to 6 months, and vocational training in the UK and India.



- **Rwanda** The Italian International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) <u>will open a branch</u> <u>campus in Rwanda by Jan 2015</u>.
- **Confucius Institutes** A Member of the European Parliament <u>criticised some Chinese efforts</u> <u>in higher education cooperation</u>, such as Confucius Institutes, for their attempts to influence teaching outside China.
- Canada-Peru Canadian and Peruvian technical institutes agreed 8 partnerships.

# MOOCs

- Coursera... will <u>expand its 'Specializations' program, which awards special certificates to</u> <u>students who pass multiple MOOCs</u>. It's a way to recognise sustained learning, without awarding formal degrees. The organisation also had plans to <u>greatly expand its footprint in</u> <u>China</u>.
- **Popular Course** <u>An English language-focused MOOC has been the singularly most popular</u> <u>online programme</u> offered by UK provider FutureLearn, enrolling 120,000 people.
- Advanced Placement MOOC Provider edX <u>hosted its first Advanced Placement course</u> for high school students, a biology course run by Rice University.

# Recruitment

**Millennials** WES published a research report on <u>Bridging the Digital Divide: Segmenting and Recruiting</u> <u>International Millennial Students</u> (28 pages). It analysed data on nearly 5,000 people aged 17 to 36 in relation to technology use, psychographics, and information-seeking behaviour. The overall recommendations are to make websites more mobile-friendly, utilise the whole university network (eg staff, students and alumni) to engage with potential students, and tailor content to students.

While the recommendations are fairly generic, the report would be useful reading for marketers, given the segmentation provided on various student characteristics. Besides qualification level (bachelor's, master's and doctoral) and psychographics (explorers, highfliers, strivers and strugglers), the data is also reported for Indian and Chinese students.

**UK Use of Agents** A new report by three UK academics (and funded by the British Council) <u>argued</u> that greater self-regulation and transparency was needed in UK universities' use of international student recruitment agents (31 pages). 10 recommendations were made to universities covering issues such as legal requirements, audits, due diligence, training and more. Given an estimated £58m spend in 2010/11 on agent commissions, it is important to manage the relationship with agents effectively. The report would be an excellent read for anyone dealing with agents, especially in a university setting. It should provide extra context to all, and a useful framework for those developing their knowledge of agents.

**Buyer Behaviour Survey** IDP's International Student Buyer Behaviour Study 2014 surveyed more than 1,000 current and potential international students. It looked into perceptions of the US, UK, NZ, Canada and Australia (<u>infographic</u>). Australia showed improvements in affordability and graduate employment, while NZ improved for visa policies. The Australian reported on <u>some extra details</u>.



# IDP student perceptions of five English speaking destinations



Snippets

- **Queensland...** has awarded five international students the 'Ultimate Gap Year' worth AUS\$46k they will document their journeys over social media.
- Academics for Marketing A panel of media and marketing experts at a Universities UK conference said <u>academics should be used more prominently in digital marketing campaigns</u>.
- Ireland University College Dublin has announced <u>plans for recruitment and alumni offices in</u> <u>China, India, Malaysia and the US</u>.
- PhD Recruitment A new report by The Knowledge Partnership says <u>universities' reputation</u> and global ranking is important in attracting international PhD students, which seems rather obvious. We couldn't find the full report, but here's a <u>similar report by the same organisation</u>.

# **Study Pathways**

- United States English language industry accreditation agencies ACCET and CEA reported big increases in membership since the Accreditation of English Language Training Programs Act, with pathway provision being a growth area.
- English Tests WENR <u>compared IELTS and TOEFL English language tests</u> and their use in US college entry it's a useful review.



# **Retention & Achievement**

**Student Satisfaction** StudyPortals published its report on <u>Key Influencers of International Student</u> <u>Satisfaction in Europe</u> (105 pages). It was based on 7,000 students' responses to a Net Promotor Score (NPS) question (ie on a scale of 1-10 would they recommend their study experience to their friends). The NPS is a widely-used survey technique, and is usually paired with a related question about why the rating was chosen.

- The overall NPS was 60%, which is a good rating.
- The reasons for recommending a university, in descending order, included city and culture (atmosphere, looks and size), academics (programme structure, teachers), social life (activities, nightlife, international environment), university services (modern facilities), and personal and professional development (discovering new cultures, language).
- The reasons for not recommending a university, in descending order, included academics (poor organisation, lower quality than home university), university services (accommodation and bureaucracy), cost (living costs), and city and culture (locals' friendliness).

The study was based in Europe and focused mainly on students studying abroad for less than 12 months. It is a well-presented report, with considerable depth, including reports by destination country. Recommendations were provided for institutions, international students' associations and government (pp.77-82). Ongoing data is available at the <u>Student Experience Exchange platform</u>, which has been funded by the EU.

# **Post-Study Outcomes**

**Australian Graduate Jobs** Deakin University published a report, funded by IDP Education, on <u>Australian International Graduates and the Transition to Employment</u> (36 pages). The best parts of the report were those that focused on Australia, and were informed by primary research with 107 accounting, nursing and engineering students (before and after they graduated), 34 academics, 34 employers and 9 others. 62% of students were Chinese. Key findings are noted below.

- International graduates want relevant local work experience and have high expectations of post-study employment (short-term or permanent).
- Employers are demanding work-ready graduates but some of their requirements may discriminate against international graduates. Employers favoured domestic graduates due to complicated immigration processes and the perceived lower risk of flight. Employers were willing to employ permanent residents, so graduates spent time and money to accumulate the points required for residency.
- Australian universities could greatly improve international graduates' employability. English language capability is key, but so are internships and work integrated learning.

The report can be a little academic in places, but the clear message is that there is a big gap between the perception students might have of post-study work opportunities, and the reality faced by international graduates. This is common across most countries, and it reduces the value of the education sold to students.



#### Snippets

 Grad Careers Service New research by Prospect Research & Marketing found that <u>the UK HE</u> sector outperformed Australia's in terms of graduate employment success rates because of better links with industry and internal cohesion.

# **Study Abroad**

- United Kingdom The British Council <u>commissioned a survey of Further Education students on</u> <u>their plans to work or study abroad</u>. Most were keen, but they had limited access to information about the options.
- Russia... has <u>cancelled its participation in the 2015-16 Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) high</u> <u>school programme</u> (<u>summary of media coverage</u>). Russia claimed that some students had stayed on in the US, and that <u>one had been 'adopted' by a gay couple</u>. It is more likely that the withdrawal is due to wider tensions between Russia and the US.
- Duty of Care A former student of a private prep school in Connecticut was awarded \$41m in damages after contracting viral encephalitis on a school trip to China. Educational organisations say the decision could have far-reaching negative effects on study abroad trips. The Chronicle of Higher Education said that a push for legislation to increase government scrutiny of study abroad could reduce such provision.
- **Spain** A new study by the Association of North American Programs in Spain (APUNE) says <u>US</u> students studying abroad in Spain contribute more than €200m to the national economy.
- CIEE-AIC Merger International education exchange organisation CIEE merged with US-based <u>Academic Internship Council</u>, aiming to create "the most comprehensive portfolio of internships in the field".

# **Rankings & Indices**

- THE Rankings Times Higher Education published its world university rankings for 2014-15 (full rankings here), with California Institute of Technology topping the list for a fourth consecutive year. Related coverage by THE included a story on the BRICs, an infographic, and an opinion piece by Imperial College London president Alice Gast. The British Council issued a media release in response, the PIE News focused on the contrasting fortunes of Asia and the US, and The Guardian (UK) looked at Switzerland's good performance. The Irish Universities Association (IUA), the Australian Minister for Education, and University of Auckland's vice-chancellor Stuart McCutcheon (in New Zealand) all highlighted higher funding/fees as necessary to improve their institutions' results.
- LinkedIn... launched its <u>first ever university rankings based on career outcomes across the</u> <u>USA, UK and Canada</u> for specific programmes (<u>The PIE News</u>).
- US News & World Report American publisher US News & World Report <u>launched its Best</u> <u>Global Universities rankings for 2014</u>.



# Government

# **Overarching Strategies**

**Japan** The Japanese government <u>announced the Top Global University Project</u>, in which 37 participating institutions will receive additional funding to boost international competitiveness. The 13 top ones will get about US\$3.8m each annually and the 24 in the next group will get US\$1.6m each annually to support internationalisation efforts. The Japanese government is obviously trying to leverage change by a relatively small investment in a focused area. Providing some context, The Japan Times reported that Japanese efforts to attract international students were being dwarfed by similar initiatives in neighbouring China.

**Australia** A speech was delivered on behalf of the Minister for Education on <u>The Government's plan</u> for sustainable growth in international education. The Government committed to releasing a draft National Strategy for International Education soon, in response to the Feb 2013 Chaney Report. The Strategy will include two roundtable meetings in the sector each year, involving all stakeholders. The speech also mentioned quality, partnerships, and research goals, but there were no real details.

#### Snippets

- **Taiwan** Education Minister Wu Se-hwa said <u>the number of universities in Taiwan should be</u> reduced by 30% to 40%, reflecting lower birth rates (our first story in this month's scanning report noted that Taiwan will have shrinking school leaver cohorts through to 2024).
- Iran President Hassan Rouhani <u>urged Iran's higher education institutions to open up to more</u> foreign students and staff and endorsed study abroad, in a nationally televised speech. Some Iranians do fear that those studying abroad will not return.
- Ireland Minister for Education and Skills Jan O'Sullivan <u>led an Education in Ireland trade</u> <u>mission to China</u>, to strengthen education ties between the countries. After the visit, she announced that <u>Ireland will be the 'country of honour' at the Chinese Education Expo in 2016</u>. Various MOUs were signed and future visits will deepen relationships.
- **East African Community** 100 universities in the East African Community (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda) <u>scrapped high tuition fees for students from other EAC countries</u>. They will now pay the same fees as local students.

# **Regulatory Issues**

Australia The Australian government released a <u>discussion paper on the Education Services for</u> <u>Overseas Students (ESOS) Review</u> (16 pages), and the Minister for Education said that <u>it would reduce</u> <u>compliance costs</u>.

- ESOS regulation aims to: ensure effective information is provided to students before and at enrolment; protect student tuition fees; regulate the use of agents; and more.
- ESOS has not been updated in line with other quality assurance arrangements, resulting in some duplication and inflexibility. The proposed changes allowed for better integration of regulation for domestic and international students, simpler appeal processes, streamlining of



reporting, reduced tuition protection regulations, more flexible course delivery, and other initiatives.

**Ireland** Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) published a <u>Draft Code of Practice for the Provision of</u> <u>Education and Training Programmes to International Learners</u> (20 pages). It covered information provision to potential students, fees and refunds, and support services. The draft was less prescriptive than similar codes in Australia or New Zealand, but such codes often become more detailed over time.

#### Snippets

- **Europe** The European Commission published <u>a report on national student fee and support</u> <u>systems in European higher education</u> (48 pages). The country by country sections specify fee levels for international students in each country.
- Denmark Copenhagen University and the University of Southern Denmark announced they will
  not sign the annual 'development contract' with the Education Ministry, <u>effectively refusing to
  enrol new foreign students</u>, in response to the government reducing the number of Danish
  students to be admitted (<u>The Local</u>). The government plans to cut the number of student spots
  in programmes with poor graduate employment.
- Scandinavia Finland faced <u>student union opposition to its plans to introduce tuition fees to</u> <u>students from outside the EEA</u> (for English-language programmes only), while Norway was also considering <u>introducing tuition fees for international students from outside the EU and EEA</u>.

### **Quality Assurance**

- **Ireland** Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) released a <u>consultation paper on guidelines</u> for foundation programmes for intending undergraduate or postgraduate students.
- Australia Australia's Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) <u>signed an</u> MOU with the China Education Association for International Exchange.
- **China** ICEF and the Beijing Overseas Study Services Association (BOSSA) <u>launched a new</u> <u>education agent training certificate</u>, the China Education Agent Course (CEAC).
- **US SAT Investigation** The Educational Testing Service <u>investigated allegations of cheating</u> on the SAT in Korea and China, and withheld scores for students in those countries.
- Europe The draft revised version of the <u>'Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the</u> European Higher Education Area' (23 pages) was issued. It was subject to Ministerial approval in May 2015.

### **Transnational Education Regulation**

 Harmonising Europe The European University Association (EUA) published a report called <u>Connecting mobility policies and practices: Observations and recommendations on national</u> <u>and institutional developments in Europe</u> (28 pages). The first few pages were quite dense, but then it moved on to fairly practical discussions and recommendations about improving mobility



at institutional and government levels. Meanwhile Kurt Deketelaere, secretary general of the League of European Research Universities, spoke at the Reinventing Higher Education conference <u>on the need for EU-wide legislation to enable truly free movement of students and researchers</u>.

# **National Scholarship & Research Schemes**

- **Brazil Scheme** More than 400 US companies hosted internships this year <u>as part of the Brazil</u> <u>Scientific Mobility Program</u>.
- **New Colombo** An Australia-Indonesia Youth Association survey <u>found some respondents</u> <u>thought the New Colombo scholarship scheme was too generous</u>.
- Australia-USA Comparison The International Education Association of Australia <u>compared</u> <u>Australia's New Colombo Plan with the USA's Generation Study Abroad scheme</u> (at page 26).
- Italy... was planning to <u>extend its European high school study abroad scholarship programme</u>, <u>PON, to all of Italy's 20 regions</u>. Long-term study abroad by Italian high school students had risen by 55% in 3 years.
- **Newton Fund** The British Council and the UK HE International Unit <u>launched a new Institutional</u> <u>Links funding programme under the Newton Fund</u>, to build collaborations with key partner countries in academia, industry and the third sector. Grants may be £50-300k and were available to leading and established researchers – £6m was available.
- Kazakhstan...will enrol 1,000 Afghan students on scholarships over 2010-2020.
- **100k Strong** The US-based 100K Strong published a report with perspectives from (mostly US) leaders on how to improve US-China relations through student exchange (60 pages).

# Immigration

**NZ and Australia** If you have some time to spare, a PhD thesis has been written on <u>International</u> <u>Education, Student Migration and Government Policy: A comparative study of Australia and NZ</u> (307 pages) by an AUT student. Policies converged over time so that both countries required graduates to gain job offers (not just qualifications) on their path to permanent residence. NZ's policies changed more gradually via regulation, while Australia had sharper changes as legislation had to be altered.

United Kingdom The UK immigration debate was once again fierce.

<u>46 of 57 UK private colleges whose Tier 4 licenses were suspended in June 2014 have lost their licenses</u>, while 11 more (beyond the original 57) had their licenses suspended in the last month. More than 90 fraudulent students have been removed from the country, and more than 300 removal notices have been served. Students who attended affected institutions found it hard to study elsewhere, as other institutions were worried that a refusal of a visa would count against their 10% visa refusal threshold. University and student groups threatened to withdraw support from a government body established to help students caught in the visa crackdown, citing a lack of help provided for the students.



- Immigration Minister James Brokenshire and industry representatives were divided at a recent conference on the UK's visa system for overseas students. The Minister defended the new 10% visa refusal threshold and said that overall student numbers were holding up. His full speech is available here.
- The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration's inquiry into the closure of the Post Study Work route received submissions from the <u>UK Council for International Student Affairs</u> and the <u>British Council</u>, amongst others. The Group will presumably call for a restoration of the route.
- Oxford vice-chancellor Andrew Hamilton <u>said he was "baffled" by the UK's "hostile" student visa</u> system.
- A <u>system of administrative review has been introduced</u> for Tier 4 student applications that are refused, to replace the previous right of appeal, effective 20 October 2014.

#### Snippets

- **US System** A Slate article <u>argued that the visa and immigration system discouraged talented</u> <u>grads from staying in the US after their studies</u>. The presumption that a student will seek to immigrate, unless proven otherwise, can be hard to overcome.
- **US Academic Year** US Immigration and Customs Enforcement released <u>interim final guidance</u> on the definition of an academic year.

# **Political Risk**

- **Boko Haram** A recent attack by Boko Haram insurgents on a university in northern Nigeria <u>was</u> prompting students to relocate to other parts of the country and West Africa.
- Ebola Study Travel Magazine reported that the Ebola pandemic in West African was impacting on outbound student mobility in Nigeria. The Washington Post reported that the Ebola crisis could test US higher education's commitment to an open-door policy for international students.
- Syria The Institute of International Education (IIE) and its Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis released a report titled <u>We Will Stop Here and Go No Further: Syrian</u> <u>University Students & Scholars in Turkey</u> (57 pages).
- Jihadist Posting The <u>United States</u> and <u>United Kingdom</u> governments issued security messages after an anonymous posting on a Jihadist website encouraged attacks against western schools and teachers in the Middle East, specifically mentioning Jeddah in Saudi Arabia and Maadi in Egypt. <u>Several Qatar-based schools increased their security measures in</u> <u>response</u>.





studyinnewzealand.com enz.govt.nz