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**MARKET NEWS BULLETIN:
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UK

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International higher education in facts and figures (2 June)

By Rosalind Lowe: 2 June 2016

Today, Universities UK and the International Unit publish International Higher Education in Facts and Figures 2016, a handy booklet with key stats on international students and higher education.

The facts and figures cover a range of areas, from where international students want to study, to which countries undertake most internationally-collaborative research. Again, these various measures show the UK to be one of the leading nations in the world in terms of global higher education.

- The UK attracts more international students than any other country outside of the USA
- Over 22,000 UK students have spent a period abroad as part of their degree
- The UK is a world leader in internationally-collaborative research
- The impact of EU membership on UK higher education

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Moocs: Leeds and Open University offering course credits towards degrees for first time (May 2016)

By Aftab Ali: The Independent: 26 May 2016

Move described as an important step in the 'unbundling' of higher education, giving more control to the learner.

Two major universities are set to allow students to earn course credits which will go towards their final degree through massive open online courses (Moocs) for the very first time in the UK.

The move, announced by online learning platform FutureLearn, will see the Open University (OU) and the University of Leeds allow students the opportunity to study for part of a degree or MBA course before progressing further.

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Student visa fraud: universities and governments ‘must be proactive’ (8 June)

By Ellie Bothwell: Times Higher Education: 8 June 2016

Universities and governments must be “proactive rather than reactive” in tackling student visa fraud to address the issue while remaining attractive to international students.

That is the view of Rachael Merola, senior researcher at the Observatory on Borderless Higher Education and author of a new article published by the organisation, “Combatting Student Visa Fraud: Top Destination Countries Employ Diverse Strategies”, which focuses on policies that have been implemented in the UK, US, Australia and Canada.

Speaking to *Times Higher Education*, she suggested that one “proactive strategy” would be for universities, governments, agents and students to work closer together and for there to be clearer guidelines in place so students are “well-informed” about how to legally enter a country for study.

“A lot of strategies that you see in place are more reactive than proactive. You can see in the US their strategy [of tightening student visa screenings] is a direct result of issues they’ve had with fraud in the past that they’ve found out has actually led to dangerous individuals being let into the country,” she said, referencing the fact that one of the 9/11 plane hijackers entered the country on a student visa.

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USA and Canada

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US-China 100,000 Strong Foundation rebrands (8 June)

By Natalie Marsh: The Pie News: 8 June 2016

The 100,000 Strong Foundation, set up to enhance relations between the US and China, has this week rebranded to become the US-China Strong Foundation.

Announced at the seventh annual US-China Consultation on People-to-People Exchange in Beijing, the rebrand will reflect its mission to include both language learning and study abroad. In keeping with its current initiatives, more focus is now being placed on “investing in a new generation of China-savvy Americans, from kindergarten to the workforce”, according to the Foundation.

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Prioritise international education, NAFSA urges presidential hopefuls (7 June)

By Beckie Smith: The Pie News: 7 June 2016

NAFSA's board of directors has urged presidential hopefuls to create a "more welcoming and globally engaged United States".

In an official statement issued last week, the association's board urges presidential candidates to adopt policies that "foster academic, diplomatic and cultural collaboration only possible through international education".

"We urge our nation's leaders to advance study abroad and international learning; welcome international students and advance common sense immigration solutions; and demonstrate our commitment to global engagement by continuing forward progress on Cuba and offering education and aid to refugees," the statement reads.

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Study find growing use of agents among US universities (7 June)

By ICEF Monitor staff: 7 June 2016

- A new study finds that use of agents for international recruitment has become more common among US universities over the past three years
- Nearly half of US institutions directly or indirectly use international agents today
- Between 30-40% of institutions that do not currently use agents are considering doing so in the future
- Much of the continuing discussion around the use of agents by US institutions revolves around issues of transparency and accountability

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Canada looks to overseas students to rejuvenate ageing population (8 June)

By David Matthews: 8 June 2016

Students viewed by government as welcome immigrants, but questions over capacity and provincial policies remain.

Mohamed Lachemi is the kind of immigrant Canada wants. “I came to Canada as an international student exactly 30 years ago,” he tells *Times Higher Education*. “Canada attracted me not just to study but to stay.”

He is now the vice-chancellor of industry-focused Ryerson University in downtown Toronto and, in line with federal plans, wants to become “more aggressive” in attracting international students to his institution. Ryerson aims to double its numbers over the next three to five years.

In England, the number of new international students has begun to decline following the ending of post-study work visas and a general toughening of the immigration system.

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Australia and New Zealand

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South Australian universities plan to double international student numbers (8 June)

By Study International Staff: 8 June 2016

The South Australian government has announced plans to double the number of international students heading for university in the region, hoping to boost its annual international student intake up to 64,500.

The state’s newly released International Student Action Plan has been announced with no set time limit, but Martin Hamilton-Smith, the region’s Investment and Trade Minister, described it as an “aspirational” target that should be met “as soon as practicable”.

South Australia currently hosts 32,089 foreign students at its regional institutions, which amounts to five percent of Australia’s total market share. The government’s previous ambition was to have 35,500 students enrolled at regional universities by 2017.

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Brian Gaynor: University numbers mean big business (4 June)

By Brian Gaynor: NZ Herald: 4 June 2016

The Government is planning to spend \$13.5 billion on education in the June 2017 year, second only to the \$16.2 billion it plans to spend on health.

This is an important sector because public and private expenditure on tertiary education in New Zealand is about 2.1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), compared with an OECD average of 1.6 per cent.

The three main areas of education spending are primary and secondary schools (\$6.1 billion), tertiary funding (\$4.3 billion) and early education (\$1.8 billion).

This column looks at the \$4.3 billion of tertiary funding and in particular the country's main universities. These are big businesses as our six long-established universities have combined annual revenue of \$3.2 billion.

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Asia

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Major changes in post-election Taiwan unlikely, educators predict (6 June)

By AJ Slaven: The Pie News: 6 June

Taiwan's new president, Tsai Ing-Wen, who assumed office last month following a comprehensive election victory for her Democratic Progressive Party in January, is no stranger to the field of international education.

A graduate of New York's Cornell University and the London School of Economics, Tsai taught international law at two universities in Taipei prior to her political career. One of her first actions as President of the Republic of China was to drop criminal charges against a number of student protesters dating from the 2014 Sunflower Movement.

Although President Tsai has highlighted domestic education reforms as being high on her agenda, the exact nature of any such reforms has yet to be announced.

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Why India needs to attract more international students (3 June)

By Patrick Gandhi: University World News: 3 June 2016

Around the corridors of the ministry responsible for education in India, you will often hear statements like: "India itself has huge demand internally and so we don't need international students." It's not just those in education who say such things – even economists ask: "Foreign student kyu chaiye [Why foreign students]?"

It's strange to put the case for globalisation in a nation where 70% of the population are under 30, many of whom are already global as they are on Facebook talking to people from around the world, watching videos on YouTube from different countries and visiting and learning about various cultures and markets.

Why aren't we able to promote internationalisation of our education system? There are huge benefits of building a 'Study in India' programme.

As a case in point, let's look at the United States and the value that immigrants have added. More than 40% of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or a child of immigrants. According to the Partnership for a New American Economy these companies employ more than 10 million people worldwide and generate an annual revenue of US\$4.2 trillion.

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Indian outbound to key destinations up 18% in 2015

By ICEF Monitor staff: 8 June 2016

- Indian outbound mobility saw another year of significant growth in 2015, with an 18% increase for key destinations (the US, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand)
- This marks the second consecutive year of growth, and also the second year in which India's outbound mobility grew faster than China's
- The US was the big gainer last year with a nearly 30% increase, and with more balanced growth across both undergraduate and graduate programmes
- Together, China and India account roughly 40% (or more) of the international enrolment base in the US, Canada, and Australia
- As China's year-over-year growth has begun to slow over the last two years, India is emerging as a more important driver of future growth for receiving markets, including those outside of the major English-speaking destinations, such as China and Germany

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78,000 students face exclusion from university (4 June)

By Hurriyet Daily News: 4 June 2016

Some 77,814 Turkish students could be denied a place at university because they did not sit the Transition to Higher Education Examination in the expectation that they could opt for open admission, only for a draft amendment to propose the abolition of such a route to university enrolment, reports Hurriyet Daily News.

Many vocational high school students did not sit the Transition to Higher Education Examination, or YGS test, as they exercised their right to open admission, enabling them to enter undergraduate programmes that are considered a continuation of their field and which do not require them to take the exam in question. The new draft amendment, however, does not include any exceptions for such students, meaning they are set to be deprived of a place at university.

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New European university group unveiled (1 June)

By Ellie Bothwell: Times Higher Education: 1 June 2016

A new network of leading European universities is set to launch this year in a bid to enhance the research capacity of institutions on the Continent.

The Guild of European Research Intensive Universities will bring together institutions that have demonstrable excellence in teaching, research and policy formation with the aim of collaborating on “innovative solutions to some of Europe’s most intractable scientific and social challenges”.

The network was founded by a group of universities in Brussels today and is set to formally launch in the city on 21 November. Nine member institutions have been announced so far: the University of Bologna, the University of Glasgow, the University of Göttingen, the University of Groningen, the University of Oslo, the University of Tübingen, the University of Warwick, Uppsala University and Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

The organisation said that more member institutions will be announced at the launch.

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