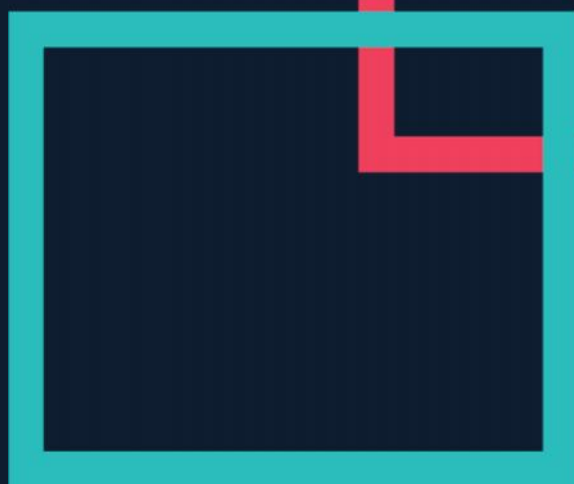


# International Education Scanning Report

Jan 2015



**NEW ZEALAND  
EDUCATION**

**ThinkNew<sup>®</sup>**

---

**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](mailto: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

<b>January 2015 Executive Summary.....</b>	<b>2</b>
Markets.....	2
Government .....	2
<b>Markets.....</b>	<b>3</b>
Market Size & Value.....	3
Market Events & Commentary .....	4
Transnational Education .....	6
MOOCs .....	6
Recruitment .....	7
Study Pathways .....	7
Retention & Achievement.....	7
Study Abroad .....	8
Rankings & Indices .....	8
<b>Government .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Overarching Strategies .....	9
Regulatory Issues .....	11
Quality Assurance .....	11
Transnational Education Regulation .....	13
National Scholarship & Research Schemes .....	13
Immigration.....	13
Political Risk .....	14

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), at 0800 500 552 or [dave@ed.co.nz](mailto:dave@ed.co.nz). If you wish to contact ENZ, please contact the Business Development Team [ebd@enz.govt.nz](mailto:ebd@enz.govt.nz).

## January 2015 Executive Summary

### Markets

1. UK enrolments data for 2013/14 and applications data for 2015/16 both showed a 3% increase in non-EU enrolments/applications. Applications at that stage had not shown a year on year increase in the previous 4 years.
2. NZ enrolments were up 12% for the Jan-Aug 20-14 period, compared to the previous year, with tuition income up 13%. Indian enrolments grew 60% during the year, with Chinese enrolments up 12%.
3. A survey of English-Taught Programmes (ETPs) in Europe identified 8,089 programmes, but they only enrolled 1.3% of higher education students in the EU. Denmark had 12% of its students in ETPs, the highest share in the EU, while the Netherlands had the highest number of ETPs at 1,078.
4. Nuffic released an assessment of international students' brand awareness of Dutch higher education, which is also of wider interest, given its focus on student decision-making.
5. An opinion piece in The Atlantic argued that US colleges' entry requirements were distorting Chinese secondary schooling in a similar way to the Chinese gaokao examination.
6. It is cheaper for many UK students to study offshore for a year than in the UK. Lower UK fees for those studying abroad means that those who can access reciprocal enrolment deals with foreign universities can save money, even after allowing for flights and living expenses.

### Government

7. France-Stratégie, a body advising the French Prime Minister, released a major report on the internationalisation of French higher education. They proposed a radical change, with full tuition fees for non-EU higher education students, raising €850m pa. About half of the money would be used for fee exemptions for students from French-speaking countries. The rest would be used for student support services, internationalisation by institutions, transnational education, digital education offerings, and marketing French education. The proposal was not government policy.
8. Malaysian international education enrolments grew by 16% in 2014, and is on track for 200,000 international students by 2020. They had also had some recent instances of students having minimal class requirements and working illegally.
9. The Irish government lost a legal challenge to its new accreditation scheme for international education providers, which was to take effect on 1 Jan 2015. Existing legislation did not allow for the initial approach, but new legislation is planned for 2015 that will enable tighter rules. Private Irish colleges continued to close.
10. The UK tightened rules on private colleges after misuse of student support for EU students.
11. The Chinese government called for "textbooks promoting western values" to be removed from Chinese universities.
12. The UK's Conservative Party ruled out a proposal to send non-EU graduates home after graduation.

## Markets

### Market Size & Value

**UK** The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) [published the first statistics relating to the UK's 2015/16 academic year](#) (relating to the 15 Jan 2015 application deadline). Non-EU applications were up 3%, with non-UK EU applicants up 7% and UK applicants up 1%. Looking at [applications by domicile](#), for the 10 countries with the highest number of applications, there were:

- increases from China (12%), France (13%), India (5%), Italy (20%), Malaysia (3%), Romania (25%), and the US (5%) (the British Council [highlighted the US result](#)); and
- decreases from Hong Kong (-4%), Ireland (-1%), and Singapore (-4%).

While applications were at an early stage, UK providers will welcome the 3% increase in non-EU applications, as the last four years have seen year on year changes of 0%, -4%, -15% and -25% in non-EU applications at the same January stage.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) published [Higher Education Student Enrolments and Qualifications Obtained at Higher Education Providers in the United Kingdom 2013/14](#). Some key points are shown below, but the main link has a wealth of extra detail.

- Non-EU enrolments were up 3% compared to 2012/13, while non-UK EU enrolments were flat.
- Looking at the largest 5 countries for [first-year non-EU enrolments in the UK](#) compared to 2012/13, China (4%), Nigeria (7%) and Malaysia (13%) were up, while India (-8%) was down and the US was flat.
- Looking at the largest 5 countries for [total non-EU enrolments in the UK](#) compared to 2012/13, China (5%), Nigeria (4%), Malaysia (11%) and the US (2%) were up, while India (-12%) was down.
- The number of students studying wholly overseas was up 6% compared to 2012/13.

[The PIE News](#) and [University World News](#) reported on some of the main trends. While numbers were up overall, the British Council's Director of Higher Education Gordon Slaven [commented on declining markets in India and Pakistan](#) (down 12% and 7% respectively). While declines in those markets have occurred for several years now, the UK continues to maintain solid growth for non-EU enrolments.

**New Zealand** The [International Education Snapshot for January to August 2014](#) (22 pages) was released, with international enrolments up 12% and tuition income up 13% on the same period in 2013 ([media release](#)). Other changes compared to the same period in 2013 are shown below.

- The total value of international education was believed to be \$2.85b pa, supporting 30,230 jobs.
- The biggest growth was from India (+5,863 or 60%) and China (+2978 or 12%).
- Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics achieved 16% growth after a 4-year flat period of enrolments. English language schools reversed a 3-year decline to see 6% growth. Other PTEs saw 33% growth, driven by 86% growth in Indian enrolments. University enrolments were up 4%, but master's degree enrolments were up 21%.

The growth rate from India is very high, especially since it is New Zealand's second-largest source market. It will be worth watching whether any immigration or education quality risks emerge. Putting that aside, NZ has had a very good growth result, improving on the 10% growth rate shown in the Jan-Apr 2014 snapshot.

**Germany** University World News reported on [an Oct 2014 survey from DAAD on the internationalisation of German universities](#). The survey is part of an annual series. The overall share of first-year students from overseas was up 13% since 2006, to a 16% proportion of all students. The [full report is in German](#) (90 pages).

**Ireland** The Irish Minister for Justice and Equality [released student visa data](#) for Jan-Nov 2014. There were 49,500 visas, up 8.1% from 45,800 in the same period in 2013.

**English-Taught Programmes (ETPs)** An EU-funded report was released titled *English-Taught Programmes in European Higher Education – The State of Play in 2014* (144 pages). It followed similar reports in 2002 and 2008 (the survey in the 2008 report was done in 2007).

- 8,089 ETPs were identified, up from 2,389 in 2007. Even allowing for some earlier undercounts, there had been a very large increase in ETPs. Still, only 1.3% of EU students enrolled in ETPs, with the highest share in the Nordic countries (5%), and with Denmark enrolling 12% of students in ETPs.
- The countries with the most ETPs were the Netherlands (1,078), Germany (1,030), Sweden (822), France (499) and Denmark (494). Central East Europe and Baltic states had fewer ETPs but were increasing at a faster rate.
- 80% of ETPs were offered as Master's degrees. 54% of students in ETPs were foreign students, down from 65% in 2007 and 60% in 2002.
- One of the largest language proficiency issues was the inability of programme administrative staff to deal with students in English. It was also difficult for teaching staff to deal with the heterogeneity in students' English levels.
- The report also explored, in relation to ETPs: reasons for introduction; duration; admission requirements; marketing activities; curriculum; challenges; institutional impact; and overall benefits.

The report had a great deal of data on ETPs in Europe and would be a valuable resource for those interested in that market segment.

## Market Events & Commentary

**Netherlands** Nuffic released a report entitled [“Measuring the brand awareness of Dutch Higher Education abroad”](#) (52 pages) in late 2014. The research was done by i-graduate, and was targeted towards the non-EU countries targeted by The Netherlands (Russia, Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, Turkey, China, India and South Africa).

While the research showed that The Netherlands had solid support from prospective students, the ability to study (and operate daily) in English was a key part of that. Prospective students valued post-study work opportunities and 50% of prospective students thought they could work in The Netherlands

without speaking Dutch. Recent research by the Dutch government, however, has shown that a lack of Dutch language ability amongst international graduates is a big barrier to getting a job. The [Make it in the Netherlands](#) campaign aims to smooth the transition, but there will still be a disconnect between the marketing of programmes taught in English and the drive to teach students Dutch.

The report will be of value to many around the world, as it explored a wide range of factors around student decision-making. The rankings of various countries (pp.13, 15) on cost and attractiveness are of particular use.

**University of Illinois** Inside Higher Ed investigated [the remarkable expansion of the University of Illinois at Urbana and Champaign's Chinese student population](#). It has almost 5,000 Chinese students after a growth spurt from 2007, when it had about 1,000 Chinese students. As an indication of the scale of the student body, the Chinese students' association has 14 branches and about 300 office-holders. The 6,000 word article provides a superb insight into the issues, with extensive comments from Chinese students.

**Berkeley Global Campus** The University of California at Berkeley [plans to open a global campus just 10 miles from Berkeley's main campus](#). They will involve overseas partners, but unlike most other branch campuses, it won't be in another country. Graduate students will be the focus, taking a 2-year residential programme with an interdisciplinary approach. Part of the aim is to avoid academic freedom issues that arise with some branch campuses.

**Confucius Institutes** Sweden's Stockholm University will [close its Confucius Institute this June](#), after the agreement that established it expires and will not be renewed. It was Europe's first Confucius Institute, but the University's VC said that having an institute within a university funded by another nation was questionable. On the other hand, there are now 475 Confucius Institutes worldwide, with [2,000 people recently gathering at the Institutes' global conference](#).

### Snippets

- **2015 Trends** The PIE News [listed seven trends to watch out for in 2015](#). They included consolidation, public-private partnerships, a pathways boom, more focus on retention, impacts of national elections, mobile platform delivery, and more agent scrutiny.
- **UK Closure** A now-small, but once-larger, English language school in London [closed](#).
- **Market Snapshots...**covered [Mexico](#), [Malta](#), [the Netherlands](#), [international programmes targeting the junior market](#), and [Afghanistan](#).
- **Russia** The plummeting value of the Russian rouble (it fell by 41% against the US dollar in 2014) [rendered study abroad unaffordable for many Russian students](#). Bookings were down and some providers had started discounting prices.
- **Mergers & Acquisitions** Education technology company Sibling Group (SIBE) [acquired mobile English language education software platform Urban Planet Mobile](#). Canada-based education provider Loyalist Group [acquired South Korean education recruitment agency Kim Okran International Studies for CAN\\$4.65m](#). It bought uhak.com in Nov 2014 and is carrying out vertical integration, as it already offers international education tuition.
- **Brazil** CVC, one of Latin America's biggest travel agencies, is [opening a new division for study travel which it hopes will account for 4.5% of its sales](#). They will target the lower middle class with 2-4 week courses.

- **peerTransfer** International tuition fee payment facilitator [peerTransfer raised US\\$22m in venture funding to support its growth strategy](#). They aim to transfer US\$2b by May 2015.
- **British Council** The British Council has reviewed its operational strategy in the EU, and [will no longer have a permanent physical presence in Denmark, Finland, Norway or Sweden](#).
- **Expansion Plans** Bell English, a large UK English language company, [wants to double its revenue to £38m by 2019](#).
- **South Asia** The British Council published two reports produced by the Economist Intelligence Unit on South Asia: one covered [how international research collaboration can foster growth](#) (13 pages) and the other covered [innovative models of higher education](#) (15 pages). They were based on stakeholder interviews and may be worth a quick read.
- **Fees Refunds** The University of the West of Scotland (UWS) was [considering introducing fee refunds for students who fail to graduate](#), as long as they have attended and taken advantage of support available. It would apply to non-Scottish students, as Scottish students pay no fees.

## Transnational Education

- **Duke in China** The Chronicle of Higher Education [reported on Duke University's challenges in opening a campus near Shanghai in China](#). The campus was late and had faced challenges in China and the US.
- **China** The University of Glasgow and Nankai University agreed to [establish a joint graduate school in the Chinese city of Tianjin](#).
- **IT Support** The Observatory on Borderless Higher Education (OBHE) published a report, in partnership with JISC (which supports digital technologies in UK education and research), titled [Understanding the future global network connectivity and service needs of UK higher education](#) (31 pages). While a key motivation for the report seems to have been market research for JISC, the report has some useful material on what methods are used in UK transnational education (TNE), and related IT issues. Network connectivity was often provided by an overseas partner, but some UK IT staff didn't know how it was provided, and it seems they often weren't involved in TNE activities. This obviously concerned JISC, which provides services to UK IT staff, but will not surprise or concern most in education ([University World News](#)).

## MOOCs

- **Coursera**... co-founder Daphne Koller spoke [about the changing MOOC landscape and how Coursera is innovating](#). The article showed how they were emerging from earlier periods of enormous hype to develop a more sustainable model.



## Recruitment

**China Recruitment** The Atlantic published a long opinion piece from a recruiter for US colleges in China. Her main point was that, just as the gaokao end-of-school examination has distorted Chinese secondary schooling, [US colleges' test requirements have distorted secondary schooling for those Chinese students wishing to study at US colleges](#). She argued that many students were abandoning their general secondary school classes in order to cram for the SAT and TOEFL exams. This was facilitated by the falsification of school transcripts, which still showed the students attending a wider range of classes. She argued for more holistic admission processes.

### Snippets

- **NACAC Guidance** Study Travel Magazine [sought the views of agents on the US-based National Association for College Admission Counseling's \(NACAC\) guidelines on working with agents](#). It's a useful contribution to the debate, as agents' views are seldom reported in educational media.
- **International Diversity** An Associated Press story detailed how [top US universities were actively working to increase the economic diversity of their international students](#). It painted a very positive picture of Yale University's needs-blind admission processes for international students, but didn't provide many statistics to back up the claims.
- **Booking Platform** [Education HiFy is an Australian cloud-based booking platform for the language travel industry that launched in January](#). It is based on the Salesforce.com platform and you can [check it out here](#).
- **Russia's...** [Global Universities Association is launching a unified student recruitment centre](#) in early 2015 to simplify the admission process for foreign students, and promote their brand.
- **Online Application Guide** BridgeU, an online service that coaches prospective international students through the US university application process, [launched in January and will expand to UK institutions in March](#).

## Study Pathways

- **Medipathways...** is [a new University of Buckingham-accredited programme in the UK offering students a condensed 2-year degree in biomedical sciences](#), designed to facilitate entry into medical schools internationally. The programme has been set up by an agency owner and there are plans to expand to the US. It could be a successful niche for them.
- **Expansion** UK pathway provider Cambridge Education Group (CEG) [has set up a new centre with the University of North Texas](#) in the US.

## Retention & Achievement

- **US Integration** The University of Minnesota released a report on [best practices for integrating international and domestic students](#) (82 pages). It included 16 case studies (3-4 pages each)

of good practice from a range of organisations. The report was a response to the challenges arising from rapid growth in US enrolments of international students.

- **Chinese Abroad** A small qualitative study explored [how Chinese students respond to criticism of China while studying abroad](#). It only covered 18 students but has a useful perspective.

## Study Abroad

**Cheaper to Go Offshore** The Telegraph reported that [undergraduates can save up to £13.4k by studying abroad for a year](#). Even the most expensive location to study abroad (Sydney) cost less than the average student paid in Britain. The savings were partly due to reciprocal fee arrangements for study offshore, and lower fees charged to UK students studying offshore (students outside Scotland pay high fees at home). Even with the savings, UK students still have low study abroad rates.

While the sticker price might be lower for those who study overseas, tuition fees are mostly paid for by loans that have generous repayment terms, whereas living costs in a foreign country (and travel costs) will probably have to be paid up front.

### Snippets

- **Go Overseas** US-based online study abroad platform Go Overseas [launched a Language Schools section with programme information, student reviews and the option to book courses directly](#). They take a 10% commission.
- **New Lexicon** The Canadian Bureau for International Education [launched Canada's Education Abroad Lexicon](#) – it's a [short glossary](#) of study abroad terms.

## Rankings & Indices

- **Online Programs** US News & World Report [published their latest rankings of the best online programs](#), and [Inside Higher Ed reviewed their methodology](#), pointing out some clear flaws.
- **Reworking the Numbers** US News & World Report published an analysis of [how global universities overall rankings compared to a research-only ranking](#). Times Higher Education created [a list of the top 100 "most international" universities](#), based on international staff, international students and research papers published with a co-author from at least one other country. Both rankings were essentially a reworking of existing ranking components to gain new headlines.
- **UK Social Media** Education marketing company Net Natives launched [a comparative ranking tool measuring the success and reach of UK education institutions' social media marketing](#). It is called [Edu Rank](#).

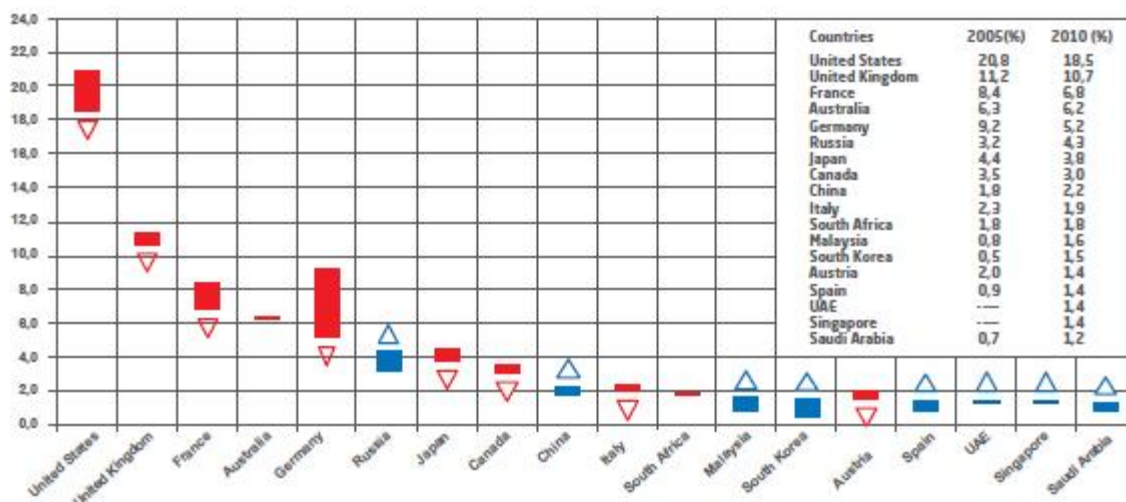
## Government

### Overarching Strategies

**France** France-Stratégie published a summary of a new report called [Investing in the Internationalisation of Higher Education](#) (8 pages). The full report is [available in French](#) (208 pages). France-Stratégie is a body advising the French Prime Minister and it explores major policy issues. The key points are explored below.

- The report started by noting the shifts in market share from 2005 to 2010, with traditional destinations often declining in favour of Russia, China, Malaysia, South Korea and others (see figure below). France had declined but was still the third largest recipient of international students (with unique strength in Africa). It was also the fourth highest provider of offshore education.

Changes in international inbound student mobility market share in the top 18 host countries



- French weaknesses included low university rankings, limited resources for internationalisation, and relatively weak student support services.
- While France has traditionally used internationalisation to boost soft power and attract immigrants, France-Stratégie proposed adding revenue generation and quality improvement as additional goals.
- The proposal was for non-EU students (excluding doctoral students) to be charged the full cost of their education, raising €850m pa. The funds raised would be spent on the following areas.
  - Offering 30,000 additional scholarships to French-speaking countries via tuition fee exemptions (€440m pa).
  - Improving the student experience through more French language classes, and accommodation/employment services (€280m pa or about €1,000 per student).
  - Supporting internationalisation by French higher education institutions (€50m pa) and transnational education in particular (€2.5m pa).

- Supporting digital education offerings (€70m pa).
- Marketing France to retain its place as the top non-English-language destination (€7.5m pa)
- Other proposals included:
  - establishing a body like the UK Higher Education International Unit to provide expertise and support internationalisation;
  - improving data collection on French students' outward mobility, international graduates in France, and French transnational education;
  - developing, and regularly updating, a tool showing the benefits of international students in France;
  - launching strategic programmes, with financial incentives, to encourage internationalisation by French higher education institutions; and
  - setting, and measuring progress towards, internationalisation goals.

We have summarised the report in some depth, but it is a significant contribution to the French debate and would, if implemented, represent a major shift in course. Unlike some other European countries that have introduced fees, over half of the fees would be used for tuition fee exemptions, which would limit any enrolment reductions. Over time, however, a full fees approach may sharpen the incentives for French institutions to market offshore, especially if they gain more reward from the fees generated. We will keep an eye on how the proposal is treated.

**Malaysia...** [has become the fastest growing destination for international students](#), with an annual increase of over 16% for the last decade, according to Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh. Idris was speaking at the opening of the Education Malaysia International Development & Marketing Convention. He said the country was on track to achieve a target of 200,000 international students by 2020, with 135,502 enrolled at the end of December 2014, up 17% from the previous year. He also noted that all public higher education institutions now had to register their international students with government agency Education Malaysia Global Services, after some had enrolled students on courses for only 9 hours of teaching per week. Some of those students then went on to work illegally. Private institutions already had to register their students. Another article also [reviewed progress towards Malaysia's international education goals](#).

### Snippets

- **Obama Visit to India** US President Barack Obama visited India in late January, and was the chief guest of honour at India's Republic Day parade. A [joint statement by Obama and Indian PM Narendra Modi](#) welcomed a Nov 2014 Higher Education Dialogue between the two countries, and the previously announced Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) to facilitate visits to India by 1,000 US academics. The Brookings Institute published a preview paper before the visits [on the state of India-US higher education relations](#). There was little new to announce during the visit.
- **Russia** Times Higher Education reported on [Russia's plan to revive its ailing higher education sector](#), including an objective of having at least 10% of Russia's academics and researchers and 15% of its 7m students come from abroad. Those objectives would support the goal of having 5 Russian universities in the global top 100 by 2020. The report was long and detailed,

and effectively explored Russia's challenges. Even with those challenges, Russia remains a major player in international education. Another THE story explored the [internationalisation efforts of Tomsk State University](#).

- **Canada** President of the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) Karen McBride [wrote a progress update one year after the launch of Canada's International Education Strategy](#). The update, like the government's strategy, was short on details. The CBIE also [published a new set of internationalisation principles for Canadian educational institutions](#). The principles are [short and to the point](#).
- **Poland...** was [set to implement an international education strategy](#), initially prioritising foreign language programmes, student and academic exchanges with key countries, and better promotion in key markets. Of 30,000 international students in Poland, about a third come from Ukraine.
- **Turkey-Sudan** [Turkey and Sudan established a higher education cooperation plan](#) that included setting up a joint institution, networking between universities, and mutual recognition of degrees.
- **New Zealand** Wellington city was [developing a new strategy for international education](#), and aimed to double the number of overseas students in the region by 2023.

## Regulatory Issues

- **Quebec** A renegotiated bilateral agreement between the governments of France and Quebec will see [tuition fees for French students studying in Quebec nearly triple to around CAN\\$6,200 per year](#). French students remained exempt from higher fees for other international students, but a previous deal under which they paid domestic fees was removed after a 90% surge in French student enrolments in the last 8 years.
- **Indian Funding Cuts** The Indian government announced [massive cuts in the education sector for the 2014-15 year, which will primarily affect the 8 new Indian Institutes of Technology \(IITs\)](#). They are likely to respond by increasing tuition fees, but some fear this will make offshore study more attractive.
- **USA** US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was [increasingly targeting "sham" schools for selling student visas without providing any actual tuition](#). Investigators flagged about 150 institutions for investigation in 2014, and were tightening systems. One loophole now closed is that ICE checks whether institutions' courses are actually accepted by other schools, rather than just relying on evidence from a school.

## Quality Assurance

**Ireland** A judge has [upheld challenges by two English language colleges to government rules](#) that would have required all providers to become accredited in order to appear on an interim list of providers approved to accept non-EU students. The ruling meant that providers could continue to accept non-EU immigrants without approval from Accreditation and Co-ordination of English Language Services (ACELS).

The judge ruled that the Minister for Justice had impermissibly fettered her discretion in deciding student visa eligibility by limiting the bodies that could appear on the interim provider list. The judge also found that Quality and Qualifications Ireland, under which ACELS operates, did not have the legislative authority to operate the system of accreditation for the purpose of developing the interim list. The two schools [may now apply for costs](#).

The legal setback for the Irish government is not surprising, as it acted in a reactionary way during 2014. While governments can usually achieve their end goals via legislative change, the loss of the court case may encourage the Irish government to find some compromises. Ministers said they were [considering their options](#). One of the providers involved in the case [made its own statement](#).

While all that was happening, [Shelbourne College entered voluntary liquidation](#), amid allegations that fees had not been refunded ([RTÉ News](#)). The [Dublin branch of A2Z School of English](#) also closed.

**UK** Universities and Science Minister Greg Clark announced a number of [new regulations to apply to alternative providers of higher education](#) (mostly private colleges). The changes were partly in response to the Dec 2014 release of a National Audit Office report on misuse of student support for EU students. Changes included:

- annual redesignation (approval), rather than indefinite designation (7 degree providers were exempted), and with a strengthened quality assurance process;
- students will have to be registered with a relevant qualification awarding body prior to claiming tuition fee support (many students were not registered previously);
- directors will have to meet a “fit and proper person” test;
- students will have to meet a minimum English language requirements, and data on them (prior qualifications, achievement, and demographics) will be reported to the government;
- providers will have to provide specific information to students;
- caps on student numbers will remain (except the 7 degree providers) but with some flexibility; and
- a rapid response investigative team will check future allegations of abuse.

The list of changes is similar to what is used in other jurisdictions. They should severely limit abuse of the system, and may allow caps to be eased further in future, once sector performance improves. In the short term, it should also remove the opportunity for EU students to improperly access student support in the lead-up to the UK election.

**China** Education Minister Yuan Guiren said [“textbooks promoting western values’ should never be used in Chinese universities](#) ([South China Morning Post](#)). Similar calls for ideological purity have been made in relation to the media, Internet and military. The regulations may, in time, affect collaboration between Chinese and foreign institutions, especially in relation to branch campuses.

### Snippets

- **UK** The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) [invited comment on the draft revised version of Assuring Quality for International Students Studying in the UK: A Guide for](#)



[UK Higher Education Providers](#). The [21-page Guide](#) complemented a Quality Code that applies to all higher education students, and provided examples of good practice. The consultation period will run until 13 March.

- **Australia – Dubai MOU** The Australian Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) [signed an MOU with Dubai's Knowledge and Human Development Authority \(KHDA\)](#) to allow greater information sharing and cooperation.

## Transnational Education Regulation

**India** The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has proposed that any Indian institution signing an MOU for collaboration with a foreign university [should refer to the Ministry of External Affairs' \(MEA\) general advisory in regard to which nations can be collaborated with](#), and keep the MHRD informed. The guidelines appeared to contradict current legislation that gives institutions the freedom to cooperate with other institutions, inside or outside India.

## National Scholarship & Research Schemes

- **China** [Scholarships given to international students by the Chinese government have been increased](#) to account for rising consumer prices and tuition fees.
- **The Netherlands...** [launched a new scholarship scheme](#). The [Holland Scholarships](#) will include 768 scholarships of €5,000 for foreigners studying in the Netherlands, and 768 scholarships of €1,250 for Dutch students studying abroad.
- **Saudi Arabia...** will [send 25,000 teachers abroad for year-long training in the schools of developed countries](#) as part of the King Abdullah Public Education Development Project.

## Immigration

**UK** Immigration issues in the UK included: more complex visa processes; testing and visa fraud; a failed proposal to send non-EU graduates home before they applied for a work visa; more debate on migration targets; and higher immigration fees.

- During 2015 most students travelling to the UK will have to specify what town they will stay in, and then [collect a Biometric Immigration Document from a nearby post office](#) within 30 days of arrival. That form will then provide permission to stay for the rest of their study period. Currently students are granted necessary permissions prior to their arrival in the UK. The system will start applying to Pakistani students in Feb 2015, with most other countries entering the system by May 2015.
- The PIE News had a good summary of the [government investigation into testing and visa fraud in the UK](#) that began in June last year. It has resulted in more than 300 individuals being removed from the UK (with another 300 likely to be removed) and 65 private colleges losing their Highly Trusted Status enabling them to recruit Tier 4 international students.

- UK Home Secretary Theresa May's plan to require international graduates to apply for working visas from their home countries [has been blocked by senior members of the Conservative Party](#). May had earlier [defended her policy after criticism from prominent business leader Sir James Dyson](#). Simon Marginson, a prominent academic in international and higher education, [accurately summed up the risks that the episode posed to UK international education](#), and its likely exploitation by the UK Independence Party.
- A cross-party group of MPs submitted a motion [calling for the government to remove university students from "any target to reduce net migration"](#). Such demonstrations of support for international education have been frequent in the UK, but do not have the numbers to succeed.
- The UK Home Office [published new immigration fees it intends to charge from April 2015](#), with tier 4 fees set to increase by around 4% to £322 for entry clearance, and £439 for leave to remain ([detailed tables](#)). Extended student visitor visa fees (6-11 months English language concession) went up 8% to £162.

**Australia...** announced it will continue to roll out [a pilot online visa lodging scheme launched in December 2014 for Chinese visitors](#). It covered tourist visas, which allow for up to 3 months' study. There were plans to extend the programme to all nationalities by the end of 2015.

Meanwhile, the number of student visas cancelled by the Australian government [more than tripled in the last 2 years](#), from 1,978 in 2012 to 7,061 in 2014. The increase was attributed to the introduction of the Streamlined Visa Processing (SVP) system, with more falsification of documentation being found (especially from Nepal). There was also more "course-hopping" by students who arrived using the SVP system but later illegally moved to unaccredited and often cheaper colleges (about 1,000 had been identified, and 457 visas had been cancelled).

**Cuba** The US government [updated its regulations for American citizens traveling to Cuba](#). Travellers in several education-related categories now need only a general, and not a specific, license. That means they no longer need specific government approval to study in Cuba. NAFSA's Victor Johnson said that [the reestablishment of diplomatic ties between the US and Cuba is "a pretty big deal"](#) ([University World News](#), [THE](#)). The Atlantic reported on [the potential for increased educational exchanges between the US and Cuba now that diplomatic relations are improving](#).

## Political Risk

- **Risky Conflicts** Human Rights Watch listed [the top 10 conflicts where more action needed to be taken in 2015 to protect students, teachers, schools, and universities from attack or military use](#). They ended up with 19 countries, but didn't provide a rationale for their choices. While Afghanistan might be an obvious choice, India's inclusion was less obvious.
- **Terror Attacks...** [on schools and colleges have risen to higher levels than at any point in more than 40 years](#), according to new research from the University of Maryland. The data included the Dec 2014 attack on a school in Peshawar, Pakistan, that killed 145 people. As a response to that attack, the [Pakistani interior ministry planned to monitor the activities of the 6,900 foreign students](#) in Pakistani higher education institutions.
- **Germany** [Foreign students in Germany were increasingly concerned about building hostility towards foreigners](#), following the Charlie Hebdo terrorist attack in Paris in Jan 2015.



Think**New**<sup>®</sup>



NEW ZEALAND  
EDUCATION

[studyinnewzealand.com](http://studyinnewzealand.com)   [enz.govt.nz](http://enz.govt.nz)